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Echocardiography guided right ventricular pacing lead tension adjustment decreases long term tricuspid insufficiency

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Objective: Evaluate the real time tension adjustment to right ventricular pacing lead guided by transthoracic echocardiography during implantation procedure to the influence of long term Tricuspid Insufficiency (TI).

Methods: Consecutive patients with following criteria were screened into the study: 1) Chronic three degree atrioventricular conduction block. 2) Dual chamber pacemaker was intended to implant. 3) Without tricuspid insufficiency before procedure. 4) Right Passive fixation ventricular lead from Medtronic Company could be used. Enrolled patients were randomized into TAF group (tension adjustment by fluoroscopy) and TAE group (tension adjustment by fluoroscopy plus echocardiography). All passive leads were fixed at right ventricular apex. After satisfied parameter measurement, transtricuspid lead tension was adjusted by fluoroscopy only in TAF group and by fluoroscopy plus echocardiography. In TAE group, lead tension was adjusted by fluoroscopy at first. Then echocardiography was conducted to exam possible tricuspid insufficiency or valvular deformation until adjustment satisfaction. All patients were followed up more than 12 months by regular echocardiography.

Results: Total 76 patients (63.8 ± 11.5 yrs, male 43) were enrolled. Thirty seven cases were randomized into TAF group (64.3 ± 9.6 yrs, male 21) and 39 cases into TAE group (62.9 ± 10.7 yrs, male 22). All procedures were successful without complications. In TAE group, mild to moderate TI were detected and rectified after primary fluoroscopy tension adjustment in 12 patients (30.8%). In TAF group, mild to moderate TI was detected within 24 hours after procedure in 9 patients (24.3%) and it was kept to the end of follow up. During the follow up of 17.5 ± 4.8 months, TI in TAE group was significantly less than that in TAF group (0.5% vs. 24.3%, $P < 0.01$).

Conclusions: Echocardiography guided right ventricular pacing lead tension adjustment significantly decreases acute and long term mild to moderate tricuspid insufficiency.

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