

The 4th  
AAPCHS

AAPCHS  
Asian Association for Pediatric  
and Congenital Heart Surgery

Annual  
Meeting

Seoul, Korea  
May 31-June 1, 2024

Venue Seoul Dragon City (<http://sdc-club.com/ko>)

Meeting President Woong-Han Kim

Meeting Host Organization Korean Society of Congenital and Pediatric Heart Surgery

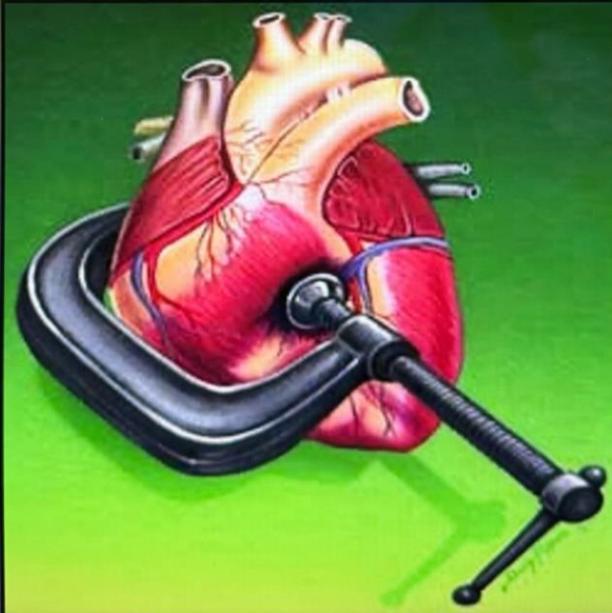
# Surgical and Postoperative Considerations for TOF Patients Who Undergo Correction at Old Age



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# Surgical Repair of Tetralogy of Fallot



*When should patients be repaired?*

## Natural History



- 2/3 reach one year
- 1/2 reach 3 years
- 1/4 reach 10 years
- Rate of attrition is about 6.4% per year with 11% alive at age of 20, 6% alive at age of 30 and 3% at age of 40
- Survival beyond that is uncommon but not rare

## ➤ OUR POLICY

- Symptomatic patients are repaired at presentation irrespective of age, unless they have a “reason” for palliation.
- Asymptomatic usually referred for elective repair at 4-6 months of age.
- Very selective utilization of shunting, PDA stents, RVOT dilation or stenting.
- Small aorto pulmonary collaterals are ignored, larger ones are coil embolized prior to surgical correction.



## Cardiac surgery at an older age may be required for various reasons:

- Patients “simply” presented late
- Patients with conditions not diagnosed or not considered severe enough to require surgery in childhood
- Patients with prior palliation
- Patients with prior repair and residual or new hemodynamic complication



## For TOF patients presenting late....

- The indications for operation and surgical techniques do not differ significantly from those used in children.
- However, there are some special risk factors that have to be taken into consideration.



## Added Risks

- Complex anatomy and physiology
- Previous intervention? Shunts
- Ventricular hypertrophy
  - Chronic volume and pressure overload
  - Ventricular dysfunction
  - Poor chamber compliance
  - Low cardiac output



## Added Risks

- Arrhythmias
- Systemic effects of chronic cyanosis
  - difficult hemostasis
  - renal dysfunction
- Lung reperfusion injury



## SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ✓ Older patients may have raised PA pressure despite severe RVOTO. This can be due to either chronic cyanosis or LV dysfunction.

*This does not preclude repair but it increases the risk!*

- ✓ Progressive aortic root dilation is recognized and may lead to AR
- ✓ Venous collateral usually exist and can make sternal entry “bloody”

## Patients with chronic cyanosis have increased risk to perioperative myocardial injury

- The cyanotic patient is more sensitive to the damaging effects of free oxygen radicals
- The acquired collateral circulation may involve coronary arterial tree and result in washout of cardioplegia
- Increased pulmonary venous return leads to ventricular distension
- Presence of ventricular hypertrophy adds to the difficulty of providing adequate myocardial protection



## *To overcome this!*

- Adequate venting of the heart
- More frequent administration of cardioplegia solution
- May have to use low flow hypothermic CPB

There is an ongoing risk of sudden death  
presumably arrhythmic

**0.5 - 6%**

The risk of sudden death increases after the  
first 20 years from repair

**1.2 - 2.2% at 10 - 20 years**

**4 - 6% at 25 - 30 years**



# Risk Factors for Sudden Death After Repair of Tetralogy of Fallot

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**Background.** Sudden cardiac death remains the most common cause of death after repair of tetralogy of Fallot.

It has been suggested that sudden cardiac death is due to right ventricular hypertrophy or dilation. It is uncertain whether the preoperative patient characteristics or operative techniques predispose for sudden death.

**Methods.** From 1958 to 1977, 658 patients underwent repair of tetralogy of Fallot at our institution at a mean age of  $12.2 \pm 8.6$  years. One third had had a previous palliative operation  $4.6 \pm 2.5$  years before. A total of 490 patients survived the first postoperative year and were analyzed for sudden cardiac death during a follow-up period of  $25.3 \pm 5.8$  years (range, 1-40 years), 42 patients died, and 15 (36%) of them were as a result of sudden cardiac death.

**Results.** Actuarial 10-year, 20-year, and 30-year survival rates were 97%, 94%, and 89%. Freedom from sudden cardiac death was 99%, 98%, and 95% after 10

years. The risk of sudden cardiac death increased after 10 years from 0.06%/y to 0.20%/y. Univariate predictors ( $p <$

**Conclusions.** The most important risk factors for sudden cardiac death were higher preoperative New York Heart Association class and no previous palliation. Thus, early surgical intervention is recommended. The risk of sudden cardiac death increases with time, suggesting that long-term follow-up by specialized cardiologists or pediatricians should be intensified. However, all patients who died suddenly had at least two risk factors at the time of surgery.

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## OUTCOMES

- Survival of operated patients is excellent  
Over 30 year survival is around 85%

However, older age at repair is consistently associated with decreased survival.



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