

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2002 - 2003

ESC WORKING GROUP ON VALVULAR HEART DISEASE (#14)

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

During the year 2002/2003, the Nucleus of the Working Group has been composed as follows:

Chairperson:	Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf (Bad Krozingen, DE)
Co-Chairman:	Roger J.C. Hall (London, GB)
Chairman-elect:	Manuel J. Antunes (Coimbra, PT)
Past Chairman:	Eric G. Butchart (Cardiff, GB)
Secretary:	Bernard Iung (Paris, FR)
Treasurer:	Pilar Tornos (Barcelona, ES)
Members:	Alec Vahanian, Paris, FR Ole Lund, Belfast, GB Bernard Prendergast, Manchester, GB Raffael Rosenhek, Vienna, AT

MEMBERSHIP

During the previous sessions in Stockholm and in Berlin it was discussed to review the active participation of the WG members, to seek feedback from the membership and to invite new members who have made important contributions in the field of heart valve disease, in order to strengthen the WG.

This process has resulted in few new members but needs to be worked on further. For Vienna a thorough discussion as far as the process of application for new members is concerned is suggested.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP

The WG has been very active in participating and collaborating in meetings throughout the year as well as working on the development of new guidelines:

- 1) **On the management of patients after valve surgery** and in collaboration with the working group on Cardiac Rehabilitation on the development of
- 2) **Guidelines for sports cardiology.**

The work on both guidelines is in good progress, the final drafts are planned for Vienna.

Furthermore the working group was very active as far as publications is concerned. **The main paper on the results of the valvular heart disease section of the Euro Heart Survey is published in the July issue of the European Heart Journal with Bernard Iung as the first author.**

A second paper on endocarditis is being submitted for publication by Pilar Tornos as the first author. Further analyses and plans to publish other aspects are in preparation.

Annual Congresses

At the ESC **Annual Congress in Berlin** the WG participated in six symposia and in one main session on the results of the Euro Heart Survey on Valvular Heart Disease. In addition the WG participated in one Cluster symposium with the WGs in our Cluster (WG on Heart Failure and WG on Pulmonary Circulation and Right Ventricular Function) and in one symposium sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences. In addition the WG was heavily involved in the focus session on Clinical Cardiology, organized by Alec Vahanian.

In the **Vienna Congress** the working group will be participating in two main sessions, one is dedicated to endocarditis. The second main session is the joint session with the American College of Cardiology on challenging issues in valvular heart disease: Applying the guidelines. Furthermore the WG is engaged in a session on the dilated aorta, new concepts in aortic stenosis, a symposium on the final results from the Euro Heart Survey. Four abstracts on the results of the Euro Heart Survey have been submitted and accepted, 3 for oral presentations and one for poster presentation.

Joint Meetings with other Organisations and Societies

1. **EuroEcho in Munich.** December 2002, Eric Butchart was a member of the scientific committee. He and other members of the working group Nucleus were involved in organising two joined sessions on Valvular Heart Disease with the WG on echocardiography. Eric Butchart chaired a session on aortic valve diseases in which Ole Lund gave a presentation on Determinants of Left Ventricular Mass Regression after Aortic Valve Replacement and Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf presented a paper on Exercise in the Assessment of Asymptomatic Patients with Aortic Stenosis. Christa Gohlke chaired a session on Mitral Valve Disease where Manuel Antunes presented a paper on Rheumatic Mitral Regurgitation repair or replacement and Alec Vahanian gave a speech on Mitral Stenosis imaging in assessing the suitability for percutaneous valvulotomy.
2. **University of Lisbon on October 25th /26th 2002.** A joined meeting was held with the University of Lisbon, Portugal, entitled **Update of Valvular Heart Disease**. Members of the working group Nucleus were part of the organising committee of this meeting and gave several presentations and acted as chairmen on the programme.
3. **French Society of Cardiology.** In January 2003 the WG collaborated with the French Society of Cardiology at their meeting in Paris. Pilar Tornos, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Eric Butchart and Alec Vahanian chaired sessions and / or gave presentations as well as Bernard Prendergast and Bernard Lung.
4. **Polish Cardiac Society, Krakau Devison.** On May 8th – 10th 2003, the WG was collaborating with the Polish Cardiac Society, Krakau Devison to stage an International Congress on Valvular Heart Disease in Krakow. Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Eric Butchart, Pilar Tornos, Manuel Antunes, Francois Delahaye, Bernard Prendergast and Alec Vahanian were part of the organising committee, gave several presentations on different topics and chaired sessions.
5. **International Society of Cardiovascular Infectious Disease in July 2003 in Chamonix.** One of the two main organisers for this international meeting was François Delahaye, Lyon, a member of the WG on Valvular Heart Disease. Invited to give a statement was Pilar Tornos and to chair a session was Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf. Since Pilar Tornos was unforeseen not able to attend, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf was asked to give a statement as far as the views of the WG on Valvular Heart Disease on Endocarditis Prophylaxis is concerned. A representative of the AHA was also present during the meeting and indicated

together with the international society of cardiovascular infectious diseases a great interest in further collaboration with the WG.

