



# When to Operate in Infective Endocarditis: Always Late?

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## **Optimal Timing of Surgery: Destructive IE**



# Surgery in infective endocarditis

- Major changes over the last 3 decades
  - 1970s/1980s: defer surgery to allow healing
  - Increasing role of early surgery: 20% --> > 50%
- Perioperative mortality no higher and persisting or recurrent infection no more frequent with early surgery
- "Cancer" surgery (wide excision margins)
- Repair easier when performed early
- >15 observational studies (case selection bias):
  - Single centre, retrospective, small numbers
  - Virulent organisms/complications over-represented
  - Elderly/comorbid cases under-represented
  - Surgery only available to early survivors
  - 5 recent propensity matched studies with conflicting results

#### Infective Endocarditis: The Right Time for Surgery



WHO?

## WHEN?



## Guidelines on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infective endocarditis (new version 2009)

#### The Task Force on the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Infective Endocarditis of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

Endorsed by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and by the International Society of Chemotherapy (ISC) for Infection and Cancer

Authors/Task Force Members: Gilbert Habib (Chairperson) (France)<sup>\*</sup>, Bruno Hoen (France), Pilar Tornos (Spain), Franck Thuny (France), Bernard Prendergast (UK), Isidre Vilacosta (Spain), Philippe Moreillon (Switzerland), Manuel de Jesus Antunes (Portugal), Ulf Thilen (Sweden), John Lekakis (Greece), Maria Lengyel (Hungary), Ludwig Müller (Austria), Christoph K. Naber (Germany), Petros Nihoyannopoulos (UK), Anton Moritz (Germany), Jose Luis Zamorano (Spain)



#### Habib G et al. Eur Heart J 2009 ;30:2369-2413.

#### Early Surgery versus Conventional Treatment for Infective Endocarditis

Duk-Hyun Kang, M.D., Ph.D., Yong-Jin Kim, M.D., Ph.D., Sung-Han Kim, M.D., Ph.D., Byung Joo Sun, M.D., Dae-Hee Kim M.D., Ph.D., Sung-Cheol Yun, Ph.D., Jong-Min Song, M.D., Ph.D., Suk Jung Choo, M.D., Ph.D., Cheol-Hyun Chung, M.D., Ph.D., Jae-Kwan Song, M.D., Ph.D., Jae-Won Lee, M.D., Ph.D., and Dae-Won Sohn, M.D., Ph.D.





N Engl J Med 2012;366:2466-2473.

### Early Surgery versus Conventional Treatment for Infective Endocarditis



- Inclusion Citeria: Left sided IE, severe valve disease (predominantly MR/AR), large vegetations >1cm
- Exclusion criteria: IE with CHF, >7 days since diagnosis
- Mean age 47 yrs, 67% male, Staph. aureus 12%, mean vegetation size 12mm
- Early surgery (<48 hrs, n=37) vs. conventional therapy (AHA guidelines, n=39) (surgery during hospitalisation, n=27; during FU, n=3)</li>
- Antibiotic therapy matched, MV repair more frequent in delayed surgical group
- Primary end-point: in-hospital death and/or major embolic event (imaging confirmed) within 6/52 of randomisation (silent emboli excluded)

#### N Engl J Med 2012;366:2466-2473.

### Early Surgery versus Conventional Treatment for Infective Endocarditis



- All primary end points in conventional treatment group occurred before surgery
- Inclusion of secondary endpoints (CHF, recurrent IE, hospitalisation) widened benefits

N Engl J Med 2012;366:2466-2473.

#### Native-Valve Infective Endocarditis — When Does It **Require Surgery?**



N Engl J Med 2012;366:2519-2521.

## Main Litigation Cause



- 43 year old
- Fit and Well
- Day 1 A&E

Fever, night sweats CRP 64 Malaria screen , sent home

### • Day 3 GP:

- Fever, headaches, Temp 38C
- Heart murmur noted
- Blood tests suggested infection no blood cultures
- Prescribed clarithromycin
- Started to feel better

#### Day 150 ENT:

- Headaches
- $\succ$  CT head  $\rightarrow$  ? Sinusitis, deviated septum, operated
- Neurology headache due to tension headaches
- Recurrent fever / night sweats
- Multiple courses of antibiotics "seems to clear things"
- Symptoms recurred as soon as he stopped them

- Day 360 A&E:
  - Headache, temperature 38C, back pain
  - Blood tests suggested infection no blood cultures
  - CT sinuses again (no sinusitis)
  - Intravenous antibiotics

