Patients’ perception of minimally invasive aortic valve replacement surgery

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Background

- Minimally invasive cardiac surgery is becoming more common
  - Reduced pain
  - Reduced surgical trauma
  - Less bleeding
  - Earlier functional recovery
  - Improved cosmetic results
  - Shorter hospital stay
  - Reduced cost
Procedure
Procedure
Cosmetic Result
Study Question

• What is the patients’ perception of our minimally invasive aortic valve replacement programme?
Methods

• All mini-AVR patients identified from in-house database
• 1 Year Period November 2011 to October 2012
• Postal questionnaire sent 6 weeks post surgery
Recruitment

60 Patients

- 1 Died
- 4 Converted to standard sternotomy
- 2 Required further surgery

53 Questionnaires

41 Returns

12 Did not return
Demographics

- Mean age 66.9 (Range 19-87)
- 25 Men, 16 Women
- Length of stay
  - Mean 6.97 days
  - Median 6 days
  - Range 3-28 days
Patient Reporting of Dyspnoea

% of Patients

NYHA Classification

1
2
3
4
Patient Reporting of Chest Pain
“Rate your health today”

- 81-100: 66%
- 61-80: 26%
- 41-60: 8%
Scar Appearance

• All patients considered the appearance of their scar as either
  ▫ Very good (87.9%)
  ▫ Good (12.1%)
• All patients preferred a short scar
Pain at 6 Weeks

% of Patients

None / Mild

Moderate

Pain Rating

Severe / Extreme
Mobility

% of Patients

No limitations | Slight limitations | Severe limitations | Unable to walk

0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Return to Usual Activities

- No limitations: 100%
- Slight limitations: 0%
- Severe limitations: 10%
- Unable to do usual activities: 0%
Conclusion

- Patients have a good post operative recovery with minimally invasive aortic valve replacement
  - High levels of satisfaction with scar appearance and size
  - Good functional recovery
  - Little wound and musculoskeletal pain at 6 weeks
Thank you

• “I looked at other patients on the ward and thought I am glad I did not have a big scar”

• “We still managed to get on holiday 10 days after the operation”

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