Physician - Physician - Aortic (Thoracic) Pathologies and Surgery/Endovascular Interventions

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Postoperative Aortic Valve Insufficiency: Outcomes of Aortic Valve Preservation in Type A Aortic Dissection

Kemal Esref Erdoğan^{1,2}, Emrah Uğuz^{1,2}, Nur Gizem Elipek²

¹Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara, Türkiye

²Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Ankara Bilkent City Hospital, Ankara, Türkiye

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Doi: 10.5606/tgkdc.dergisi.2024.msb-49 **E-mail:** kemal_esref@hotmail.com.tr

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Objective: The study aimed to assess the impact of preserving the aortic valve during supracoronary aortic interposition on aortic valve function in patients with type A aortic dissection.

Methods: The study included 95 patients (65 males, 30 females; mean age: 58.94±11.4 years) who underwent supracoronary aortic interposition due to type A aortic dissection between 2019 and 2023. Patients who completed early- and mid-term postoperative follow-ups were included in the study. Patients who died or had aortic valve replacement were excluded. Preoperative and postoperative transthoracic echocardiography results were compared for aortic insufficiency (AI).

Results: Preoperative echocardiography showed no Al in 39 patients. During follow-up, 27 patients still had no Al. Mild Al developed in eight patients, and moderate Al developed in four. Preoperative mild Al was present in 40 patients, with 24 maintaining the same degree of Al, six showing no Al, and 10 progressing to moderate Al. Of 16 patients with preoperative moderate Al, seven showed regression to mild Al postoperatively, while five had unchanged moderate Al. Five patients with moderate Al underwent aortic resuspension. Among these patients, Al persisted at the same level postoperatively in one patient, two patients had no Al, and two had mild Al.

Conclusion: The degree of aortic valve insufficiency is crucial in type A dissection surgery. Assessing the aortic valve structure and preserving valves that do not require replacement can reduce cross-clamp time, complications, and mortality. Regular transthoracic echocardiography follow-up is essential to monitor the progression or regression of Al in these patients.

Keywords: Aortic dissection, aortic insufficiency.

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