

Case Report: Integrated Percutaneous Atrial Septal Defect Occlusion and Pulmonary Balloon Valvuloplasty

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) is one of the most common congenital heart diseases during childhood. Today, ASD closure is done by occlutech device via cardiac catheterization. ASD repair with transcatheter technique has shown high closure rate. However, coexistence of severe pulmonary stenosis and large defect in atrial septum is rare. When these two problems coexist, the result is inhibition of remarkable left-to-right shunt by obstruction of the RV output flow, which will preserve the pulmonary bed up to adulthood.

Methods: A 5-year-old girl with a history of exertional dyspnea and palpitation was referred for the treatment of severe valvar pulmonary stenosis and large ASD. Echocardiography showed a large secundum ASD (16 mm) with appropriate rims and also severe pulmonary valvular stenosis. The patient was candidate for closure of ASD by transcatheter procedure and balloon pulmonary valvuloplasty.

Cardiac catheterization showed that the right ventricular pressure was 78 mm Hg and pressure gradient across the pulmonary valve was 62 mm Hg, also the ratio of pulmonary blood flow to systemic blood flow was 2.7/1. Anteroposterior and lateral views in the angiography of right ventricle showed severe valvular pulmonary stenosis and poststenotic dilation. Diameter of the ASD size by balloon was 16 mm. Pulmonary valve annulus diameter was 15-16 mm.

Results: The patient was picked up for closure of ASD by transcatheter procedure and balloon pulmonary valvuloplasty. There was no remaining shunt and complication on transthoracic echocardiography performed immediately and in later follow-ups.

Conclusion: Coexistence of severe pulmonary stenosis with a large defect in atrial septum is an uncommon event. Combined transcatheter closure of ASD and pulmonary balloon valvuloplasty is a practicable and effective therapeutic intervention for this problem which will bring satisfying outcomes.

Key Words:

Integrated percutaneous ASD, Occlusion, pulmonary, Balloon valvuloplasty

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1. Introduction

Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) is one of the most common congenital heart diseases during childhood. They contribute to 7%-10% of all cardiac anomalies. Today, ASD closure is done by occlutech device via cardiac catheterization. ASD repair with transcatheter technique has shown high closure rate. The benefit of the percutaneous approach has been well demonstrated in the pediatric population. Coexistence of severe Pulmonary Stenosis (PS) and a large defect in atrial septum is rare. When these two problems coexist, the result is inhibition of remarkable left-to-right shunt by obstruction of the Right Ventricle (RV) output flow, which will preserve the pulmonary bed up to adulthood. In this paper, we explain an effective and feasible combined percutaneous approach for treating these two problems.

Transcatheter pulmonary valvuloplasty is the treatment of choice in isolated pulmonary valve stenosis; transcatheter closure of secundum atrial septal defect with occlutech device is an efficient and safe method, with great success rate in the long-term [1, 2]. There are few case reports of treating valvular PS and secundum ASD together by transcatheter strategy.

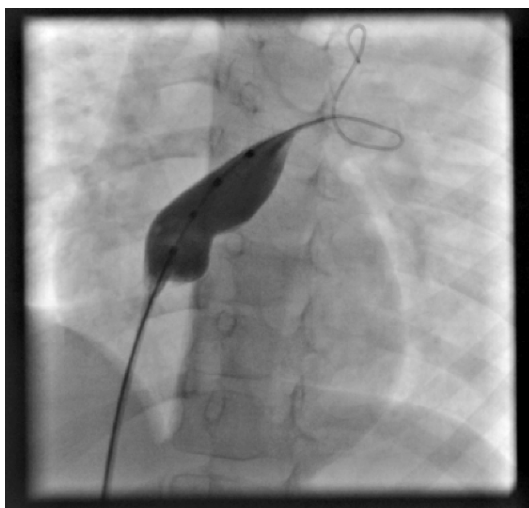
2. Case Presentation

A 5-year-old girl was referred by pediatric cardiologist for the treatment of her severe valvular PS and large ASD. She had a history of exertional dyspnea and palpitation.

Electrocardiogram showed right axis deviation, hypertrophy of right ventricle and right atrium as well as right bundle-branch block. Chest x-ray revealed moderate cardiomegaly, bulged main pulmonary artery, and increased marking of pulmonary vasculature. The echocardiography showed a large secundum ASD with a size of 16 mm with appropriate rims and severe pulmonary valvular stenosis with a peak systolic pressure gradient of 62 mm Hg and also poststenotic dilation in the main pulmonary artery. The patient was picked up for closure of ASD by transcatheter procedure and balloon pulmonary valvuloplasty [1, 2].

