Correspondence

Ventilation manoeuvres facilitate MitraClip placement

To the Editor It was with great interest that we read the article by Borgia et al1 on their experience with an adenosine-induced asystole to facilitate the grasping of the mitral valve leaflets during a MitraClip procedure. We would like to comment on our experience with an adenosine-induced asystole and describe an alternative method using ventilation manoeuvres to ease the grasping of the mitral valve leaflets. Borgia et al described their method in a situation where the first clip had already been placed and grasping of the leaflets for the second clip appeared to be difficult. We have also attempted to facilitate leaflet grasping using an adenosine-induced asystole when the positioning of the first clip proved difficult. Unfortunately, this method did not lead to the desired outcome because, in our experience, the position of the valve leaflets during the induced asystole cannot be predicted and may not be appropriate for grasping. This appears to be different in the case described by Borgia et al, where the first clip may have limited leaflet movement during the induced asystole. Currently, we anaesthetists facilitate the grasping of the leaflets by implementing various ventilation manoeuvres. Because all patients undergoing a MitraClip procedure are intubated and ventilated, the position of the heart is highly dependent on the actual ventilation phase. A lateral shift of the heart can be observed in the transoesophageal echocardiography during inspiration and a corresponding medial shift during expiration. By decreasing the tidal volume and increasing the ventilation frequency, these movements can be considerably reduced. If grasping proves more difficult, manual ventilation is applied to achieve the desired heart position. Pressure is carefully applied to the manual ventilation bag to achieve a superior position in which the leaflets can be grasped. We believe that extremely close cooperation between interventional cardiologists and cardiac anaesthesia-
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