

Perceval S and Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting, Contradiction or Full Harmony?

Sara Badia*, Elisabet Berastegui, M Luisa Cámara, Luis Delgado, Claudio Fernández, Ignasi Julià, Bernat Romero, Anna Llorens, Paula Albaladejo and Xavier Ruyra

Cardiac Surgery Department, Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona, Barcelona, Spain.

*Corresponding author

Sara Badia, Cardiac Surgery Department, Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona, Barcelona, Spain, E-mail: sara.badia@hotmail.com.

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Abstract

Background / Study Objective: Coronary artery disease is very common in patients who are referred to aortic valve replacement. Concomitant coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedure does not necessarily contradict with the use of last generation sutureless bioprostheses, but, publications about this combined approach are very limited. The objective of this study is to describe the results of aortic valve replacement plus CABG using Perceval S aortic sutureless bioprostheses in our Center.

Methods: From our database we retrospectively described the outcomes of 42 patients who underwent aortic valve replacement with a last generation sutureless bioprostheses (Perceval S) plus CABG at the same procedure. We used a combination of arterials (left internal mammary artery (LIMA), right internal mammary artery (RIMA) and radial artery) and saphenous vein for the coronary artery bypass grafting. Most of the patients received 1 bypass (range: 1-3). Mean age: 78,19 ± 5,1. Male 64,3%, female 35,7%. Cardiovascular risk factors: Hypertension 97,6%; Diabetes 38,1%, Dyslipidemia 69%, peripheral vascular disease 38,2%, prior stroke 9,5%, chronic renal failure 40,5%, obstructive pulmonary disease 21,4% of the patients. Mean Logistic EuroScoreII: 16,68/10,73% (expected mortality).

Results and Conclusions: Excellent results were achieved in patients undergoing aortic valve replacement with Perceval S sutureless bioprostheses and concomitant coronary artery bypass grafting. Although high aortotomy is needed for Perceval S implantation, is possible to perform proximal anastomosis for saphenous grafts properly. Perceval S is a feasible alternative for patients with aortic valve stenosis and coronary artery disease, with shorter cross-clamp and extracorporeal circulation times and low rate of complications.

Keywords: Aortic valve replacement, Coronary artery bypass grafting, Sutureless valve.

Introduction

Over the past 10-15 years, there has been a significant change in the cardiac surgery environment manifested by a decline in the volume of CABG surgeries being performed. The shift in revascularization practices from surgery to PCI has resulted in a reduction in the overall number of CABG surgeries. And growing for aortic valve replacement. Isolated aortic valve replacement represents a 44,1% of the total cardiac surgeries in our Country been the predominant cardiac surgical pathology, representing the “body” of the activity in each Department [1].

Traditionally, aortic valve surgery has generally been performed via full sternotomy incision with the use of biological or mechanical stented valves sutured to the aortic annulus. However, the increase in number of older patients and patients with multiple

comorbidities has prompted the need for developing techniques that are less invasive in order to improve postoperative recovery by reducing the extracorporeal circulation and crossclamp times, reducing the complications derived therefrom. In actual fact the emergence of possible transcatheter aortic-valve implantation (TAVI) option for management of aortic valve disease has demanded the development of alternative and more attractive surgical options.

Perceval S bioprostheses is a last generation suture-less aortic prostheses. These new prostheses save X-clamp and EEC time, and favor the implantation in small aortic root, the easy implantation along with the time saving of extracorporeal circulation, makes this prostheses a good alternative for high risk patients who need an aortic valve replacement.

Combined surgery of coronary artery bypass grafting plus aortic valve replacement is a very usual procedure. The use of this

last generation valve is not a contradiction with a myocardial revascularization procedure. We described the experience of this combined surgery in our Center.

Materials and Methods

A descriptive and retrospective study was created collecting a total of 42 patients from our database. We review the clinical and procedural outcome data from the 100% of the patients. The inclusion criteria were: patients which had undergone aortic valve surgery using Perceval S bioprostheses with concomitant coronary artery bypass grafting. Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) was done in every case and an experienced echocardiographer was present to interpret findings in the operating room and also, before discharge.

The preferent pathology treated was pure aortic valve stenosis with a rate of 77, 8%, mixed stenosis-regurgitation disease was present in 22, 2%. The demographic data of the 42 patients analyzed are collected in the table 1. The mean age reach 80 years old, sample is composed by older and high risk patients (16, 68% euro Score I).

	n= 42
Mean age (yearsold)	78,19±5,1
Gender: men/women	64.3% / 35.7%
Hypertension	97.6%
Diabetes	38.1%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	21.4%
Dyslipidemia	69%
Peripheral vascular disease	38,2%
Prior stroke	9,5%
Chronic renal failure	40,5%
Mean logisticEuroScore II	10.73%

Table 1: Demographic data.

