

## **Surgical Pathology of Primary Cardiac Valve Tumors**

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### **Background:**

Our goal was to assess the prevalence, characteristics, and outcome of valvar cardiac tumor in two cardiothoracic surgery centers.

### **Methods:**

We reviewed our clinical experience with the surgical treatment of eleven primary valve tumors over the past 12 years. There were 3 male and 8 female patients aged 49 to 76 years (mean 64.7 years). In one patient the diagnosis of valvar cardiac tumor was made incidentally on TEE during aortocoronary bypass surgery. In the remainder, the clinical presentation consisted of angina or myocardial infarction (5), congestive heart failure (3), dyspnea (2) and right ventricular obstruction, fever, arthralgias, cerebrovascular ischemia (1 patient each). Eight of the eleven tumors were benign, and three were malignant.

### **Results:**

All patients survived the operation and recovered uneventfully except from the patient mimicking vegetation in suspected post-rheumatic endocarditis. Midterm outcomes were known for all patients. 2 patients with malignant tumors were considered to be unsuitable for adjuvant therapy by the oncologist, and both died during follow-up from local tumor recurrence. All 8 survivors were categorized at last follow-up as functional class I, with normal exercise tolerance.

### **Conclusions:**

Excellent early and mid term surgical results can be obtained in patients with benign valve tumors. The prognosis for patients with a malignant valve tumor is poor.