

## Outcomes of Mitral Valve Repair: Quadrangular Resection versus Chordal Replacement

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**Background:** Mitral valve repair for posterior mitral leaflet (PML) prolapse has been considered to be a standard treatment because of its high success rate and high level of patient satisfaction. The aim of this study was to evaluate the clinical results of two different techniques of PML prolapse, quadrangular resection (QR) and chordal replacement (CR). **Materials and Methods:** The subjects consisted of 56 patients who had undergone mitral valve repair for PML prolapse between November 1997 and December 2010. The patients were divided into two groups according to surgical technique. Among them, 31 patients underwent QR (group QR) and 25 patients had CR (group CR). We reviewed the medical records of the patients retrospectively to compare the clinical outcomes of both groups. **Results:** After mitral valve repair, the degree of mitral regurgitation (MR) in both groups decreased to the to a mild degree or less and the amount of remnant MR was slightly higher in the CR group but it was not statistically different. Three patients received mitral valve-related reoperation (2 in the QR group and 1 in the CR group). Freedom from mitral valve-related reoperation at 7 years was 93% for the QR group and 96% for the CR group and was not significantly different between the two groups. **Conclusion:** Both QR and CR showed excellent long-term results and were considered equally effective methods for PML prolapse.

Key words: 1. Mitral valve  
2. Mitral valve prolapse  
3. Chordae tendineae

### INTRODUCTION

Mitral valve repair is the treatment of choice for patients with severe mitral regurgitation (MR) of posterior mitral leaflet (PML) prolapse. Although a variety of techniques are available, quadrangular resection (QR) or chordal replacement (CR) is the most frequently performed technique for the repair of PML prolapse. QR has been the standard technique with documented excellent long term results [1]. However, several problems, such as left ventricular outflow

tract obstruction, kicking in the circumflex artery and leaflet restriction have been reported in this technique [2,3]. To overcome these problems and restore a larger coaptation surface for the mitral valve, a method for CR preserving PML tissue with extended polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) has been developed to facilitate mitral valve repair and numerous studies have reported excellent long term results [4-6]. However, little is known of the results of CR in comparison to leaflet resection. The aim of the present study is to evaluate the clinical results of mitral valve repair, comparing CR

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and QR.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 1) Patients

From November 1997 to December 2010, 56 patients with PML prolapse who underwent mitral valve repair were included in the present study. Based on the surgical technique, the patients were classified into one of two groups: group QR (n=31) or group CR (n=25). Details on preoperative pa-

**Table 1.** Preoperative patient characteristics and echocardiographic findings

Characteristic	Group QR	Group CR	p-value
Number	31	25	
Age (yr)	56.2±14.7	56.3±13.1	0.973
Sex (male:female)	17 (55):14 (45)	15 (60):10 (40)	0.698
Follow-up period (mo)	71.7±46.1	63.5±32.9	0.460
NYHA class	3.0±0.7	2.7±0.9	0.158
Ejection fraction (%)	61.6±8.4	65.4±5.8	0.070
MR grade	2.9±0.3	2.8±0.3	0.716
LA dimension (mm)	54.3±9.7	49.2±10.0	0.080
LVEDD (mm)	60.3±7.9	56.5±8.6	0.109

Values are presented as mean±standard deviation or number (%). Ordinal values are expressed as follows: none, 0; mild, 1; moderate, 2; severe, 3.

QR, quadrangular resection; CR, chordal replacement; NYHA, New York Heart Association; MR, mitral regurgitation; LA, left atrium; LVEDD, left ventricular end diastolic dimension.

tient characteristics and echocardiographic findings are summarized in Table 1. The longest follow-up interval was 161 months in group QR and 124 in group CR, and the median follow-up period was 58 months in group QR and 69 in group CR.