How to implant the sutureless valve in a combined surgery

Cannulation is performed as usual. Keep in mind left a proper space for proximal anastomosis and aortotomy. Before start the cannulation is necessary to plan where to place the cannulas for having space enough for the proximal anastomosis of the bypass (if needed). This simple trick is the only thing that you must take into account for make possible this combined procedure, because for implanting a Perceval S you need to establish extracorporeal circulation and make the aortotomy higher than usual (2cm above the sinotubular junction).

After the aortic valve exposition a complete excision and removal of the aortic leaflets and debridement of the calcium of the annulus is required as standard fashion. Next step is the measurement of aortic annulus for choosing the prosthesis size. After that we place 3 temporary guide sutures in the lower point of the sinuses (nadir). Guide sutures are inserted through the prosthesis buttonholes. Fit the prostheses within the annulus and valve deployment. Ballooning of the valve stent during 30 seconds at 4 atmosphere of pressure with the infusion of warm saline. Aortotomy is closed.

After that, proximal anastomosis are performed if necessarily.

Regarding the statistical analysis, the variables are presented as mean, median, range and percentage. For the statistical treatment was used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 20.

Results

The surgical outcomes are described in table 2. The mean cross-clamp time was 69minutes with a mean extracorporeal circulation time of 96 minutes. The majority of the patients needed 1 bypass, with a predominance of the use of left internal mammary artery following by saphenous vein. The mean Length Hospital Stay (L.O.S) in the intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 7 days but the median was 2,5 days. The global LOS was 19 days of mean with a median of 10 days.

	n=42
-Crossclamp times (minutes)	-69,26 ± 23,2
-Bypass time (minutes)	-96,60 ± 30,1
L.O.S Intensive Care Unit. Mean (range)	-7,14 days (1-56)
Global L.O.S Hospital. Mean (range)	-18,83 days (8-76)
Number of Bypass	
1/	59,5% (25patient)
2/	21,4% (9patients)
3/	19% (8patients)
Graft:	
LIMA	-71,4% (30patients)
RIMA	-2,4% (1patient)
Radial artery	-4,8% (2patients)
Saphenousvein	-50% (21patients)

Table 2: Surgical Outcomes

The complications are described in the table 3. Only one patient suffered a neurological complication, been transient stroke with recovery ad integrum. Only 2 patients needed reoperation for bleeding during the first 24h post-surgery. For the evaluation of preoperative surgical risk we used the logistic euroSCORE I and euroSCORE II. The expected mortality compared with observed is described in table 3 and represented in figure 1. Analyzing mortality, observed was lower than expected by euroSCORE I and also lower than the estimated by euroSCORE II.

	n= 42
Transient Stroke (%)	2,4% (1 patient)
Reoperation for bleeding	4,8% (2 patients)
Endocarditis	none
Mediastinitis	none
Multiple organ failure	2,4% (1patient)
Estimated risk	
EuroScore I	16,68% ± 4,1
EuroScore II	10,73% ± 3,6
Mortality (%)	7,1% (3 patients)

Table 3: Complications.

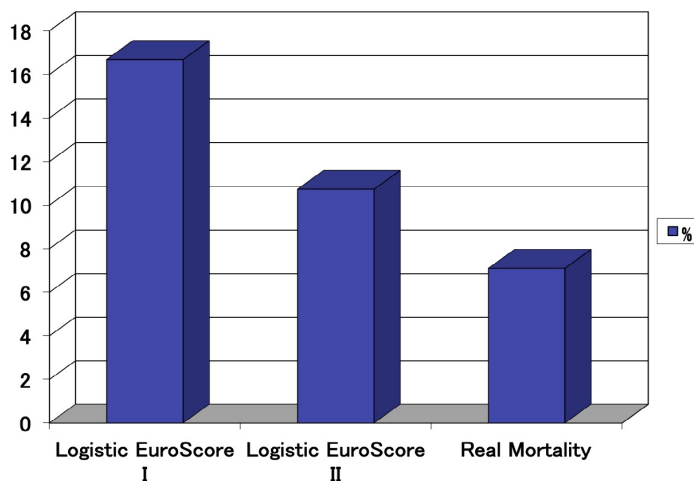


Figure 1: Expected mortality compared with observed.

Conclusions

Several authors described their results with the use of Perceval S bioprostheses in high risk patients, with minimally invasive approach or in combined surgery [2-10]. However no one describes the experience of combined Perceval S aortic valve replacement with concomitant myocardial revascularization. Perceval Saortic valve replacement (AVR) in a combined surgery with coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) can be done with excellent results in terms of mortality and morbidity.

For combined Perceval AVR+CABG, is necessary to plan where to place the proximal venous anastomosis before the cannulation. Perceval S is an easy, safe and feasible alternative for high risk patients with aortic valve stenosis and coronary artery disease.

Advantages

Shorter cross-clamp and extracorporeal circulation times and lower rate of complications also in high risk and older population.

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