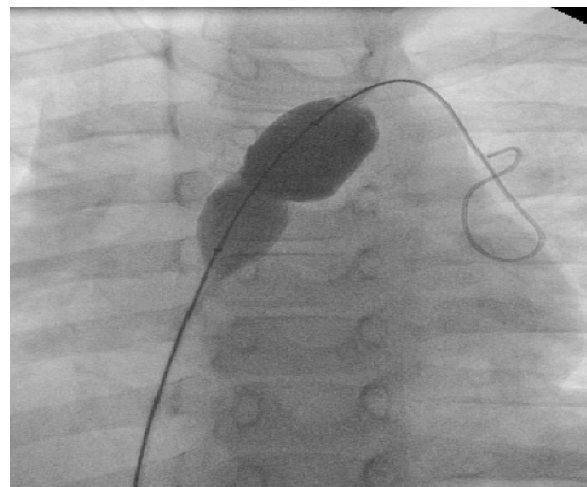
In cardiac catheterization, the right ventricular pressure was 78 mm Hg and pressure gradient across the pulmonary valve was 62 mm Hg, also the ratio of pulmonary blood flow to systemic blood flow (QP/QS) was 2.7/1 (left to right shunt). Anteroposterior and lateral views in the angiography of right ventricle showed severe valvular PS and poststenotic dilation. Left Anterior Oblique (LAO) view in left ventricular angiogram showed normal ventriculography. Right upper Pulmonary Vein (PV) injection in hepatoclavicular projection revealed a large size ASD with good margins. Diameter of the ASD size by balloon was 16 mm (Figure 1 shows the assessment of the stretched diameter of the atrial septal defect with a sizing balloon catheter).

Pulmonary valve annulus diameter was 15-16 mm. All procedure was implemented under light general anesthesia and transthoracic fluoroscopy guide. Pulmonary valvuloplasty was performed with an 18/30 Tyshak balloon. The valvuloplasty was performed by 6 inflation with 2



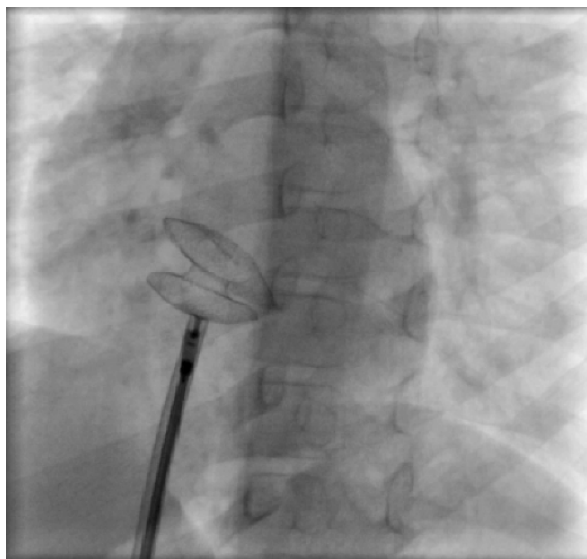
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Figure 1. Assessment of the stretched diameter of ASD via a sizing balloon catheter



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Figure 2. Pulmonary valvuloplasty by Tyshak balloon 18-40



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Figure 3. Angiographic images of occlutech septal occluder deployment

atmosphere pressure (Figure 2). PG pressure reduced to 18 mm Hg without any complication. The sizing of balloon showed a 16 mm ASD diameter that was closed by using an 18 mm occlutech septal occluder (Figure 3). There was no remaining shunt and complication on transthoracic echocardiography performed immediately and 2 hours after implantation of device. On follow up, there was no residual shunt or notable gradient pressure over the pulmonary valve after 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months.

3. Discussion

Improvements in interventional cardiology have offered new therapeutic options for patients suffering from congenital heart diseases. In this regard, pulmonary balloon valvuloplasty with isolated valvular PS has become a treatment of choice. In selected patients, closure of secundum atrial septal defect by transcatheter approach can substitute surgical repair. Effective and trusty interventions via catheter are currently available in many countries for closure of ASD, Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD), and Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA).

However, transcatheter treatment of valvular PS and large ASD at the same time is uncommon. Yib et al. presented the first case of simultaneous treatment of balloon pulmonary valvuloplasty and atrial septal defect in 1997 in a 7-year-old girl. In recent times, there was an increase in the number of reports on concurrent transcatheter therapy of valvular PS and secundum ASD [1-4]. Numerous factors including size of ASD, adequate ASD rim, and degree of pressure gradient across the pulmonary valve

affects the decision to merge pulmonary valve dilation and device closure of ASD.

In our patient, we first performed pulmonary valvuloplasty to minimize catheter manipulation after implantation of ASD device. Our patient's symptoms and signs got better after combined therapy of critical PS and ASD. The main benefits of percutaneous closure of ASD are short hospital stage, absence of thoracotomy, open heart surgery or admission to an intensive care unit, and also avoiding further surgical scar and postoperative pain.

However complete occlusion of the ASD and immediate relief of pulmonary obstruction was achieved at the end of the procedure and confirmed by transthoracic echocardiography the next day, 1, 6, and 12 months and yearly there after [5-9]. In conclusion, the combined transcatheter closure of ASD and pulmonary balloon valvuloplasty is feasible, effective, and achieves a delighting outcome.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflict of interests.

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