

A decade's summary of transcatheter tricuspid valve repair

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Abstract

Tricuspid regurgitation (TR) is the most common pathology of the tricuspid valve. Moderate to severe TR is associated with morbidity and adverse outcomes. The concept that TR resolves on its own if the underlying disease is successfully treated has proven to

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be false. Only a few patients with significant TR are deemed suitable for surgery. Given the late presentation of patients with high perioperative risks and substantial perioperative mortality, the development of transcatheter therapies and the experience gained with transcatheter aortic valve implantation operations have turned attention towards treating this challenging group of patients. In this article, we review the treatment options and highlight the role of transcatheter valve therapies in patients with severe TR.

Introduction

Tricuspid regurgitation (TR) is the most common form of tricuspid valve (TV) disease. Mild TR is usually benign, but moderate to severe TR is associated with significant morbidity and adverse outcomes. The etiology of TR is subdivided into primary, secondary, and isolated TV pathology. The primary TR can be inherited or acquired and accounts for 10% of TR in adults [1]. Secondary TR accounts for approximately 90% of TR and is due to a heterogeneous group of etiologies that result in right atrial (RA) or right ventricular (RV) dilatation. This leads to annular dilatation and tethering of TV leaflets [2]. Isolated TR can occur in atrial fibrillation in the absence of left or right-sided heart disease (Figure 1) [3].

The most common presentation of TR is secondary to cardiac valvular pathology, commonly mitral valve (MV) disease. In an earlier era, despite Braunwald *et al.* recommending against concomitant MV and TV surgery [4], the importance of late TR has become clear. The associated pulmonary hypertension (PH) leads to RV dilatation, and consequently TV annular dilatation, resulting in significant functional TR.

Echocardiographic studies have suggested that the incidence of at least moderate TR in patients with rheumatic MV disease exceeds 60%. Clinically severe TR is present in 25-33% of patients undergoing surgery for rheumatic MV disease [5,6]. Moderate to severe TR is reported in more than 70% of patients 3 years following surgical repair of ischemic mitral regurgitation (MR) [7]. However, the prevalence of late severe TR of less than 20% in those with concomitant tricuspid annuloplasty at the time of MV surgery [8]. Late severe TR is less common after surgery for degenerative MV disease, with a prevalence of less than 20% at 4 years [9].

There is significant morbidity and mortality, as well as financial implications, in symptomatic patients with severe TR. Nath *et al.* found that TR severity is associated with worse survival in men regardless of left ventricular ejection fraction or pulmonary artery (PA) pressure [10]. Severe TR is associated with a poor prognosis, independent of age, biventricular systolic function, RV size, and dilation of the inferior vena cava (IVC). In a recent large retrospective study, Chorian *et al.* concluded that even moderate TR is independently associated with increased mortality [11]. One-year mor-

