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Infective Endocarditis after percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation – Long-term single centre experience

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Aims: This study sought to investigate the incidence of infective endocarditis (IE) after percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation (PPVI). Recently, there is some concern, that increased rates of IE occur after PPVI with the Melody valve. It is imaginable that procedural steps prior to implantation, like crimping of valved stents or mechanical forces during dilation might favor the onset of IE in percutaneously implanted valves.

Methods and Result: The purpose of this study was to assess the prevalence and the incidence of IE after PPVI in a single centre long-term experience. The cumulative follow up time comprised 883.4 patient years for 226 valved stents implanted in the pulmonic position. The annualized incidence of IE for all patients receiving valved stents in the RVOT was 1.9%.

Conclusion: The incidence for IE after PPVI is acceptable and comparable to surgically implanted biological valves. Despite some events of IE, freedom from reoperation is high, showing a good performance of the valve in the long time follow up.