Collaboration with National Societies

Only 12 % of the national societies have WGs devoted to Valvular Heart Disease:

Bosnia/Herzegovina, Czech Republic, France, Poland, Turkey, Yugoslavia.

All of these National Society WGs have been contacted, inviting them to submit proposals for joint programmes with our WG.

Following the meeting in May in Krakow, which was attended by 700 cardiologists from different Eastern countries, several cardiologists contacted Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf and indicated their interest to collaborate in future programmes of the WG.

A collaboration is planned with the Portuguese Society of Cardiology to participate in their annual Cardiology Congress in March 2004

Education and Training Programm

The meeting in **Florence** April 10 – 12th 2003 was an educational and training programme, the directors were Eric Butchart, Alec Vahanian and Alfredo Zuppiroli, the local organiser. Pilar Tornos, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Roger Hall, Manuel Antunes and Bernard Iung were also involved as chairpersons and presenters of several papers.(attendees 250).

Euro Heart Survey

Members of the WG formed the Scientific Committee of the Valvular Heart Disease section of the Euro Heart Survey, under the chairmanship of Alec Vahanian. The one year follow up results were obtained and the WG wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Alec Vahanian for chairing the Scientific Committee, organising the data collection and funding and to Bernard Iung who has performed the outstanding task of cleaning and validating the data base and performing the analyses on which the presentations in Berlin were based and on which bases the first major publication resulted. Also their contribution was vital to the success of this outstanding project and particularly for a timely publication of the major results. This just occurred in July in the European Heart Journal. Also the WG expresses its thanks to Pilar Tornos who together with her collaborators have submitted the data on endocarditis for publication to the European Heart Journal.

Recommendations and Guidelines

1. Management of Patients with Asymptomatic Valve Disease.

Recommendations have been published in the European Heart Journal in July 2002. The authors on behalf of the scientific committee are Bernard Iung, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Pilar Tornos, Christophe Tribouilly, Roger Hall, Eric Butchart and Alec Vahanian.

2. Guidelines on cardiovascular diseases during pregnancy in which two members of the working group participated (Bernard Iung and Pilar Tornos) were published in the EHJ 2003.

3. Guidelines on the Management of Patients following Heart Valve Surgery.

The work on these guidelines is on the way. The first meeting on the guidelines took place in Sophia Antipolis, May 30 – 31. Present were Eric Butchart, Pilar Tornos, Bernard Prentagast, Roger Hall, Rafaele De Caterina from the WG on Thrombosis, Hans Björnstad from the WG on Cardiac Rehabilitation and Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf. The first drafts of the following topics were thoroughly discussed and the plans for a final discussion should take place during the Vienna meeting:

- Rehabilitation
- Follow-up-methods
- Anti-thrombotic management
- Endocarditis prophylaxis
- Management of prosthetic endocarditis
- Management of valve thrombosis
- Investigation and management recurrent embolism
- Pregnancy
- Non-cardiac surgery and trauma
- Investigation and management of haemolysis

This guideline meeting was sponsored by the ESC from the account of the WG on Valvular Heart Disease. It was discussed to achieve that these recommendations by an expert group are elevated to the status of official ESC guidelines.

4. Study Group on Sports Cardiology : The working group Cardiac Rehabilitation and Exercise Physiology organized this study group, in which Christa Gohlke-Bärwolf represents the WG on Valvular Heart Disease . In collaboration with other WG`s guidelines for Sports Cardiology are being developed for patients with different forms of heart disease. These are in progress.

Future projects

Meetings

1. December 5th, 2005 the working group is involved in the **EuroEcho in Barcelona**, two sessions are being planned with the working group on Echocardiography on Prosthetic Heart Valves.

2. In 2004 January 21 to 24 an invitation of the French Society of Cardiology was extended to participate in their Annual Congress.

3. Collaboration and participation in the annual congress of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology in March 2004.

Guidelines

The above mentioned study groups continue their work on the development of **Guidelines on the management of patients after heart valve surgery and sports cardiology.**

Further projects will be discussed in Vienna and suggestions are welcomed.

Bad Krozingen, 21.7.03
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