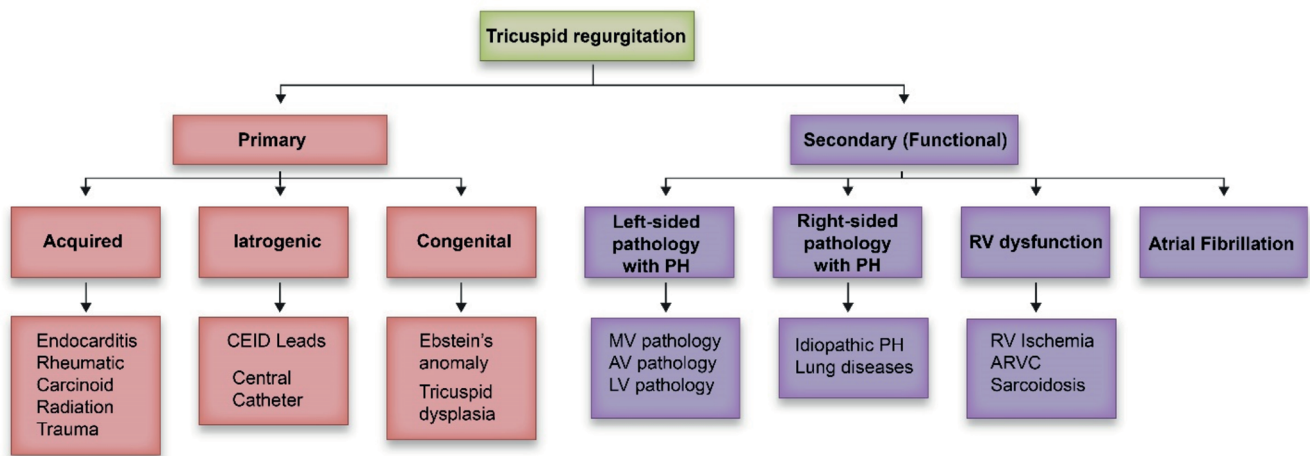


Figure 1. Schematic classification of tricuspid regurgitation (TR) according to etiology. TR is divided into primary (organic) and secondary (functional) forms. Primary TR results from acquired, iatrogenic, or congenital causes such as endocarditis, rheumatic disease, cardiac radiation, trauma, cardiovascular implantable electronic device leads, central catheters, Ebstein's anomaly, or tricuspid dysplasia. Secondary TR occurs in the setting of left- or right-sided cardiac pathology or atrial fibrillation, including pulmonary hypertension, mitral or aortic valve disease, right ventricular dysfunction, ischemia, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, and sarcoidosis. ARVC, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy; CEID, cardiovascular implantable electronic device; LV, left ventricle; PH, pulmonary hypertension; RA, right atrium; RV, right ventricle; TR, tricuspid regurgitation; TV, tricuspid valve. Modified from: Prihadi (2018) with permission of the author.

tality rates were 7.7%, 16.8%, 29.5%, and 45.6% for patients with no, mild, moderate, and severe TR, respectively. Additionally, the rate of heart failure hospitalization (HFH) is also positively correlated with TR severity [11,12].

Isolated severe TR is often undertreated surgically, given the late presentation of patients at high perioperative risks and substantial perioperative mortality. The development of transcatheter therapies and the experience gained with transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) operations turned our attention to the TV, aiming to help this challenging group of patients. In this article, we review the treatment options and highlight the role of transcatheter valve therapies in patients with severe TR.

Methods

A search was done in Medline from 2000 to January 2023 using the PubMed interface (((“Tricuspid Valve Prolapse”[Mesh]) OR “Tricuspid Valve Insufficiency”[Mesh])) AND “Heart Valve Prosthesis Implantation”[Mesh]. A total of 1352 papers were found using the reported search. From these, 45 papers provided the best evidence to review the topic. Papers were analyzed and summarized in the review below.

Anatomy

The TV is the largest of the four cardiac valves and can be subdivided into four components: the leaflets, papillary muscles, chordal attachments, and the annulus. It consists of three leaflets (anterior, septal, and posterior) of unequal size and shape. The anterior leaflet is the largest, and the septal leaflet is the smallest. The anterior leaflet is predominantly attached to the RV outflow tract, the posterior leaflet to the muscular wall of the RV, and the septal leaflet to the septum. During diastole, the anterior and posterior cusps meet to join the smaller septal leaflet. Thus, functionally, the TV acts more like a bicuspid valve.

The TV is one part of a functional system that includes the RA, RV, and pulmonary circulation. The sequential contraction and relaxation of these components, in conjunction with the flow pattern, also serve a major role in valve function. The subvalvular apparatus functions to restrict the limit of upward displacement of the leaflets during systole as well as facilitate the opening of leaflets during diastole. The fibrous structure, called the annulus, provides the support structure for the TV (Figure 2). It separates the RA from the RV. The annulus is less fibrous than other annuli, and its shape changes throughout the cardiac cycle. The septal portion of the

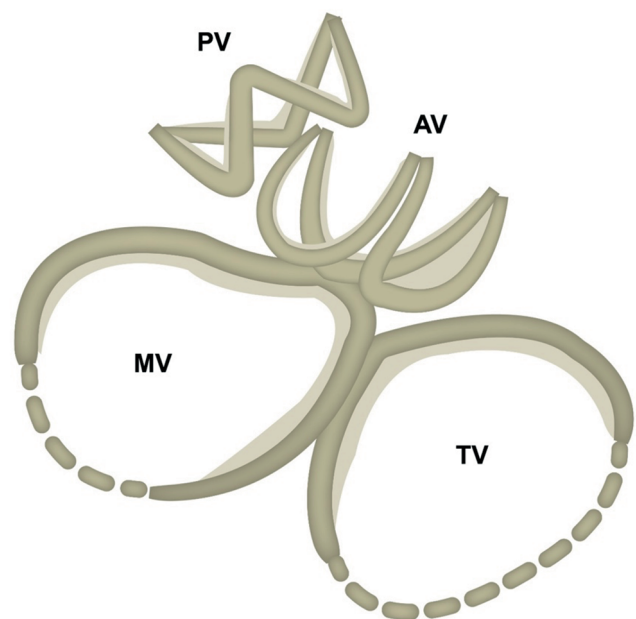


Figure 2. The fibrous skeleton of the heart. PV, pulmonic valve; AV, aortic valve; MV, mitral valve; TV, tricuspid valve.

