



Single Centre Experience of Mitral Valve Surgeries in the Young

Authors

Dr Sistla VPL Chandrakumar¹, Dr Khushwant Popli^{2*}, Dr Kunwar Sidharth Saurabh³,

Dr Ridhika Munjal⁴, Dr Anubhav Gupta⁵

^{1,3,4}Senior Resident, CTVS, VMMC & SJH, Delhi

²Assistant Professor, CTVS, VMMC & SJH, Delhi

⁵HOD, CTVS, VMMC & SJH, Delhi

*Corresponding Author

Dr Khushwant Popli

Assistant Professor, CTVS, VMMC & SJH, Delhi, India

Abstract

Valvular heart disease is an important cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. In India, Rheumatic heart disease is an important cause of valvular heart disease. We tried to analyse pattern of mitral valve disease and the surgeries we performed in individuals younger than 18 years presenting to our institute.

Methods: *Retrospectively we analysed the data of patients aged less than 18 years, who underwent mitral valve surgeries in our institute between September 2017 to September 2018, with one year follow up. Analysed the data with respect to age, gender, type of valvular heart disease, if it is single or multiple valves that is affected, type of surgery- repair or replacement and immediate postoperative complications if any and during the follow up.*

Results: *Out of 24 patients, 22 underwent valve replacement. Two underwent valve repair successfully. One patient with failed repair had to undergo revision for valve replacement. Subset of the population we operated presented with severely diseased valves that prevented successful valve repair.*

Introduction

All patients younger than 18 years who underwent mitral valve surgeries at our centre from September 2017 to September 2018 were analysed with respect to demography, etiology, presentation and surgery they underwent. We had 24 patients in this age group. The median age is 15, The youngest one was 6 years old, the eldest was 18 years. Four were females. Four cases were of congenital etiology. Excluding congenital causes,

the rest were of rheumatic etiology. One patient who had congenital MR had a LA to RV fistula at the apex of AML cleft. In another case of congenital MR, neochordae was constructed. One case of congenital MR was associated with ostium primum ASD with a cleft in AML. Eight of our patients had multi-valvular disease. MR was the predominant lesion with only 2 cases of isolated MS and five cases of combined MS, MR. Eleven cases had associated aortic valve disease from

mild to severe AS/ AR with seven patients requiring double valve replacement. Those who required DVR, ranged from 14 to 18 years. Tricuspid valve disease was associated in twenty of twenty-four patients. But only six required TV repair. Of the patients with MR, eight had prolapse of A2-3 segments. One case each had cleft in AML and PML. Eight of our cases, we tried repairing mitral valve, but only in two, the repair was successful. In the rest, we had to replace the valve. Rheumatic etiology, subvalvar disease with thickened chordae, prevented repair. Most patients in our series had normal sinus rhythm. AF was found in four of patients, all with MR. All the four with AF had their LAes > 50 mm². Of the patients who underwent valve replacements, the smallest size used was 25 mm and the largest size used was 33 mm St Jude Master series mechanical valve. The median size of the valve is 27. Most frequently used valve was 27 mm St Jude Master series mechanical valve, and youngest to receive this valve was 10-year-old while the eldest was 17-year-old.

