

P151. Early Antiplatelet Therapy And Aortic Valve Bioprostheses: Porcine Versus Pericardial Valve Freedom From Thrombosis.

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OBJECTIVES: Bioprostheses-valve-thrombosis usually occurs in the early-postoperative-period. Therefore, in the past the patients were orally-anticoagulated prophylactically. On the contrary, recently according to the last American-College-Cardiology-guidelines (2006), aspirin is indicated after biologic-valve-replacement in patients with no-risk-factors. Aim of the study was to compare the outcomes of patients undergoing aortic-valve-replacement with a bioprosthesis receiving daily 100 mg of aspirin soon after the procedure.

METHODS: Between September 1997 and December 2007, 386 and 445 consecutive patients underwent aortic-valve-replacement respectively with a SJM-Biocor-Epic porcine-valve (mean-age 73.7 ± 7 years) and a Carpentier-Edwards pericardial-valve (74.5 ± 7 years). Associated-surgical-procedures included coronary-artery-by-pass-grafting in 123 and 152 patients respectively, ascending-aorta-replacement in 36 and 21 patients respectively. Echocardiography was performed in the majority of long-term survivors. Follow-up included 491 and 902 patient-years and was 100% complete. Since January 2006 all the bioprosthetic aortic patients have been treated only by aspirin while previously were treated by oral-anticoagulants.

RESULTS: There were 6 and 21 early-deaths respectively. At follow-up, 20 SJM-Biocor-Epic and 50 Carpentier-Edwards patients died. At 10-year follow-up, valve-thrombosis occurred in 5 SJM-Biocor-Epic patients (4 patients have been reoperated and 1 medically treated) while this event did not occur within the Carpentier-Edwards group. All the thrombosis occurred in patients treated by aspirin at a mean follow-up of 8 months.

CONCLUSIONS: The Carpentier-Edwards is an effective bioprosthesis with a low incidence of valve-related-complications, even when treated with aspirin alone soon after surgery. On the contrary, according to our experience, we decided to treat all the patients receiving a SJM-Biocor-Epic by oral-anticoagulants for 3-months, contravening to the most recent guidelines.