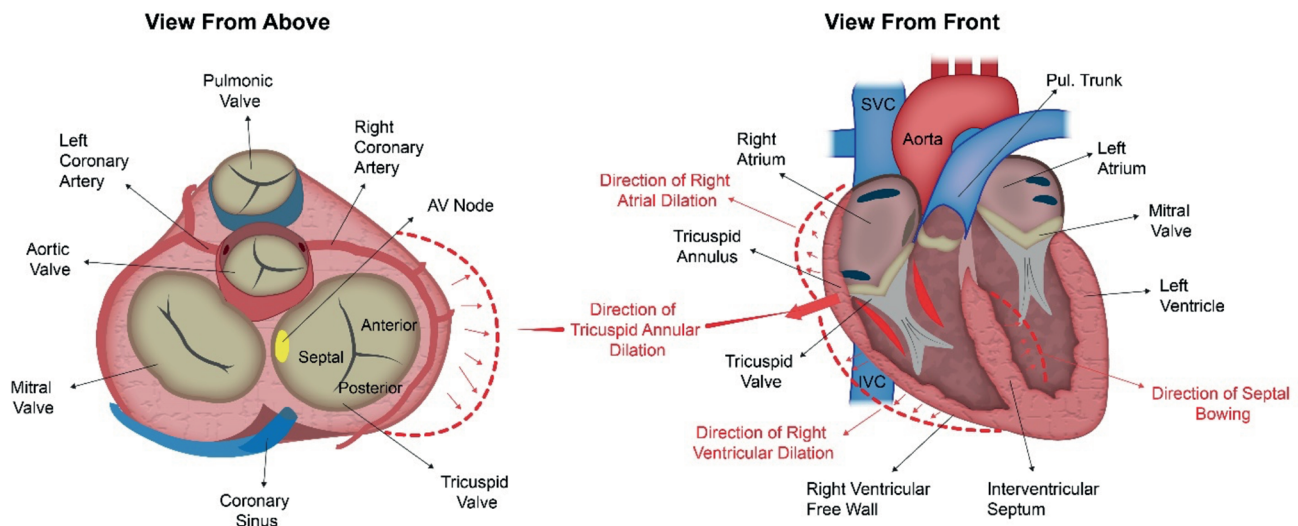


Figure 3. Tricuspid valve anatomy. SVC, superior vena cava; IVC, inferior vena cava.

annulus is fixed, and thus dilatation of the annulus occurs primarily at the free wall (Figure 3). There are three groups of papillary muscles that are inserted into the ventricular wall. The chordae tendinae arise from the papillary muscles to fuse with the leaflets.

Treatment options

All symptomatic individuals diagnosed with severe TR should undergo optimal medical therapy, which typically involves diuretic therapy and addressing any underlying heart failure (HF) and PH [13]. The addition of tricuspid repair in the presence of annular dilatation, during left-sided surgery, does not increase operative risk and has (potential) benefits of reverse remodeling of the RV and improvement of functional status [14-16].

Reoperation on the TV in cases of persistent TR after MV surgery carries a high risk, mostly due to the late referral and the con-

sequent poor clinical condition of patients. To improve the prognosis of patients with severe TR, earlier intervention should be considered even in asymptomatic patients with features of progressive RV dilatation or decline in RV function. Percutaneous and surgical intervention is contraindicated in patients with severe RV or LV dysfunction and severe PH [17]. Transcatheter TV repair (TTVR) is an evolving field aimed at providing treatment options for patients ineligible for surgery.

