The new St-Jude stented bioprosthesis provides excellent hemodynamic performances both at rest and during exercise.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.acvd.2013.03.016

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Tissue Doppler echocardiography for the assessment of systolic and diastolic right ventricular function in mild mitral stenosis

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Methods. — The aim of this study is to assess RV function in asymptomatic patients with mild mitral stenosis.

Objective. — Right ventricular (RV) function usually affects the outcome in valvular heart disease. Evaluation of RV function in patients with mild mitral stenosis is an essential component of clinical management.

Results. — We observed no difference in conventional indices of the two groups. RV ejection fraction, the conventional Tei index and the tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion were similar in both groups. The tricuspid annulus systolic velocities obtained at the basal RV free wall were significantly reduced in patients group compared to control group (11.3 ± 1.3 cm/s vs. 14.9 ± 1.6 cm/s, P < 0.01). Moreover, tricuspid annulus early diastolic velocities were significantly reduced in mild MS subjects (7.5 ± 1.4 cm/s vs. 10.9 ± 1.3 cm/s, P < 0.01) with lower ratio of early to late diastolic velocities (0.7 ± 0.15 vs. 1.24 ± 0.18, P < 0.01).

Conclusion. — Our data suggest the presence of subclinical systolic and diastolic RV dysfunction in pure mild mitral stenosis patients. Tricuspid annulus tissue Doppler indices were able to assess RV dysfunction and to precociously recognize patients with worse prognosis.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.acvd.2013.03.017