

# Improvement of Ejection Fraction After Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting Surgery in Patients with Impaired Left Ventricular Function

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** The present study evaluates our experience with aorto-coronary bypass grafting in patients with severe dysfunction of left ventricle (LV) and low ejection fraction-EF(<35%). Revascularization of myocardium in this settings remains contraversial because of concerns over morbidity, mortality and quality of life. **Material and Methodes:** Forty patients with severe coronary artery disease and dysfunction of LV (low ejection fraction <35%) underwent coronary artery bypass grafting in period of 3 years. Preoperative diagnostic of 40 patients was consisted of anamnesis, clinical exam, non-invasive methods EHO, MR and invasive diagnostic methods- cateterization. The major indication for surgery was severe anginal pain, heart failure symptoms and low ejection fraction. Internal mammary artery was used in all operated patients. **Results:** Average age of patients who have been operated was 59,8. In the present study, 81,3% were male and 18,8% female. We found one-vessel disease present in 2,5% (1/40) of patients, two -vessel disease in 40% (16/40), three-vessel disease in 42,5% (17/40) and four -vessel disease in 15% (6/40) of patients. One bypass grafting we implanted in 2,5% patients, two bypasses in 42,5%, three bypasses in 45 5%, and four bypasses in 10% of patients. Left ventricular ejection fraction assessed preoperatively was 18%-27% and postoperatively was improved to 31, 08% in period of 30 days. **Conclusion:** In patients with left ventricular dysfunction, coronary artery bypass grafting can be performed safely with improvement in quality of life and in left ventricular ejection fraction.

**Key words:** disfunction of LV; low ejection fraction, coronary artery bypass-grafting.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Traditionally impaired ventricular function has been a risk factor for mortality associated with coronary artery bypass grafting (1). Left ventricular function is important predictor of hospital mortality following coronary artery bypass grafting. Despite improvement in surgical technique, myocardial protection and postoperative care, surgical risk remains high (2, 3, 4). Many studies show that patients have better quality of life and ejection fraction after coronary surgery than with continuous medical therapy (5, 6, 7, 8). Patients with coronary artery disease and poor left ventricular function have a poor outlook despite maximum medical therapy with a two year survival rate of only 20-30% (9). Numerous controlled trials of coronary artery bypass grafting in patients with depressed left ventricular ejection fraction, have shown that these are the patients that benefit most from revascularization, especially if symptoms of angina or ischemia are present (10). This benefit is not only for symptoms, but in this selected patient group also on longevity. It is important to

determine first if any condition exist that may preclude intervention or that could raise the risk of revascularization above any potential benefit (11). This study evaluates short-term results after aortocoronary bypass grafting in patients with ejection fraction lower than 35%.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the years 2010 - 2013, 40 patients whose preoperative ejection fraction EF was less than or equal to 35% (18%-27%) underwent aortocoronary bypass grafting. Preoperative and postoperative estimate of ejection fraction of all patients was performed. Research is performed based by medical evidence and observation of patients in intensive care of Heart Center of Clinical Center University of Sarajevo. Transthoracal or transesophageal echocardiography was applied in all of 40 patients. Diagnosis of w ischemic disease was set by ultrasound overview. Most of the patients (30) were refered in hospital with done catheterization, and 10 of them are admitted as urgent cases and catheterization was done in admission. Heart scinti-

Figurey was performed in 27 patients, which was essential to show myocardial viability. Operative technique of surgery revascularization included sternotomy, the use of a thoracica interna, venous grafts and extracorporeal circulation (ECC). Evaluation of patients was one month after aortocoronary bypass grafting. Statistical analysis of the results was performed using x2 test. For comparison of variables was used parametric test (Student's test). When the distribution of continuous variables was unsymmetrical, for showing average value and a measures of dispersion were used median and interquantile range, and for their comparison nonparametric tests (Mann - Whitney test). For the statistical analysis of obtained data was used statistical package IBM statistics SPSS v 19.0.