### 2) Surgical procedures

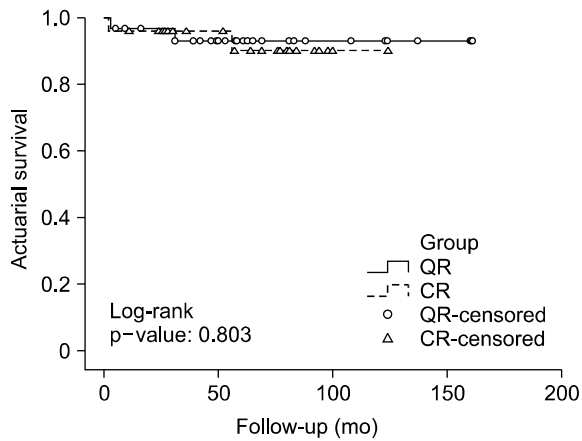
The operative approach was a standard median sternotomy and cardiopulmonary bypass was initiated with an ascending aortic and two vena caval cannulations in all patients. Cold blood cardioplegia was used for heart arrest and protection. The mitral valve was exposed through an interatrial groove and tested with a valve hook and saline test. Prosthetic ring annuloplasty (Carpentier-Edwards ring, Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA, USA; Duran annuloplasty ring, Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, USA) was performed with 10 to 14 interrupted 2-0 Ticron sutures. The size of the ring was chosen according to the intertrigonal or intercommissural distance. In group QR, a prolapsed segment of the PML was resected and the leaflet continuity was restored with several simple interrupted sutures and ring annuloplasty was performed. In group CR, a 4-0 or 5-0 double armed ePTFE suture was passed through the tip of a papillary muscle. The two arms of the suture were passed through the free margin of the prolapsed segment of PML at 2 to 3 mm distance. The suture was tied, adjusting the appropriate chorda length, and ring annuloplasty was performed.

**Table 2.** Surgical data

Variable	Group QR	Group CR	p-value
Operation time (min)	264±54	270±54	0.501
CPB time (min)	101.9±29.7	89.8±31.5	0.153
ACC time (min)	71.3±20.9	65.1±30.9	0.382
Cause of PML prolapse (chordal rupture:elongation)	29 (94):2 (6)	23 (92):3 (12)	
Lesion site (P1:P2:P3)	5 (16):9 (29):17 (55)	7 (28):5 (20):13 (52)	0.501
Concomitant procedure			
Tricuspid annuloplasty	8 (25.8)	5 (20)	0.609
Maze procedure	7 (22.6)	3 (12)	0.485
CABG	3 (9.7%)	1 (4%)	0.602
Prosthetic ring (rigid Carpentier:flexible Duran:none)	6 (19):18 (58):7 (22.6)	6 (24):16 (64):3 (12)	0.581
No. of artificial CR		1.64±0.49	

Values are presented as mean±standard deviation or number (%).

QR, quadrangular resection; CR, chordal replacement; CPB, cardiopulmonary bypass; ACC, aortic cross clamp; PML, posterior mitral leaflet; CABG, coronary artery bypass grafting.



At risk	0	50	100	150
QR group	31	21	8	3
CR group	25	17	3	-

**Fig. 1.** Kaplan-Meier estimate of actuarial survival for 51 patients who underwent quadrangular resection (QR) or chordal replacement (CR).

### 3) Statistical analysis

All analyses were performed with IBM SPSS ver. 19.0 (IBM Co., Armonk, NY, USA). Continuous variables are expressed as the mean±standard deviation and categorical variables as percentages. Categorical data were compared by the  $\chi^2$  test and continuous data by the Student’s unpaired t-test and paired t-test. The Kaplan-Meier test was used to estimate the actuarial freedom from reoperation and survival rate. The log-rank method was used to determine statistical differences between groups.

## RESULTS

The mean operation time was 265.3±54 minutes, the mean cardiopulmonary bypass time was 96.4±30.8 minutes, and the mean aortic cross clamp time was 68.5±25.8 minutes. The chordal rupture was the most common cause of PML prolapse and the P3 segment was the most frequently involved. The prosthetic ring was not inserted in 10 patients (Table 2). One patient in group CR died in the early postoperative period, and the cause of death was sepsis. Three patients (2 in group QR, 1 in group CR) died in the late postoperative peri-

**Table 3.** Postoperative echocardiographic data

Variable	Group QR	Group CR	p-value
Ejection fraction (%)	57.7±11.2	59.7±9.2	0.510
LA dimension (mm)	44.6±8.0	42.7±10.4	0.510
LVED dimension (mm)	48.7±9.5	50.8±4.1	0.322
Mean rMR	0.66±0.73	0.82±0.64	0.400
Significant rMR (more than moderate grade)	2 (6.5)	3 (12)	0.647
MOA (cm <sup>2</sup> )	2.35±0.59	2.15±0.65	0.369
PISA (cm)	0.10±0.18	0.23±0.28	0.136
Regurgitant volume (mL)	4.2±8.4	12.4±15.3	0.083

Values are presented as mean±standard deviation or number (%). Ordinal values are expressed as follows: none, 0; mild, 1; moderate, 2; severe, 3.