Initial interventions

The first transcatheter caval valve implantation (CAVI) in humans occurred in 2010 [18] (Figure 4). In 2015, Latib demonstrated the feasibility of performing TTVR under conscious sedation without transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) monitoring using the TriCinch system from 4Tech Cardio Ltd. (Galway,

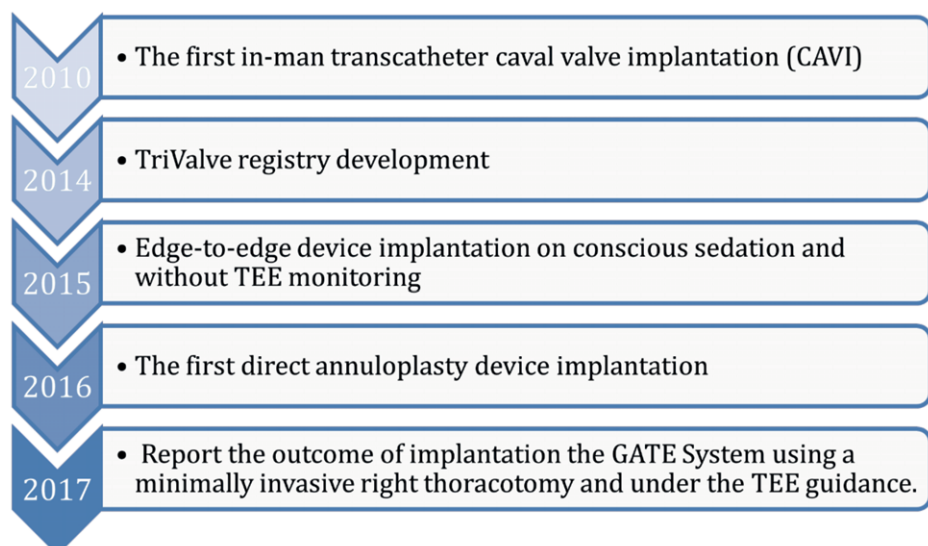


Figure 4. Timeline of interventions and data collection. TEE, transesophageal echocardiography.

Ireland) [19]. In 2016, Schueler *et al.* reported the first direct annuloplasty using the Cardioband device to address severe TR in a high-risk patient. The procedure, guided by fluoroscopy and 3D-TEE, resulted in an improvement in the patient's New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class [19]. Transthoracic echocardiography conducted before discharge revealed mild-to-moderate TR and a reduction in IVC diameters. Additionally, Hahn *et al.* conducted one of the initial single-center studies [20], reporting outcomes of GATE System implantation (NaviGate Cardiac Structures, Inc., Lake Forest, California) *via* minimally invasive right thoracotomy under TEE guidance. Despite the small sample size (5 patients) and short-term follow-up, TV replacement led to RV remodeling, increased cardiac output, and improvement in NYHA functional class for most patients.

TriValve registry

The TriValve registry, an international collaboration across multiple centers, was established to explore the utilization of therapies for TV issues and to define treatment criteria. Between January 2014 and December 2016, 106 patients with severe symptomatic TR underwent TTVR in 11 centers spanning Europe, the United States, and Canada. These patients, included in the TriValve registry, were predominantly high-risk individuals with functional etiology and notably severe central regurgitation, yet without severely impaired RV function.

A considerable portion of the patients in the registry presented with atrial fibrillation and had markedly enlarged tricuspid annuli (anteroseptal diameter 45.4 ± 11 mm) [21]. Moreover, severe leaflet tethering (coaptation depth 11.9 ± 5 mm) was observed among the registry participants. Initial findings indicated that only 62% of patients achieved the desired outcome of successful device implantation with residual TR grade $\leq 2+$. Nevertheless, patients consistently reported enhanced quality-of-life measures despite achieving only modest reductions in TR. Over time, procedural success rates improved, reaching 80.0% of patients, likely attributable to the learning curve associated with these interventions.

Mid-term data from the TriValve registry affirms that transcatheter interventions for TV are linked to low mortality rates and significant clinical enhancements. Notably, mid-term survival rates were excellent in this cohort of high-risk patients. It was found that greater coaptation depth (>1 cm), indicative of valve tethering, independently correlated with reduced success rates, serving as a robust predictor of mortality during follow-up, even in cases of isolated tricuspid procedures. This underscores the importance of timely intervention to address patients before advanced RV remodeling occurs [22].

Device selection

Many devices have been developed recently to facilitate TTVR (Table 1). These devices can be divided into three main groups: coaptation enhancement devices, annuloplasty devices, and valve

implantation devices (caval and TV). The selection of the appropriate device depends on the severity and the underlying mechanism of TR, the severity of PH, and RV dysfunction.

