ORTHOTOPIC CARDIAC TRANSPLANTATION AFTER FONTAN PROCEDURE

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The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the outcome of orthotopic cardiac transplantation (OCT) after a failing Fontan circulation. 12 patients after Fontan procedure were submitted to OCT. Mean period from Fontan procedure to transplant was 10 years (range 2-17). Four patients received a total of 6 reoperation after Fontan repair. The indications for transplant were: protein losing enteropathy (PLE) in 6 cases and heart failure with or without intractable arrhythmia’s in 6 patients. There was 2 hospital deaths after OCT respectively due to multiorgan failure (preoperative NYHA class IV) and sudden cardiac arrest due to epileptic crises. Two late deaths occurred respectively 2 and 7 years after OCT, because of acute and chronic rejection. All survivors are in NYHA class I and one patient delivered a healthy baby. Regression of PLE was observed and documented in all cases, but in the last patient 4 month after OCT the serum protein level has remained unchanged. In conclusion: Orthotopic cardiac transplantation is only option for patients with failed Fontan circulation; multiorgan failure is a risk factor for OCT; regression of PLE does occur after transplantation; acute and chronic rejection remain a problem in this group of patients.