QR, quadrangular resection; CR, chordal replacement; LA, left atrium; LVED, left ventricular end diastolic; rMR, remnant mitral regurgitation; MOA, mitral orifice area; PISA, proximal isovelocity surface area.

od and the reasons for the late deaths were traumatic intracerebral hemorrhage, renal failure in group QR, and acute myocardial infarction in group CR. The actuarial survival rate at 1, 5, and 7 years was 97%, 93%, and 93% in group QR and 96%, 90%, and 90% in group CR with no significant difference in the two groups’ survival rates (log-rank p=0.803) (Fig. 1).

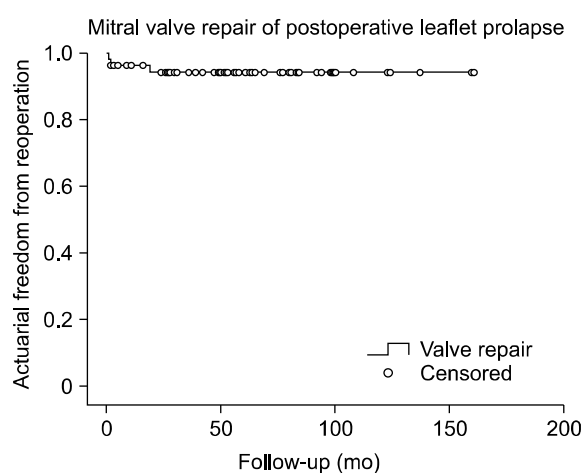
The echocardiographic data were obtained at least 6 months after surgery at last follow-up in all patients except one reoperative case in group CR (mean interval, 35.1±36.3 months). When the ordinal grade of MR was transformed into a numerical value (none, 0; mild, 1; moderate, 2; severe, 3), the mean grade of remnant mitral regurgitation (rMR) was decreased to less than mild in the patients overall (0.73±0.69). The mean grade of rMR was 0.66±0.73 in the QR group and 0.82±0.64 in the CR group, with no significant difference between the two groups. In this series, there was no benefit for the CR group compared with the QR group with respect to mitral orifice area (MOA). Overall, the mean MOA was 2.25±0.62 cm<sup>2</sup> and the two groups did not differ significantly (Table 3). When comparing data within each group, it was recognized that the echocardiographic outcomes were improved after the surgery (Table 4).

Among the five patients with significant rMR, two patients in group QR and one in group CR required mitral valve-re-

**Table 4.** Echocardiographic data before and after the surgery

Variable	Group QR			Group CR		
	Preoperative	Postoperative	p-value	Preoperative	Postoperative	p-value
MR grade	2.87±0.32	0.66±0.73	0.000	2.84±0.31	0.82±0.64	0.000
EF (%)	61.6±8.4	57.7±11.2	0.267	65.4±5.8	59.7±9.2	0.048
LA dimension (mm)	54.3±9.7	44.6±8.0	0.002	49.2±10.0	42.7±10.4	0.004
LVED dimension (mm)	60.3±7.9	48.7±9.5	0.000	56.5±8.6	50.8±4.1	0.001
NYHA class	2.98±0.66	1.52±0.74	0.000	2.73±0.94	1.69±0.76	0.000

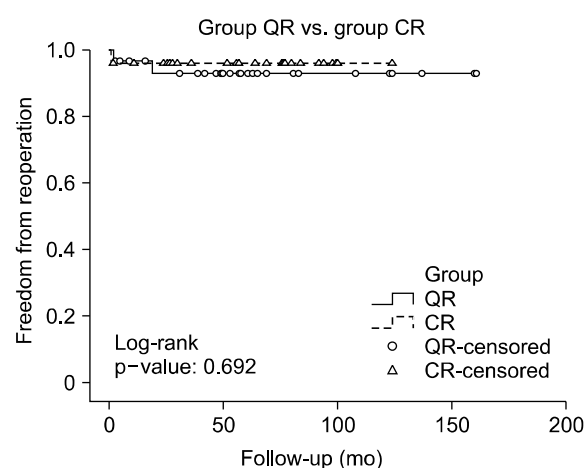
Values are presented as mean±standard deviation. Ordinal values are expressed as follows: none, 0; mild, 1; moderate, 2; severe, 3. MR, mitral regurgitation; EF, ejection fraction; LA, left atrium; LVED, left ventricular end diastolic; NYHA, New York Heart Association; QR, quadrangular resection; CR, chordal replacement.



