

Valve Thrombosis Following TAVI: Case Series of a "New" TAVI Complication

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Background:

Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) is a novel emerging technology for the treatment of severe and symptomatic aortic stenosis in patients that are considered to be of high surgical risk. Valve thrombosis is a rare complication of bioprosthetic valve implantation. The present study examined its occurrence following TAVI in a single center registry.

Methods & Results:

Our database of 140 TAVI patients and over 300 patient years was retrospectively searched for cases of valve thrombosis. Three cases (2%) of suspected valve thrombosis were collected. Two cases were found on routine echocardiographic study at 6 and 12 months post TAVI. Patients were asymptomatic and were successfully treated with anticoagulants. The third case occurred at three days post-TAVI and was only partly responsive to anticoagulants.

Conclusions:

While TAVI use is rapidly expanding worldwide we are quite devoid of data on its late outcome and sequelae. Prosthetic valve thrombosis post TAVI is a rare and "new" complication that warrants attentive evaluation and more information of its pathogenesis, prevention and therapy.