

Mitral valve Repair Using Flexible Bands in Non Ischemic Mitral Regurgitation

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ABSTRACT

Background: Mitral valve annuloplasty is a fundamental component in mitral valve repair to restore the size and shape of the native annulus and to prevent future annular dilatation. **Aim of work:** To assess the early results of MV repair using flexible bands in patients with non ischemic mitral regurgitation. **Patients and Methods:** We prospectively reviewed 53 patients who underwent mitral valve repair with a flexible. We evaluate all patients 1 year postoperatively to assess the progress of the repair procedure. **Results:** Mean age at the time of operation was 38.8 ± 11 years and more than half of them were females (56.6%). Preoperative mean ejection fraction was $61.7 \pm 8.9\%$, and the majority (84.9%) of patients had severe mitral regurge on preoperative echocardiography. Regarding the 30-day mortality was 1.9%. At last follow up, 47.2% of patients had no or mild regurgitation and the mean ejection fraction was $57.9 \pm 8.2\%$. **Conclusion:** The early outcomes of mitral valve repair with flexible band show good results in our prospective observational study. Mitral valve annuloplasty with flexible band gives satisfactory results as regards NYHA classification, left ventricular function and dimensions.

Keywords: Mitral regurgitation , mitral valve repair ,band , left ventricular function

Introduction

Mitral valve repair is the treatment of choice for MR. It gives better results than mitral valve replacement in form of survival, ventricular function and thromboembolic complications. In Egypt, rheumatic heart disease is still the commonest cause of MR (1).

The most important and critical points in mitral repair are understanding anatomy, pathophysiology of mitral valve apparatus, severity and mechanism of mitral regurgitation, all these can be achieved by transesophageal echocardiography (2).

The basic component of mitral valve repair is annuloplasty. According to Carpentier's concepts, an annuloplastic device is important for (I) restoring the size and shape of annulus; (II) preventing more annular dilatation; and (III) providing annular support (3).

Different types of annuloplasty devices are marketed to-day: rigid and flexible, opened or closed, with fixed or variable diameter. The choice of a device is difficult and in many cases complex and controversial. Any device can be used according to the choice of surgeon (4).

After the discovery of the continuous and cyclical three-dimensional movements of the mitral orifice, more studies turn the attention to the flexible ring. Such studies demonstrate the flexible ring is better adapted to the various phases in the cardiac cycle, in particular to diastole. Moreover it determines greater preservation of ventricular function than the rigid ring. Recently it has also been verified the advantage of the flexible ring in the preservation of the native valve apparatus, and in the shape change of the mitral orifice during systole (5).

Many studies were carried out on the different surgical techniques used for management of non ischemic MR. In this study we are trying to show early results of MV repair using flexible bands in patients with non Ischemic mitral regurgitation.

Patients and methods

The study is a prospective observational study, carried out in Zagazig university hospitals, cardiothoracic surgery department on 53 patients with non ischemic mitral valve regurgitation undergoing mitral valve repair.

Inclusion & exclusion criteria:

Patients included in this study are those who have MV regurgitation with or without tricuspid regurgitation and meet the indications for MV operation according to (2020) American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) guidelines. While, patients excluded from the study are those with previous open cardiac surgery, concomitant aortic valve replacement, left ventricular (LV) impairment (ejection fraction <40%), ischemic MR, infective endocarditis and intraoperative residual MV regurgitation after MV repair needing MV replacement.

After approval of the IRP committee, and a written consent from all patients, patients were subjected to preoperative history taking , clinical examination , investigations as CXR , echocardiography, cardiac catheterization if needed , exclusion of septic foci and routine preoperative laboratory tests .

Surgical technique:

Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) was performed in all patients after the induction of anesthesia. All operations were done through a median sternotomy. Cardiopulmonary bypass was conducted with bicaval cannulation and mild systemic hypothermia (32°C). Myocardial protection was done by antegrade blood cardioplegic solution. We used either pericardial or Teflon bands for posterior band annuloplasty. The size of annuloplasty band was selected according to the intertrigonal distance. Flexible band was implanted with 2-0 Ethibond interrupted horizontal mattress sutures. The techniques of mitral valve repair and concomitant operations are shown in **Tables 3** and **Figure 1**. After weaning from cardiopulmonary bypass, mitral repair was reevaluated by

TEE. Collected intraoperative data included: operative time, cardiopulmonary bypass time, intraoperative evaluation of mitral valve repair by TEE. Postoperative data were recorded regarding: hemodynamic evaluation and echocardiographic evaluation of mitral valve repair before hospital discharge.

Statistical methods

Data were imported into Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 25.0) (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software for analysis. Qualitative data were represented as frequencies and relative percentages. Chi square test (χ^2) and Fisher exact was used to calculate difference between qualitative variables as indicated. Quantitative data were expressed as mean \pm SD (Standard deviation) for parametric and median and range for non-parametric data. A P-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant & < 0.001 for high significant result for two tailed tests.

Results

Demographic criteria of the patients showed that mean age of studied group was 38.8 ± 11 years and more than half of them were females (56.6%) (**Table 1**). The most common cause of MR was degenerative accounting for (75.5%) of patients. The most common pathology of MR was prolapse of PMVL (30.2%).

Preoperative echocardiographic data, as presented in **Table (2)** showed that mean of Ejection fraction of studied group was $61.7 \pm 8.9\%$, mean of LVEDD of them was 59.6 ± 9.5 mm and mean of PA pressure of them was 50 ± 18.1 mm Hg. The majority (84.9%) of patients had severe mitral regurge and 26.4% of them had mild tricuspid regurge.

Operative techniques used for repair are presented in **Table (3)**. Pericardial bands were used in 40 (75.5%) patients. Tricuspid valve repair by DeVega annuloplasty, Modified segmental annuloplasty (El-Gabry technique) and Pericardial band was performed in 23 patients (43.4%).

Post-operative echocardiographic data as presented in **Table (4)** showed that mean of Ejection fraction of studied group was $57.9 \pm 8.2\%$, mean of LVEDD of them was 51.7 ± 8.7 mm and mean of PA pressure of them was 35.2 ± 15.2 mm Hg. 47.4% of them had no or mild mitral regurge and 43.4% of them had mild tricuspid regurge. Also our patients showed improvement of postoperative NYHA class. Regarding early morbidity occurred in our patients showed in **Table (6)**.

Table 1: Demographic criteria and pathology of mitral valve regurgitation .

Variable		N=53	%=100
age		Mean ± SD: 38.8±11 Range: 19-60	
gender	Male	23	43.4
	Female	30	56.6
Aetiology of MR	degenerative	40	75.5
	Rheumatic	12	22.6
	congenital	1	1.9
pathology	Dilated annulus	11	20.8
	Prolapse of AMVL	13	24.5
	Prolapse of PMVL	16	30.2
	Restricted PMVL	12	22.6
	Cleft mitral valve leaflet	1	1.9

Table 2: Preoperative Echo data among the studied group.

Variable	Mean ± SD	Range
Ejection fraction, (%):	61.7±8.9	46-79
LVEDD, (mm):	59.6±9.5	45-80
PA pressure (mm Hg):	50 ±18.1	30-94
	N=53	%
Degree of mitral regurge:		
Moderate to severe	8	15.1
Severe	45	84.9
Tricuspid regurge:		
No	14	26.4
Mild	14	26.4
Moderate	8	15.1
Moderate to severe	2	3.8
Severe	13	24.5
Trivial	2	3.8

Table 3: Operative data among the studied group:

Variable	Mean ± SD	Range
Technique of repair:		
Annuloplasty and excision of fibrous peel	12	22.6
Annuloplasty	12	22.6
Annuloplasty and artificial chordae with gortex suture	13	24.5
Annuloplasty and quadrangular resection of p2	9	17
Posterior Leaflet triangular exclusion	7	13.2
Types of the bands:		
Pericardial band 30	14	26.4
Pericardial band 32	26	49.1
Teflon band 32	13	24.5
Tricuspid valve repair:		
No	30	56.6
Elgabry annuloplasty technique	10	18.9
Devage annuloplasty	3	5.7
Pericardial band	10	18.9

Table 4 : Postoperative NYHA of patients.

Variable	N=53	%=100
Postoperative NYHA:		
• Class I	33	62.3
• Class II	16	30.2
• Class III	4	7.5
• Class IV	0	0

Table 5: Postoperative echocardiography follow up:

Variable	Mean ± SD	Range
Ejection fraction, (%):	57.9 ±8.2	43-73
LVEDD, (mm):	51.7±8.7	38-69
PA pressure (mm Hg):	35.2±15.2	20-70

	N=53	%
Degree of mitral regurge:		
No	8	15.1
Mild	17	32.1
Mild to moderate	1	1.9
Trivial	27	50.9
Tricuspid regurge:		
No	15	28.3
Mild	23	43.4
Trivial	15	28.3

Table 6 : Complications rate among the studied patients:

Variable	N=53	%
Neurological complication:		
No	52	98.1
Lt sided hemiparesis	1	1.9
Bleeding and reexploration:		
No	49	92.5
Yes	4	7.5
Hospital Mortality:		
No	52	98.1
Yes	1	1.9
Arrhythmia:		
No	42	79.2
AF	11	20.8
Chest complications:		
No	46	86.8
Chest infection	4	7.5
Late bleeding	3	5.7
Wound infections:		
No	49	92.5
Yes	4	7.5

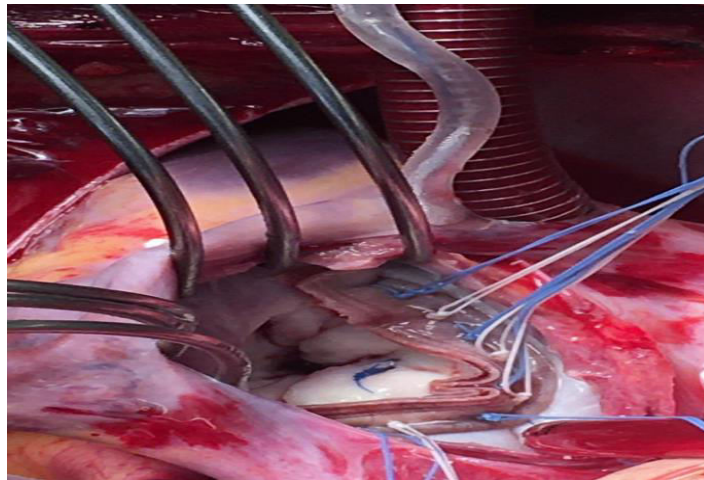


Figure (1): Posterior annuloplasty by pericardial band and Posterior Leaflet triangular exclusion.

Discussion

Although rheumatic heart disease is still the commonest cause of MR in Egypt, only few rheumatic cases can be repaired because of extensive valve affection. In our study, the most common cause of MR was degenerative, and the most common pathology was prolapse of PMVL (2). Mitral valve repair is the ideal procedure for mitral regurgitation and is preferred to prosthetic valve replacement, whenever technically possible. All previous studies stated that mitral valve replacement has higher mortality rate than mitral valve repair (6).

Annuloplasty rings are considered the “gold standard” for the surgical treatment of MR. Studies showed that the MV annulus continually changes size and shape during the cardiac cycle. This led to the development of a flexible ring that could conform to the physiologic changing annular shape (7).

In our study we used different types of flexible bands for posterior annuloplasty and Pericardial band size 32 was the most commonly used one. Mitral valve repair was done in all our patients by annuloplasty with or without specific technique according to pathology of mitral valve apparatus e.g. quadrangular resection of p2, artificial chordae with Gortex suture , excision of fibrous peel, posterior leaflet triangular exclusion, posterior leaflet exclusion and closure of cleft mitral valve.

Regarding early morbidity occurred in our patients, 4 cases were reexplored for bleeding. According to arrhythmia, there were atrial fibrillation in 11 cases of the studied group. There were chest complications in the form of in 4 cases of chest infection and 3 cases of late bleeding. 4 cases developed superficial wound infections and one patient developed Lt sided hemiparesis. In study done by **salvador et al. (8)** reported early morbidity was reexploration for bleeding in 3.6% , postoperative renal failure was 2.1 % required dialysis , postoperative stroke in 1.7%.

No Intraoperative mortality was found in our study. As regards early mortality (with 30 days of operation) in our study, in 1 case died (1.9%), at second day postoperatively due to bleeding . In study performed by **Salvador et al. (8)** revealed early mortality was 1% all related to low cardiac output syndrome .

In a study done by **Bogachev et al. (7)** showed that at follow up echocardiographic examinations, only the flexible band group showed significant LV remodeling. This study also showed superiority of the flexible posterior band over the semirigid complete ring in terms of freedom from recurrences of significant and/or severe MR and risk of MV reoperation. **Brown et al. (2009)** proved high effectiveness of flexible posterior annuloplasty bands in preserving mitral annulus flexibility and provide good mid-term and long-term durability.

El Sharawy et al. (10) in their study concluded that early postoperative left ventricular dimensions were reduced ,also left ventricular function was significantly improved in flexible band group more than rigid one. Our study gives similar results as the flexible band annuloplasty showed good results regarding left ventricular function and dimension.

In a meta-analysis done by **Hu et al (11)** concluded that the outcome of the flexible annuloplasty was comparable with the rigid ring in terms of in-hospital mortality, reoperation need, recurrence of significant mitral regurgitation (MR), late survival benefit, and LV remodeling. However, the flexible annuloplasty was associated with higher LV ejection fraction, larger residual mitral valve area.

A retrospective analysis conducted by **Panicker et al. (12)** proved that there was no difference between the flexible and rigid rings in result in terms of LV regression and mitral regurgitation recurrence at 5-year follow-up. And concluded that rigid ring or

flexible ring didn't have marked effect on the outcome of mitral valve annuloplasty at midterm follow-up.

Conclusion

The early outcomes of mitral valve repair with flexible band show good results in our prospective observational study. Mitral valve annuloplasty with flexible band gives satisfactory results as regards NYHA classification, left ventricular function and dimension. Long-term data might be required to determine efficacy of annuloplasty by flexible band .

No conflict of interest.

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