

Pediatric Open Heart Surgery through Right Anterior Mini Thoracotomy, Long Term Cosmetic Results

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Minimally invasive techniques of surgical closure for simple congenital heart defects have been used with very low mortality and morbidity. We evaluated long term cosmetic results of this approach, particularly on the breast development in pubertal girls.

From January 2002 to November 2010, 105 patients with simple congenital anomalies, mean weight 15.3 ± 8.1 kg, the age ranged from 12 months to 25 years underwent surgical repair using the mini anterior thoracotomy as a cosmetic approach. 7 patient operated by lower mini sternotomy approach. We used Port access technique for the mini thoracotomy patients most of them on fibrillating heart. The mean follow-up time was 6 years. The cosmetic results was evaluated by physical examination and photographs of the chest, the parameters that was evaluated was symmetry of breast and deformation of the chest wall. A questionnaire "satisfaction with aesthetics analysis results" was provided between the groups. The perioperative results was evaluated as well.

All patients are alive and discharge from the hospital in good physical condition. There was no need to convert to median sternotomy, Total hospitalization was 5 ± 1 days. All of the patients had high satisfaction of cosmetic results. After pre-pubescent period there was no major asymmetry in the breast development.

The right anterior mini thoracotomy is a successful minimally invasive technique for correction of simple congenital cardiac defects and have good perioperative results and satisfactory long-term aesthetic and cosmetic outcome.