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Surgery for Ascending Aortic Aneurysm: Experience From A Low Volume Center

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Objective: Ascending Aortic Aneurysm is a potentially life threatening condition that is amenable to surgical correction. This condition was once considered the surgical domain of high volume referral centers specializing in this complex surgery. In recent years with evolving techniques it is being more commonly performed at low volume centers. We report our department's experience for this condition.

Methods: Between 1993-2009 60 patients underwent surgery for an Ascending Aortic Aneurysm.

Results: Fifty-six were operated on an elective basis and 4(7%) were operated on urgently. Mean Age was 59+/- 13 yrs. and 45(75%) were male. The Euroscore was 8+/-3(predicted Mortality13%). Seven pts. Underwent replacement of the Ascending Aorta Alone; 19 had a Bentall Procedure and 24 pts. Underwent Aortic Valve Replacement and replacement of the Ascending Aorta separately. CPB was 184+/-75 min.; XCT- 11+/-51 min. Operative mortality was 6(10%). One pt.experienced a CVA. Predictors of mortality by Univariate analysis were NYHA Class 3-4. We did not identify predictors by multivariate analysis.

Conclusions: Surgery for Ascending Aortic Aneurysms can be carried out safely at low volume centers. Surgical experience as well as proper myocardial and cerebral protection yield the best outcomes.