  - Discharged home on antibiotics

#### Day 390 A&E:

- > 18 months of fever, night sweats
- Weight loss
- Headaches
- > 20 courses of antibiotics with partial improvement
- Pansystolic murmur
- > Echo : mitral regurgitation, vegetation
- Negative blood cultures
- Valve surgery



## Contemporary diagnosis of IE Keystones

## Appropriate clinical suspicion

- Microbiology
  - S Polymerase chain reaction
  - Cher new diagnostic tools
  - Pathological techniques
- Imaging
- Inflammatory markers

## Diagnostic Delay – Days, median (range)



### All IE patients

## Staph Aureus IE patients



### Infective Endocarditis – A Dangerous Disease



- In-hospital mortality 15-20%
- One year mortality 30-40%
- Non-fatal complications
  - Acute stroke 15%
  - CHF 30%
  - Thromboembolic events >20%
- Valve surgery 50%

Chu VH et al. Circulation 2004;109:1745-1749. Tleyjeh IM et al. JAMA 2005;293:3022-3028. Tornos P et al. Heart 2005;91:571-575. Tornos MP et al. Ann Intern Med 1992;117:567-572.







### The timing of surgery influences mortality and morbidity in adults with severe complicated infective endocarditis: a propensity analysis

- 291 pts, surgery for IE, early (<1/52, n=95)</li>
  vs. late (>1/52, n=191)
- 6/12 mortality by propensity analysis
- Benefits of early surgery in sickest quintile
  - Younger
  - More Staphylococcus aureus
  - Congestive heart failure
  - Large vegetations

"Surgery performed very early improves survival in severe complicated IE..... but is associated with higher risk of relapse and prosthetic dehiscence." Thuny F et al



# **Prosthetic Valve IE**

- Most dangerous < 12 months after valve replacement</p>
  - Staphylococcus
  - Severe lesions (abscess, prosthetic dehiscence)
  - Redo surgery
    - Lower mortality than medical treatment alone
    - Usually required (urgent indication)
    - Often technically difficult
- Medical treatment may be sufficient if
  - late infection > 12 months
  - sensitive organism (streptococci, HACEK)
  - no perivalvular infection



#### **Original Investigation**

#### In-Hospital and 1-Year Mortality in Patients Undergoing Early Surgery for Prosthetic Valve Endocarditis

Surgery

Tahaniyat Lalani, MD, MHS; Vivian H. Chu, MD, MHS; Lawrence P. Park, PhD; Enrico Cecchi, MD; G. Ralph Corey, MD; Emanuele Durante-Mangoni, MD; Vance G. Fowler Jr, MD, MHS; David Gordon, MBBS, PhD, FRCPA, FRACP, FFoSc; Paolo Grossi, MD, PhD; Margaret Hannan, MD; Bruno Hoen, MD, PhD; Patricia Muñoz, MD, PhD; Hussien Rizk, MD; Souha S. Kanj, MD; Christine Selton-Suty, MD; Daniel J. Sexton, MD; Denis Spelman, MD; Veronica Ravasio, MD; Marie Françoise Tripodi, MD; Andrew Wang, MD; for the International Collaboration on Endocarditis-Prospective Cohort Study Investigators



- 1025 patients, worldwide registry
  - 490 early surgery
  - 535 medical therapy
- Analyses
  - Unadjusted outcomes
  - Correction for survival bias
  - Quintiles of disease severity



#### **JAMA 2013**



#### IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY

#### ONE YEAR MORTALITY

**JAMA 2013** 

# **A Typical Upper Quintile Patient?**

- 59 year old male
- Bioprosthetic AVR & CABG x3 2002
- September 2014: admission with CHF – no echocardiogram
- October 2014: readmission with CHF & left cerebral infarct
- TOE: severe AR with root abscess





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# **A Typical Upper Quintile Patient?**

- 59 year old male
- Unemployed
- Bioprosthetic AVR & CABG x3 2002
- Morbid obesity (190kgs)
- Chronic leg oedema
- Turned down for gastric banding
- Immobile
- Sleeps in chair





## Conclusions

- The available evidence supports a role for early surgery in IE, especially in the sickest patients
- ESC guidelines endorse this approach and provide recommended timelines
- > In reality, these may be difficult to meet
  - Delayed diagnosis
  - Surgical dogma
  - Organisational issues
- In the real world, IE patients are frequently complex and a careful tailored approach is often required
- Efforts should be focussed on speedier diagnosis, access to expert advice, early transfer to a surgical centre and improved models of IE healthcare delivery