Cardiac Surgery in Chronic Renal Failure

Edited by

Mark S. Slaughter, MD
Director Cardiac Surgery Research
Advocate Christ Medical Center
Division Cardiothoracic Surgery
Oak Lawn, IL
USA
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Contents

Contributors, vii
Acknowledgements, ix
Preface, x
Foreword, xi

1 Dialysis and the chronic renal failure patient, 1
Ejikeme O. Obasi, Rakhi Khanna, Vidya Naidu, Kelly E. Guglielmi, