

Six years of Contegra on reconstruction of the right ventricular outflow tract : the European experience

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OBJECTIVES The valved conduit Contegra (bovine jugular vein) has already being implanted for 6 years by European surgeons in reconstructions of the right ventricular outflow tract. We noted that reports have been mixed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS We searched the relevant literature for the primary endpoints of operative mortality and morbidity and follow-up haemodynamic performance . We selected and analysed 12 series with 477 patients in total. Casemix and methodologies varied considerably . Descriptive Statistics were therefore deemed appropriate.

RESULTS Cumulative operative mortality was 2.9%. Cumulative operative morbidity was 36.9%. In follow-up, the annual prevalence of intraconduit stenosis was 8% and that of moderate to severe or severe regurgitation was 2.9%.

CONCLUSIONS **Aspirin following discharge from hospital appears beneficial for avoiding thrombotic and stenotic complications, yet the heterogeneity of the cohorts and the methods of reporting rend problematic any statistical inference .Based on that, we propose a ‘Contegra database’.**