Coaptation enhancement devices

Coaptation enhancement devices are typically advised for treating TR in cases where moderate leaflet tethering and a commissural jet are present, preferably when the coaptation depth measures less than 1 cm. However, a greater coaptation depth (>1 cm) is independently linked to a lower success rate and serves as a strong predictor of mortality during follow-up, even in procedures focusing solely on TV. These devices fall into two main categories: edge-to-edge devices (such as MitraClip, Pascal) and leaflet coaptation devices (such as TriCinch, FORMA).

Among these, the MitraClip device is the most commonly used and well-known, originally designed for treating MR. Data from the TriValve registry indicate that the MitraClip was employed in 66% of cases. Its popularity stems mainly from prior experience with mitral applications. It functions as a double-armed mechanical clip, grasping and bringing together the leaflets to achieve coaptation. The TriClip, developed as a sibling device of the MitraClip specifically for TTVR, operates similarly, although it requires simultaneous capture of both leaflets, which can be challenging and time-consuming.

A study by Besler *et al.* shared results of edge-to-edge repair using the TriClip device in 117 patients, with procedural success defined as TR reduction ≥ 1 achieved in 81% of cases [23]. The observation that a non-central or non-anteroseptal TR jet is associated with procedural challenges is insightful. It highlights the technical difficulties and less favorable anatomical conditions encountered during clip placements in these positions, particularly posteroseptal and anteroposterior. The correlation between these challenging positions and poorer outcomes underscores the need for careful consideration and perhaps alternative approaches when dealing with non-central/non-anteroseptal TR jets. Clinical outcomes did not significantly differ between patients undergoing combined mitral and TV edge-to-edge repair and those undergoing isolated tricuspid repair. Effective TR reduction emerged as the primary predictor for survival and freedom from HFH.

The efficacy of the TriClip device at 6 months was evaluated in the TRILUMINATE trial [24], involving 85 patients. The trial demonstrated significant improvements in clinical parameters, although some adverse events were noted, including single-leaflet device attachment (SLDA) and tricuspid stenosis. Similarly, Mehr *et al.* reported 1-year outcomes after MitraClip device implantation [25]. Data from the TriValve registry of 249 patients were analyzed. Successful procedure with TR reduction to grade ≤ 2 was achieved in 77% by the placement of 2 ± 1 tricuspid clips. At 1-year follow-up, significant and durable improvements in TR severity (TR ≤ 2 in 72% of patients) and NYHA functional class ($\leq \text{II}$ in 69% of patients) were observed. Unfortunately, echocardiographic follow-up was available for 79% of patients only.

Recently, the PASCAL repair system has been used for leaflet

Table 1. Transcatheter tricuspid valve repair devices.

Annuloplasty devices	TriCinch	Trialign	Cardioband	Millepede	MIA-T	PASTA	Davingi
Coaptation enhancement devices	Mitraclip	Triclip	Forma	Pascal			
Tricuspid valves	NaviGate	Trisol	Lux	Evoque			
Caval valves	TriCalve	TriCentro	Caval S3				

repair in patients with severe MR [26,27]. The PASCAL implant consists of a central spacer with 2 adjacent and contoured wide paddles. The clasps can be operated either simultaneously or independently for leaflet grasping. The PASCAL system can also be elongated to achieve a narrow profile that allows the option for subvalvular maneuvering with low risk for entanglement. Fam *et al.* demonstrated the usage of the PASCAL repair system for the treatment of severe TR on a small group (28 patients) [28], even in patients with large coaptation gaps (maximum 12mm). Procedural success was 86% with 1.4 ± 0.6 devices implanted per patient. Two patients experienced SLDA during the hospital stay. The 30-day mortality was 7.1% (2 of 28 patients). Most of the patients (23 of 26 patients) were in NYHA functional class $\geq$ III, which was reduced from 100% (28 of 28 patients) at baseline to 12% (3 of 26 patients) at 30 days.

A most recent multicenter study evaluated the safety and efficacy of the PASCAL and PASCAL Ace transcatheter leaflet repair systems for treating symptomatic TR in a high-risk patient cohort [29]. Data from 235 patients across eight centers showed that TR was functionally severe in 91% of cases. The procedure successfully reduced TR to moderate or less in 78% of patients, with procedural success being 78%. At a median follow-up of 173 days, TR reduction was sustained, and RV remodeling was observed. Patients experienced significant symptomatic improvement, with 63% in NYHA class I or II. No significant difference was found between the PASCAL and PASCAL Ace systems in terms of TR reduction. The study concluded that the PASCAL systems offer a high rate of technical and procedural success, efficient TR reduction, and significant clinical and echocardiographic improvements at follow-up, making them promising options for high-risk patients with severe TR.

The leaflet coaptation devices, such as FORMA, aim to increase the leaflet coaptation surface by occupying the regurgitant orifice area. Despite satisfactory midterm results with FORMA [30,31], some concerns regarding the anchoring system have been raised [32].

Annuloplasty devices

Annuloplasty devices are typically employed in patients exhibiting annular dilatation (>40 mm) with little or no leaflet tethering and a predominant central jet in TR. Recent data from the TriValve registry indicate that only 14% of patients undergoing TTVR between 2014 and 2018 received treatment with these devices [22]. This limited use may be attributed to the technical complexities and the intricate anatomy of the TV. These devices fall into two categories: ring annuloplasty [such as Cardioband™ (Edwards Lifesciences Corp., Irvine, CA, USA); Millipede IRIS™ (Boston Scientific Corp., Marlborough, MA, USA)] and suture annuloplasty [such as Trialign™ (Mitralign Inc., Tewksbury, MA, USA); TriCinch™ (4Tech Cardio Ltd., Galway, Ireland); MIA™ (Micro Interventional Devices Inc., Newtown, PA, USA); and PASTA technique].

The Cardioband system, the first commercially available system, comprises a corkscrew anchor connected to a Dacron band and a self-expandable stent. It is implanted under fluoroscopic and echocardiographic guidance, with the anchor positioned at the tricuspid annulus supporting the anterior leaflet. Tension applied to the system reshapes the tricuspid annulus, enhancing leaflet coaptation and reducing TR severity [33].

The Trialign device, a transjugular suture-based TV annuloplasty system, reduces tricuspid annular diameter through tissue plication, resembling the suture bicuspidization technique originally described by Kay *et al.* [34]. As a result, the tricuspid annular cir-

cumference is reduced, and the TV is converted into a smaller but competent mitral-like valve [35].

The TriCinch device consists of a corkscrew anchor, a self-expandable stent, and a Dacron band. It is inserted through the femoral vein, with the anchor placed inside the anteroposterior portion of the annulus. Subsequently, the self-expandable stent is implanted into the IVC, cinching the annulus to reduce septolateral diameter through the Dacron band [36].

The limited use of these devices may stem from anatomical challenges, such as their targeting of the anterolateral part of the tricuspid annulus, close to the right coronary artery, posing a risk of injury. Additionally, angulation between the TV, IVC, and superior vena cava (SVC), along with a prominent Eustachian valve, can complicate the transfemoral approach. Although access from the internal jugular vein or SVC offers a more favorable approach angle, performing transjugular procedures can be ergonomically challenging with greater radiation exposure. The frailty of the targeted tissue may also contribute to device detachments and tissue dehiscence [37].

Studies suggest that recurrence of TR following valve repair can be anticipated by leaflet tethering, potentially limiting the efficacy of tricuspid annular devices. Therefore, the implantation of two repair devices (annuloplasty and edge-to-edge devices) may be necessary to achieve efficient TR reduction [38].

Valve implantation devices

Valve implantation devices are primarily indicated for severe TR accompanied by severe leaflet tethering and significant RV dilatation. These devices can be categorized into caval valve and TV implantation devices based on their implantation position. The first transcatheter CAVI in humans occurred in 2010 [18]. However, despite being one of the initial transcatheter therapies, the first multicenter observational study on CAVI was published 8 years later, involving only 25 patients [39]. This delay in research progress was due to the limited availability of certain devices over the 6-year treatment period. The Edwards Sapien XT™ and Sapien 3™ transcatheter heart valves (Edwards Lifesciences Corporation, Irvine, CA, USA) have been utilized for treating severe TR due to their commercial availability. Data from the TriValve registry indicates that CAVI was performed in only 3% of patients. Implanting these valves necessitates pre-stenting with self-expandable stents in the SVC and IVC to create a suitable landing zone. This approach primarily targets the resolution of backflow into the caval veins and the alleviation of associated HF symptoms. These devices are typically reserved for the most severely ill subset of patients. An advantage of these devices is their suitability for patients with preexisting permanent pacemakers, which may be contraindications for other TR-specific devices [39]. Recently, the LuX-Valve Plus™ (Jenscare Biotechnology Co., Ltd., Ningbo, China) has introduced a unique approach to transjugular delivery [40]. Unlike traditional methods, it achieves stability through septal insertion and leaflet engagement, rather than relying on radial force. In a single-center observational study [41], spanning from September 2020 to May 2021, 15 patients with severe or extremely severe TR, who were considered high-risk candidates for traditional surgery, underwent TTVR using the LuX-Valve. The primary objective was to assess safety and efficacy at the 1-year follow-up. The LuX-Valve was successfully implanted in all patients, resulting in a significant reduction in TR severity. One patient died unrelated to the procedure, while the remaining 14 reached the primary endpoint. NYHA functional class and symptoms improved, and there was a decrease in periph-

