Surgical–Clinical Correlation

Case 7/2007

A child with transposition of the great arteries submitted to surgical correction at preschool age

Portadora de transposição das grandes artérias operada em idade pré-escolar

Ulisses Alexandre CROTI¹, Domingo Marcolino BRAILE¹, Ana Carolina Leiroz Ferreira Botelho MAISANO KOZAK¹, André Luís de Andrade BODINI¹

Clinical Data
On the 4th day of life, an Afro-Brazilian female child born in Paulínia, São Paulo, presented cyanosis of extremities. The patient was given prostaglandin. She was referred to our Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery Service after congenital heart disease was diagnosed. At this moment, the radiography resembled to both an oval-shaped cardiac area and an electrocardiogram with left ventricle overload. The echocardiogram suggested a transposition of the great arteries [TGA], perimembranous interventricular communication (IVC), ostium secundum interatrial communication (IAC), severe preductal aortic coarctation, and patent ductus arteriosus with a greater diameter. As the team was in both structural and learning phases, it was chosen to perform a staged surgical repair (correction) with terminoterminal (end-to-end) aortoplasty, ligation, and resection of ductus arteriosus. Additionally, a balloon catheter atrioseptostomy (Rashkind) was performed during the hemodynamic study carried out two days prior to the surgery. Both parents were given instructions to keep the outpatient clinic follow-up. However, they were absent until the aggravation of the cyanosis when they have brought the child back to our service. The child was 4 years old, weighting 14.6 kg, in REG, hydrated, eupneic, and with cyanosis ++++/4+. The lungs were free; heart rhythm was regular with two clicks, with a hypophonetic second heart sound; effective systolic murmur ++/4+ in medium-below left sternal border. There is no abdominal tenderness on palpation; the liver lays at 4 cm from the right costal margin. Peripheral saturation of 58% with normal pulses.

Electrocardiogram
Electrocardiogram evidenced: sinus rhythm of 107 beats/minute; ΔQRS + 90ºC; PR interval, 0.12 sec; QTc, 0.48 sec; QRS, 0.08 sec. Right ventricle overload with a pure R in V1.

Radiogram
Upon the radiogram revealed visceral situs solitus. The cardiothoracic index was 0.62. The second aortic arch was hollowed with tapering of the mediastinum structures. It

1. São José do Rio Preto Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery Service – Hospital de Base – Medical School of São José do Rio Preto, São Paulo, Brazil

Correspondence address:
Ulisses Alexandre Croti
Hospital de Base – FAMERP – Avenida Brigadeiro Faria Lima, 5544. CEP 15090-000 – São José do Rio Preto – SP
Fone (Fax): 17 - 3201 5025 / 3222 6450 / 9772 6560
E-mail: uacroti@uol.com.br

Article received in August, 1st 2007
Article accepted in September, 4th, 2007
was also noted a pulmonary vascular prominence with a discrete peripheral oligohemia (Figure 1).

ECHOCARDIOGRAM
Situs solitus was present at levocardia. It was observed TGA; 19-mm wide IAC, and 2.5-mm muscular/trabecular IVC. The aortic valve and the pulmonary annulus were 16.4 and 22.7, respectively; pulmonary arteries were confluent and hypoplastics with 9 mm to the right and 7.4 mm to the left. The echocardiogram revealed type III left ventricle geometry and bulging septum toward the left ventricle. The aortic arch had a normal echocardiographic aspect without an isthmic gradient. It was also revealed an absence of the ductus arteriosus.

DIAGNOSIS
In spite of the early diagnosis performed at the neonatal period, it is important to highlight that there was no local structure condition neither the viable possibility of referring to another reference Pediatric Service to have definitive medical care. This is a very usual situation in Brazil. Therefore, the patient could have been submitted to the Jatene operation with correction of the coarctation of aorta. Without a previous hemodynamic study, the patient needed a two-stage treatment, at first with an aortoplasty and section of the ductus arteriosus followed by the Senning operation, which should have been performed earliest to avoid the cyanosis complications, such as thromboembolism and stroke, among others [1]. Nevertheless, the family socioeconomic conditions have rendered difficult to this approach.

OPERATION
Approach by longitudinal median sternotomy with establishment of cardiopulmonary bypass by introducing cannulas into the following: aorta, superior and inferior vena cava. The sites of incision at the right atrium were marked. The right atrium was opened with a longitudinal incision toward the inferior vena cava. Without a previous hemodynamic study, the patient needed a two-stage treatment, at first with an aortoplasty and section of the ductus arteriosus followed by the Senning operation, which should have been performed earliest to avoid the cyanosis complications, such as thromboembolism and stroke, among others [1]. Nevertheless, the family socioeconomic conditions have rendered difficult to this approach.

REFERENCE