

Special Issue

New Clinical Advances in Aortic Valve Surgery

Message from the Guest Editors

In recent years, aortic valve surgery has undergone numerous and rapid changes. Although aortic valve replacement via median sternotomy remains the standard approach at many centers, new less invasive approaches via partial sternotomies or minithoracotomy are significantly increasing worldwide. These minimally invasive approaches guarantee less surgical trauma which generally translates into quicker recovery, shorter hospitalization times and lower costs. At the same time, the available portfolio of aortic prostheses has also evolved. New models of mechanical valves can now be used with lower INR levels, thus reducing the risks associated with anticoagulant drugs. Sutureless and rapid-deployment prostheses can be implanted with reduced aortic clamping and extracorporeal circulation times, while new chemical treatments are improving the durability of pericardial valves. At the same time, new surgical techniques to enlarge the aortic annulus allowing for the implantation of large-sized prosthesis have been developed. The Special Issue focuses on all aspects of operative and perioperative treatment modalities for minimally invasive aortic valve surgery.

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