eral edema and ascites. One patient was rehospitalized due to device thrombosis. Follow-up echocardiographic measurements showed sustained improvement in TR severity, RV remodeling, and functional capacity. Overall, TTVR with the LuX-Valve demonstrated feasibility, safety, and promising clinical outcomes, although further research is warranted for long-term assessment and comparison with traditional surgery.

The TRISCEND study evaluated the safety and efficacy of transfemoral of EVOQUE™ valve (Edwards Lifesciences Corp., Irvine, CA, USA) replacement in 176 patients with moderate or severe TR unresponsive to medical therapy [42]. The results showed significant and sustained reductions in TR, improved stroke volume, cardiac output, and quality of life over 1 year. Key findings included a reduction in TR to mild or less in 97.6% of patients, increased NYHA class I or II status in 93.3%, and a notable decrease in HFH by 74.9%. Despite a high comorbidity rate in the elderly cohort, the procedure was associated with low mortality (9.1%) and HFH (10.2%) at 1 year. These promising outcomes underscore the potential of TTVR as a viable treatment for severe TR, offering marked clinical and functional benefits.

Transcatheter TV-in-ring implantation has also been reported using either Melody or Sapien family valves [43]. Although the implantation procedure was deemed technically straightforward, three-quarters of the patients experienced paravalvular leaks, with one-third necessitating treatment with occlusion devices.

Combined tricuspid and mitral valve repair

Given the prevalence of moderate to severe TR in patients undergoing surgery for left-sided valvular issues, Mehr *et al.* investigated whether simultaneous intervention would impact outcomes [25]. They conducted a retrospective analysis of data from 228 patients drawn from two registries: the international multicenter TriValve registry and the German multicenter TRAMI registry. These patients presented with concomitant severe MR and TR. Among them, 106 patients from the TRAMI registry underwent isolated transcatheter MV repair (TMVR), while 122 patients from the TriValve registry underwent concurrent transcatheter repair of the mitral and tricuspid valve (TMTVR). Patients treated with TMTVR exhibited higher 1-year survival rates compared to those who underwent isolated TMVR. Notably, there was no significant difference in NYHA functional class during follow-up between the two groups. However, this study is limited by the varying characteristics of the patient populations. Further randomized controlled trials are necessary to validate these findings.

Pacemaker-related tricuspid regurgitation

Cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIEDs), such as permanent pacemakers and implantable cardioverter-defibrillators, have significantly enhanced and prolonged the quality of life for millions of patients globally. The presence of an endocardial lead traversing the TV may contribute to or be the sole cause of TR. The existence of a CIED transvalvular lead has been correlated with the progression of TR and poorer outcomes. Insights from the TriValve registry [2] have indicated the feasibility of TTVR in carefully selected patients. It is noteworthy that nearly all of these patients have TR unrelated to CIED leads. Although patients with CIEDs exhibited more symptoms, larger left ventricular dimensions, lower left ventricular ejection fraction, and slightly worse RV dysfunction, the short- and mid-term outcomes were similar.

Therefore, the presence of a trans-tricuspid CIED lead was not linked to adverse outcomes [44].

Tricuspid valve repair for heart failure patients

Severe TR poses a significant threat to the prognosis of patients with HF, regardless of their left ventricular function. Topilsky *et al.* have demonstrated that even moderate TR correlates with a more severe presentation of HF. Their quantitative analysis indicates that a threshold of effective regurgitant orifice area $\geq 0.4 \text{ cm}^2$ is linked to diminished survival and increased cardiac events [45].