### 3. RESULTS

Results of our research are presented on tables and Figureics. Mean age of patients who have been operated was 59,8+7,7. In the present study, 81,3% of our 40 patients were male and 18,8% female. In our study we found one-vessel disease present in 2,5% (1/40) of patients, two-vessel disease in 40% (16/40), three-vessel disease in 42,5% (17/40) and four-vessel disease in 15% (6/40) of patients (Figure 1). Preoperative clinical data included in this group of patients were: examined patients mostly belonged to New York Heart Association-NYHA III 65% or (26/40), NYHAIII/IV were 17,5% or (7/40), and to NYHA IV belonged 10% or (4/40) (Table 1).

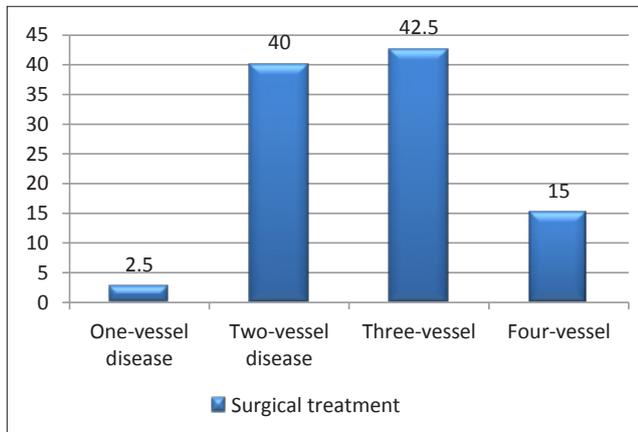


Figure 1. Number of vessel disease present in patients preoperatively

NYHA * Group		Surgical treatment	
NYHA	II	N	3
		%	7,5
	III	N	26
		%	65,0
	III/IV	N	7
		%	17,5
IV	N	4	
	%	10,0	
Total		N	40
		%	100,0

Table 1. NYHA classification

The number of implanted bypasses in operated patients was: one bypass in 2,5% (1/40), 2 bypasses in 42,5%

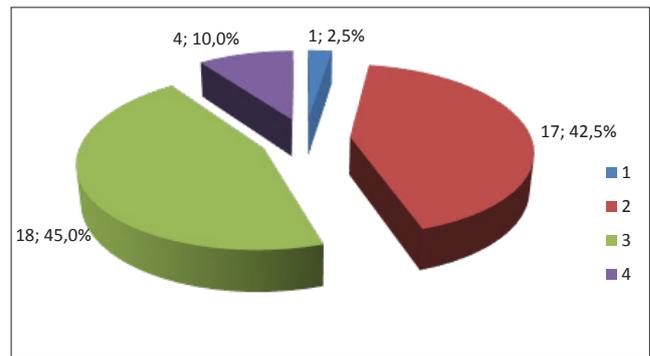


Figure 2. Coronary arteries bypass grafting in operated patients

(17/40) , 3 bypasses in 45% (18/40), and 4 bypasses in 10% (4/40) of patients (Figure 2).

Anginal pain was present in 22 patients preoperatively. Mostly of the patients had before myocardial infarction and the pain was mostly present at rest and during minimalphysicalactivity.After ao rtocoronary bypasses in a 55% patients (22/40) anginal pain dissappeared (Figure 3).

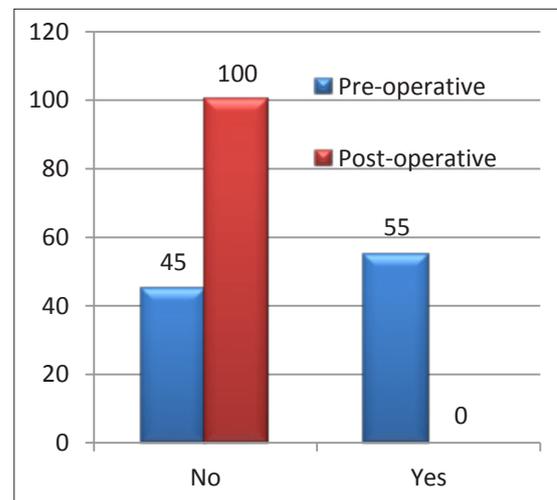


Figure 3. Preoperative and postoperative angina pectoris

Heart failure symptoms were present preoperatively in 42,5% (17/40). In this group of we had patients with COBP (chronical pulmonary disease). After aortocoronary bypass grafting heart failure symptoms were present

