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Surgical approach to heart valve infective endocarditis complicated by abscess: A single center experience

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Introduction: Heart valve infectious endocarditis represents a fatal event if left untreated. The onset of an abscess has an impact on the surgical indication and strategy. We reviewed our experience with this serious complication.

Material & Methods: Data of 74 patients have been retrospectively analyzed using the department's database. Operations were performed over an 8-year and 7-month period, from July 2007 to January 2016, by different operating surgeons. Patients presenting one or more abscesses were included in the study. Morbidity and mortality rate within 30 days were reviewed.

Results: There were 8 males and 5 females. Age ranged from 33 to 77 years (mean 60±15). Various surgical procedures have been performed, such as aortic or/and mitral valve replacement, mitral or/and tricuspid valve repair and a freestyle prosthetic valve implant in pulmonary position. Moreover, in two patients surgery was extended to the ascending aorta, and in 1 case a coronary artery bypass graft was performed. A patch technique was adopted whenever necessary. Overall, 11 patients survived. Two patients died, one due to septic shock and the other due to pneumonia.

Conclusion: The onset of abscesses represents a serious complication of heart valve infectious endocarditis that increases the complexity of operations. This, however, does not directly affect the 30-day mortality-rate, which appears to be influenced, in contrast, by the dissemination of infection.

Biography

Marco Picichè (MD, PhD) graduated with a degree in Medicine in Florence in 1995 and completed his Cardiac Surgery residency in Rome in 2000. He earned his research master in Surgical Science (Paris, 2007) and a university diploma in vascular surgery (Paris, 2007). In 2009 he opened the 44th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research. He has written many publications and worked as a guest reviewer for many international leading journals. He is a Member of the Editorial Board of several English language Journals. He received a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Paris. He is the Editor in Chief of the multi-author book "Dawn and Evolution of Cardiac procedures-Research Avenues in cardiac Surgery and Interventional cardiology". Currently he is a cardiac surgeon in Rome.

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