

Mitral Academy – Surgical Aspect of the Treatment of Mitral Valve Disease

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The Croatian Association for Cardiac Surgery, the Croatian Cardiac Society and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts were united in a joint collaboration in organizing a webinar titled “Mitral Academy – Surgical Aspect of the Treatment of Mitral Valve Disease”. This webinar was designed as an educational stage for cardiac surgeons and cardiologists on the topic of mitral disease. Mitral valve reconstruction has become the contemporary surgical dogma in the treatment of mitral regurgitation. It affords patients better survival and greater quality of life. These stem from better preservation of left ventricular function and anatomy, as well as avoidance of anticoagulation.

These facts notwithstanding, the adoption of surgical techniques of mitral valve repair has been subpar among many Croatian cardiac surgical institutions. It is for this reason that the Croatian Association for Cardiac Surgery took initiative in organizing a meeting specifically focusing on dissemination of knowledge and experience into all strata of the Croatian cardiac surgical community. The webinar was chaired by Hrvoje Gašparović, president of the Croatian Association for Cardiac Surgery. This event was a continuation of the “*Mitral Academy*” project. The first part of the series focused on diagnostic and imaging techniques relevant to the mitral valve complex and was chaired by Jadranka Šeparović Hanževački from the Workgroup for echocardiography and imaging of the Croatian Cardiac Society. The entire series of webinars was designed to offer comprehensive insight into the mitral pathology, encompassing both the preoperative and the surgical management. Academician Vida Demarin and Academician Davor Miličić provided introductions and greeted the assembled participants on behalf of the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Croatian Cardiac Society. The current edition of the *Mitral Academy* meeting began with a general overview of the benefits of mitral valve reconstruction over replacement. This was then followed by depiction of the technical aspects of managing both anterior and posterior leaflet prolapse. While surgery of the posterior mitral leaflet falls into the armamentarium of most general cardiac surgeons, management of anterior leaflet prolapse is more complex and usually remains limited to the domain of specialized mitral surgeons. Both sets of techniques were detailed, with a subsequent discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of individual methods. Long-standing mitral valve pathology often leads to secondary adverse remodeling of the tricuspid valve. This problem is of such magnitude that it warranted a focused lecture of its own. The indications and techniques of adjuvant tricuspid valve reconstruction were shown and analyzed. A vibrant discussion ensued after the first block of lectures. Questions were accumulated via a live chat and were then discussed in real-time by six moderators. These included Hrvoje Gašparović, Jadranka Šeparović Hanževački, Bojan Biočina,

Igor Rudež, Daniel Unić and Tomislav Kopjar (replaced by Mate Petričević for the second session). The second block of lectures was opened with a synopsis of management strategies for mitral valve endocarditis. The following two lectures summarized how to perform an unbiased evaluation of the mitral reconstruction and when to forfeit further attempts at reconstruction. Identifying intraoperative findings that are not compatible with a lasting mitral repair is as paramount for obtaining good long-term results as is the accumulation of surgical expertise. For the final lecture prof. Gašparović shifted gears and revealed some approaches that will be within our grasp in the immediate future. Video-assisted mitral reconstruction techniques were complemented with evolving transcatheter methods in order to provide the audience with a brief glimpse into new techniques on the horizon.

The conclusion of the webinar was preceded by another round of moderated discussion. The entire webinar was recorded and was made available for retrograde viewing. The organizers thanked all contributors and participants, which included listeners joining us from several regional countries. It was the shared hope of all of organizers that the *Mitral Academy* webinar series will continue to serve as an educational platform for cardiologists and cardiac surgeons in the future.





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Kirurški aspekti liječenja mitralne patologije
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HRVATSKO KARDIOLOŠKO DRUŠTVO

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SPONZORI