Orban *et al.* found that TTVR for severe TR leads to a notable reduction (22%, $p=0.02$) in the estimated annual rate of HFH post-procedure, accompanied by enhanced clinical outcomes [46]. Patients undergoing TMTVR exhibited an even greater reduction in estimated HFH per patient-year (66%, $p<0.001$). It is important to note a recent escalation in pre-interventional diuretic dosage, which may have influenced the outcomes. With a median follow-up of 360 days, procedural success was linked to improved 1-year survival compared to those experiencing procedural failure (79% vs. 60%; $p=0.04$). However, this study is limited by its observational, nonrandomized, and noncontrolled nature, as well as its inclusion of a small patient cohort (119 patients in TTVR and 114 patients in the TMTVR group). In another study, Kresoja *et al.* observed that successful TTVR in highly selective patients with severe TR was associated with improved outcomes in individuals with HF with preserved ejection fraction but not in those with HF with reduced ejection fraction [47].

Physiological effects after intervention

The analysis by Rommel *et al.*, utilizing cardiac magnetic resonance imaging before and after TTVR, indicates favorable biventricular physiology associated with this procedure [48]. Their findings suggest that effective stroke volumes and, consequently, cardiac output can be improved by addressing isolated TR percutaneously. TTVR resulted in a reduction in RV end-diastolic volume, while RV end-systolic volume remained unchanged. These observations may be attributed to decreased RV volume overload alongside unchanged RV afterload. These changes help elucidate the clinical and functional enhancements observed in patients undergoing TTVR [49]. Dershowitz *et al.* investigated the impact of residual TR on RV remodeling and clinical outcomes after TTVR in a single-center retrospective analysis of 61 patients [50]. They compared the outcomes of transcatheter tricuspid valve (TTV) repair and TTV replacement regarding RV function, hemodynamics, and clinical results. The study found that TTV replacement achieved a greater reduction in TR than TTV repair, with a median TR reduction of 4 grades for TTV replacement vs. 1 grade for TTV repair. Greater TR reduction was associated with RV reverse remodeling, indicated by decreased RV dimensions. Additionally, TTV replacement was specifically linked to declines in tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion (TAPSE) and PA systolic pressure (PASP). Larger RV dimensions were associated with higher risks of adverse clinical outcomes, such as death, HFH, or the need for re-do TV intervention. This study underscores the importance of TR reduction in achieving RV reverse remodeling and improving clinical outcomes, with TTV replacement showing superior efficacy in TR reduction compared to TTV repair. The study by Brener *et al.* [51], using data

from 444 patients, aimed to link RV-PA coupling with clinical outcomes. They found that a low TAPSE/PASP ratio, indicating poor RV-PA coupling, was associated with higher mortality. Despite the promise of this measure, the study faced limitations such as variability in echocardiogram measurements and potential oversimplification of RV-PA physiology.

Conclusions

The field of transcatheter therapies has seen significant advancement in recent years. While TAVI has rapidly evolved and become widely established across many medical centers, TTVR has not progressed as much and remains limited in certain centers, typically for carefully selected patients. This limitation is likely due to the intricate anatomy of the TV. Various approaches for the transcatheter treatment of severe TR are still being explored, yet there remains a dearth of data regarding the feasibility, safety, and effectiveness of these treatment modalities. Moreover, the delayed presentation of many patients with TR poses an additional challenge, often excluding them from such interventions. The prognostic benefit of TTVR remains unclear, and any symptomatic improvements observed post-intervention may be attributed to enhanced patient follow-up rather than the intervention itself. A recent meta-analysis evaluated clinical outcomes and safety of TTVR in patients with severe TR, encompassing 21 studies with 896 patients [52]. Most patients (81.4%) underwent transcatheter edge-to-edge repair, and procedural success rates were high at 93.9%, with low perioperative and short-term all-cause mortality rates at 1.0% and 3.3%, respectively. However, long-term all-cause mortality and HFH rates were higher at 14.1% and 21.5%. Major complications included significant bleeding (14.3%) and SLDA (6.4%). Compared to previous studies, this analysis highlighted lower mortality rates but underscored the high complication rates associated with annuloplasty devices. Despite the limitations of small sample sizes and lack of control groups, TTVR shows promise with high procedural success, although long-term outcomes need further evaluation through randomized clinical trials. Rigorous clinical trials are imperative to ascertain the superiority of TTVR over medical therapy.

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