



A roadmap for valve repair surgery

It is well established that mitral valve repair has better outcomes than mitral valve replacement surgery. In the Western world, degenerative mitral valve pathology leading to severe mitral valve regurgitation is the most frequent disease affecting the mitral valve and this pathology is particularly accessible for valve repair. Hence, mitral valve repair is increasingly performed world-wide. However, obstacles may still arise in more complex lesions or minimally invasive approaches.

We are particularly pleased that the current issue of the *Journal of Visualized Surgery* is partly devoted to these ‘more difficult’ situations. We found leaders in the field willing to contribute their knowledge and experience to the readers. More particularly, several contributions are devoted to enhance the applicability of minimally invasive mitral valve surgery and techniques. In addition, a specific paper is attributed to more complex repair lesions and their repair approach. Finally, one paper provides an overview of the currently available transcatheter mitral valve repair techniques. This is a field that is only at its start and will likely evolve the coming years.

Unlike the mitral valve, aortic valve regurgitation is much less frequent than aortic valve stenosis. This is probably the reason why aortic valve repair is worldwide still uncommonly performed. Only a few dedicated centers worldwide perform this procedure on a routine basis. We are happy that the second half of this issue could be devoted to aortic valve repair surgery. Several leaders in the field explain us in a very didactic way their approach. All variable situations are covered: patient selection is of course crucial but techniques also vary in tricuspid versus bicuspid aortic valves. Multiple tips and tricks are proposed and also in this field minimally invasive approaches start to emerge.

The *Journal of Visualized Surgery* aims to present you these interesting topics supplemented by adequate pictures and video sequences in order to optimally transmit the message of the authors to the readers.

We are particularly hopeful that the contributions will enhance your knowledge in this field and improve the outcomes and frequencies of valve repair surgery.

We hope you will enjoy this Special issue that is meant to be highly didactic.

Acknowledgments

Funding: None.

Footnote

Provenance and Peer Review: This article was commissioned by the editorial office, *Journal of Visualized Surgery* for the series “Aortic and Mitral Valve Innovative Surgery”. The article did not undergo external peer review.

Conflicts of Interest: Both authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at <https://jovs.amegroups.com/article/view/10.21037/jovs.2019.11.11/coif>). The series “Aortic and Mitral Valve Innovative Surgery” was commissioned by the editorial office without any funding or sponsorship. FC served as the unpaid Guest Editor of the series and serves as an unpaid editorial board member of *Journal of Visualized Surgery* from February 2019 to January 2021. JM served as the unpaid Guest Editor of the series and serves as an unpaid editorial board member of *Journal of Visualized Surgery* from February 2019 to January 2021. The authors have no other conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Open Access Statement: This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits the non-commercial replication and distribution of the article with the strict proviso that no changes or edits are made and the original work is properly cited (including links to both the formal publication through the relevant DOI and the license). See: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.



Filip Casselman



Johan van der Merwe

Filip Casselman, MD, PhD, FETCS

Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, OLV Clinic, Aalst, Belgium.

(Email: Filip.Casselmann@olvz-aalst.be)

Johan van der Merwe, MD, PhD, FETCS, Guest Editors

Atlantic Cardiovascular and Thoracic Institute, The Keyhole Heart Centre,

Netcare Blaauwberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa.

(Email: drjohan@acvti.co.za)

Received: 22 November 2019; Accepted: 05 January 2020; Published: 06 January 2020.

doi: 10.21037/jovs.2019.11.11

View this article at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jovs.2019.11.11>

doi: 10.21037/jovs.2019.11.11

Cite this article as: Casselman F, van der Merwe J. A roadmap for valve repair surgery. *J Vis Surg* 2020;6:13.