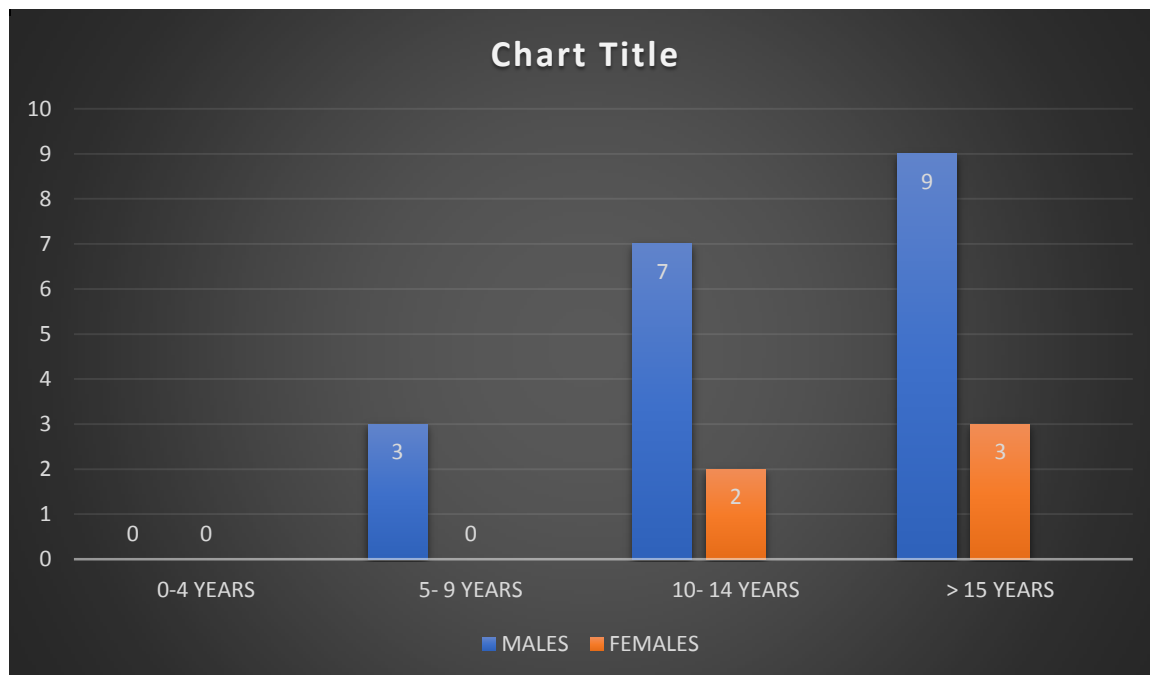
Immediate Postoperative Period

Routine postoperative ECHO demonstrated more than moderate MR in one patient, she required re-operation and mitral valve replacement. We had one early mortality in our series, where in low cardiac output syndrome after MVR for severe MR was the cause.

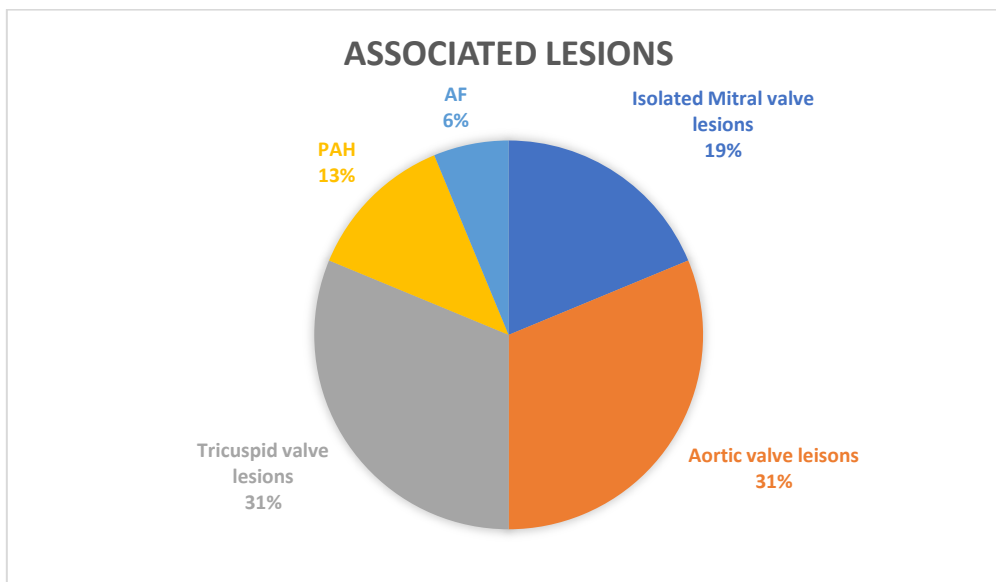
Follow-up

We report the follow up at one year from the date of discharge. In patients who underwent mitral valve repair, no residual regurgitation. None, in our series had patient prosthesis mismatch. We calculated the EOA using the continuity equation and found the EOA > 1.2, which rules out any PPM. Of the six patients who had Tricuspid repair, mild TR was reported in four, moderate in one and none in one. One patient was readmitted for rate control. The other three patients with atrial fibrillation continued to be in AF, though with a controlled rate. No patient in our series had thromboembolic complication. No patient developed DSWI in our series in this age group.