	0	50	100	150
At risk	56	35	11	3

**Fig. 2.** Kaplan-Meier curve of actuarial freedom from reoperation.

lated reoperation and the reasons for reoperation were dehiscence between reapproximated valve remnants and chordal rupture in another PML segment in group QR, and the aggravation of rMR in group CR. Two patients who did not receive reoperation have been observed in the outpatient department because symptoms and pulmonary pressure were within tolerable range. Overall, freedom from mitral valve-related reoperation at 1, 5, and 7 years was 95%, 94%, and 94% (Fig. 2). By group, the freedom from mitral valve-related reoperation at 1, 5, and 7 years was 96%, 93%, and 93% in group QR and 96%, 96%, and 96% in group CR, and there was no statistical difference between the two groups (log-rank p=0.692) (Fig. 3).



At risk	0	50	100	150
QR group	31	19	8	3
CR group	25	16	3	-

**Fig. 3.** Kaplan-Meier curve of actuarial freedom from reoperation between group quadrangular resection (QR) and group chordal replacement (CR).

## DISCUSSION

Significant MR should be treated to preserve left ventricular function and improve long term survival [7,8]. With regard to correcting MR, mitral valve repair is preferred to replacement because it has no possibilities of anticoagulant or prosthesis-related complications and is favorable to cardiac function [9-11]. PML prolapse causes significant MR more frequently than anterior mitral leaflet prolapse or prolapse of both leaflets. Several techniques have been proposed to repair PML prolapse. QR and CR are the most popular techniques

and have shown excellent long-term results [12-16].

In this series, we compared the clinical outcomes of both techniques for repairing PML prolapse. Both outcomes were relatively favorable, and there were no significant differences between the groups regarding clinical data such as mortality rate, operation time, reexploration rate for bleeding, post-operative cerebral events, and symptomatic status.

It is known that the incidence of reoperation is equally low with CR and QR [17,18]. When comparing both methods for mitral valve-related reoperation, it was reported that CR is slightly better than QR in other series [19]. However, we found that they were not statistically different and showed high freedom from mitral valve-related reoperation. It is thought that if PML prolapse is successfully repaired, the long-term durability of mitral valve structure can be equally achieved by both techniques.

It is important how often MR recurs after mitral valve repair. In other series, only a small portion of patients (3.8%) who underwent CR showed moderate MR at follow-up [20]. In the present series, 2 of 31 patients (6.5%) who underwent QR showed moderate to severe MR and 3 of 26 patients (12%) who had CR showed moderate to severe MR. Our results showed a slightly higher recurrence rate of moderate to severe MR than other studies. Postoperative echocardiography revealed that group CR had a higher volume of remnant regurgitation than group QR even though it was not significantly different. Thus it should be noted that CR is usually successful for repairing PML prolapse but is technically more demanding and has a possibility of leaving more remnant MR than QR in spite of intraoperative echocardiographic examination. For this reason, we have initially performed CR for PML prolapse to preserve the leaflet tissue. However, in case it was not successful, it was abandoned and QR was employed.

CR is superior for preserving native leaflet tissue, leaflet motion, and mitral valve orifice area and avoiding the possibility of left outflow tract obstruction compared to QR [21]. However, QR can be easily performed and has more extensive evidence of excellent results in repairing PML prolapse than CR. Therefore, it is thought that both techniques have their own benefits relative to each other.

To achieve a larger MOA is one of the major goals of mi-

tral valve repair [22]. It was reported that CR would produce a longer coaptation line than QR, but it failed to demonstrate a greater MOA [20]. We found that CR did not show a larger MOA (2.35 cm<sup>2</sup> vs. 2.15 cm<sup>2</sup>, p=0.369) and it is presumed that the amount of resected leaflet tissue was not excessive by QR because most of the prolapsed segments were not P2.

This study is a retrospective analysis with all of its weak points and had a relatively small number of patients. Follow-up echocardiography for each patient was performed at different intervals and might have been more likely to be performed in symptomatic patients than asymptomatic patients.

## CONCLUSION

Clinical results of both QR and CR were excellent and equally effective for repair of PML prolapse, and the majority of patients experienced symptomatic improvement. Therefore, the choice between QR and CR should be individualized corresponding to the technical feasibility and valvular structure.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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