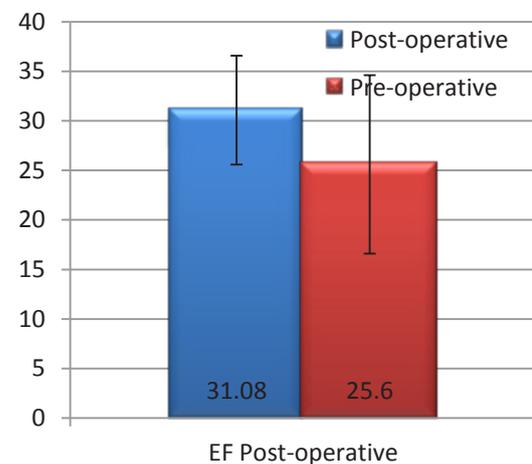


Figure 4. Ejection fraction pre and postoperatively.

in only 5% (2/40). Ejection fraction preoperatively was in range from 18%- 27%, and average value was 25%. After the aortocoronary bypass grafting ejection fraction increased from  $25,6\pm 5,2$  to  $31,08\pm 5,5$  postoperatively. This was evaluated 30 days after operation (Figure 4).

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Selection of patients with ischemic heart disease who will benefit from coronary revascularization often is problematic. Some authors correctly note that coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) carries increased risk in this patient group. Indeed, several authors have suggested that recruitable contractile reserve is an important determinant of improvement after CABG in ischemic heart disease patients who undergo surgery (primary for heart failure) (11, 12, 13). Patients without such reserve are less likely to benefit symptomatically from CABG whereas those with reserve are. Further, studies have shown that ischemic heart disease patient with a low left ventricle EF who undergo surgery primarily for angina are more likely to obtain symptomatic benefit than are those who undergo surgery primarily for heart failure (14, 15, 16, 17). Mickleborough LL et al. (2000) reported no difference in long-time survival between patients who underwent surgery primarily for angina and patients who underwent surgery for heart failure (18). Although one can define a subset of ischemic cardiomyopathy patients who are likely to have an increase in left ventricle EF with CABG, this information often has not proven useful in predicting improvement in functional class. Moreover, improvement in mortality after revascularization of viable myocardium may have little to do with change in either ejection fraction or functional class. Instead, improvement may be result of other factors, such as electric stabilization or reduction of ischemic events (19, 20). Indeed, existing data from observational studies indicate no difference in survival after CABG between patients with left ventricle EF improvement and patients without, again suggesting that changes in contractile function may not be the most helpful surrogate endpoint (21). The most important findings of this study can be summarized as follows. First, the magnitude of improvement in left ventricle EF is directly related to the extent of dysfunctional but viable issue. Second, the presence and extent of viability is predictive of the improvement in heart failure symptoms after revascularization.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The present study shows a significant improvement in both angina and heart failure status, not only objectively but also large enough to be of clinical relevance. Patients with angina as the main symptom were significantly more likely to improve their left ventricular ejection fraction after surgery. These findings are consistent with the concept that the preoperative angina predicts a good result, but its absence is not necessarily associated with a poor result. Ischemic dysfunction may be reversible or not, the degree of reversibility probably determining which patients will respond favourably to CABG. Potentially reversible dysfunction should be assessed when considering CABG for patients with poor left ventricular function (ischemic or hibernating myocardium).

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST: NONE DECLARED.**

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