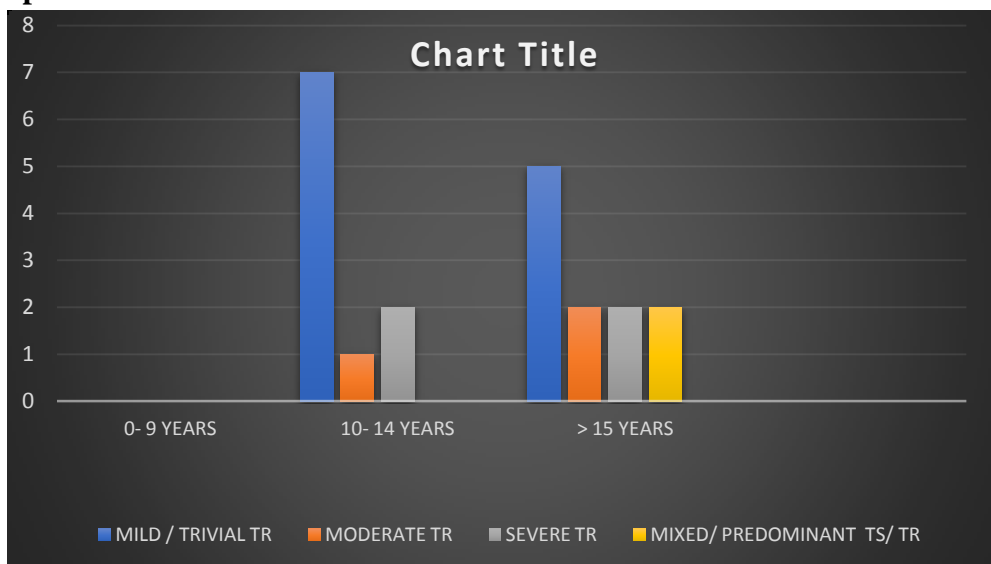
Age and Sex distribution



Associated lesions



Severity of preoperative TR in our series



Prosthetic valve size used

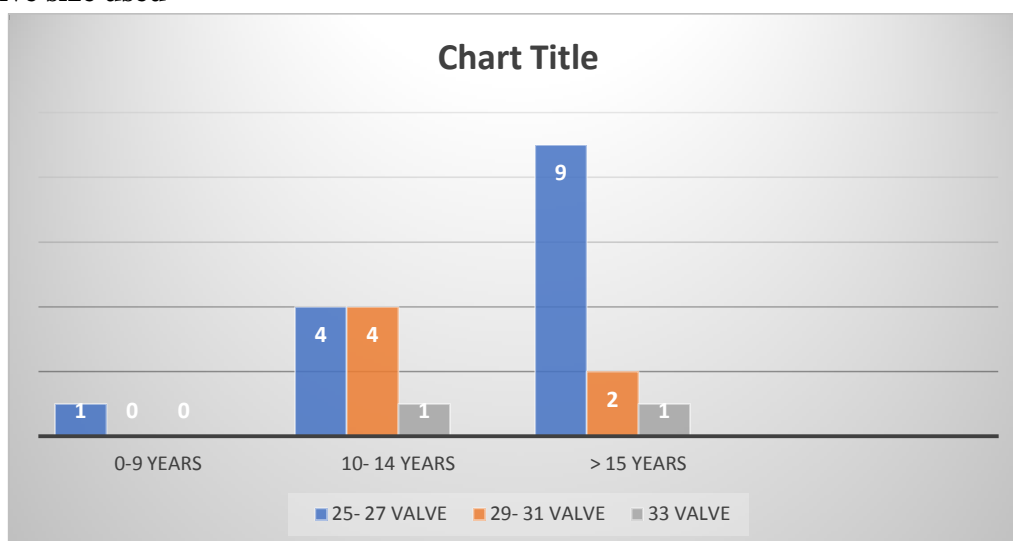


Table: Different sizes of valves, age group, follow-up in our series

Valve size	25 mm	27 mm	29 mm	31 mm	33 mm
No of patients	6	8	4	2	2
Min age of the patient	9 years	10 years	13 years	12 years	13 years
Max age of the patient	17 years	18 years	17 years	14 years	18 years
PPM during follow up	None	None	None	None	None
Prosthetic valve thrombosis	None	None	None	None	None
MACE/ non- MACE	None	None	None	None	None

Discussion

In the young patients, mitral valve surgery poses a situation different from adults. Placement of a large prosthesis in children with small mitral annulus is associated with high risk for operative mortality due to complications related to leaflet entrapment, development of left ventricular outflow tract obstruction, tricuspid valve obstruction and conduction block. Replacement in this age group has a high operative mortality ranging from 10% to 36%, in addition to significant morbidity.

The use of homografts and bioprosthetic valves for aortic or mitral valve replacement in children is associated with rapid structural degeneration and eminent reoperation requirement. As bioprosthetic valves are not available in small sizes, mechanical valves are the main replacement option in young children in whom a small prosthesis is required.

MV repair is desirable and should be attempted because it conserves the subvalvar apparatus and ventricular geometry, preserving left ventricular function. Preserved left ventricular function leads to survival benefits in the long term. Several groups have reported satisfactory results with MV repair in children with mid- to long-term survival of 77—94%.

Biodegradable rings for annuloplasty in children⁵

One of the options for mitral valve repair in young children who require annuloplasty rings of less than 26mm, where no commercially available rings are available, biodegradable rings are a good option. Kalangos et al reported first use of biodegradable rings in animals. Bautista- Hernandez, reported the use of biodegradable rings in six

children and showed that these rings promotes annular remodelling and maintains the growth potential of the native annulus. Biodegradable ring used here is PDS.

Techniques available for repair of mitral valve⁴

Mitral stenosis	Mitral regurgitation
Commissurotomy	Wooler- Kay annuloplasty
Papillary muscle splitting	Cleft repair
Resection of supra- valvular ring	Strip annuloplasty
Resection of secondary chordae	Ring annuloplasty
Fenestration of chordae	Artificial chordae
Slicing of leaflet	Chorde shortening
	Posterior annulus splitting
	Papillary muscle splitting
	Resection of secondary chordae
	Edge to edge repair
	Commissure obliteration
	Chordal transfer

Transcatheter procedures for mitral valve repair⁶

Over the last decade, several transcatheter mitral valve repair technologies adapted from different surgical techniques have emerged for treating MR inpatients at high or prohibitive surgical risk. The transcatheter mitral valve repair “tool box” is rapidly expanding, with up to 5 devices already approved in Europe, including the MitraClip (Abbott Vascular, Inc., Santa Clara, California), the DS1000 device (Neo Chord, Inc., St. Luis Park, Minnesota), the Carillon (Cardiac Dimensions, Inc., Kirkland, Washington), the Cardio Band (Valtech Cardio, Or Yehuda, Israel), and the Mitralign device (Mitralign, Inc., Tewksbury, Massachusetts). In current practice, transcatheter mitral valve repair is mainly limited to the Mitra Clip device, which mimics the edge-to-edge leaflet repair described by Alfieri et al. Since the introduction of Mitra Clip in 2003, more

than 35,000 patients have been treated with high success and safety rates, translating into some degree of functional improvement in most patients⁵.

Conclusion

Mitral valve is diseased due to multitude of causes. In India, rheumatic heart disease continues to be the most common cause. Congenital causes of mitral valve disease account for a significant cause after RHD. Because valvular heart disease of RHD etiology is associated with severe subvalvular disease, mitral valve repair is not always possible. In our study population, patients from low socio-economic strata, with low educational status, comprise most of the patients. Inadequacy of initial treatment of acute rheumatic fever, delay in seeking medical aid after establishment of RHD, delayed referrals for surgery, all account for delayed presentation with extensive subvalvular disease beyond possibilities of repair. But repair should be attempted in every case of VHD as and when possible. Comparison of world literature shows valve repairs taking upper hand over replacement. But when repair is not possible, of whatever cause, every attempt should be made to facilitate normal growth of the annulus with age. Biodegradable rings instead of routine annuloplasty rings are a good alternative. Transcatheter procedures are rapidly gaining popularity and can be suitable alternatives to surgical valve replacements, in the adults. In pediatric age group, there is insufficient data to recommend transcatheter procedures. We conclude that even though mitral valve repair takes precedence over replacement in the young individuals, valve replacement is not a bad option where repair is not possible.

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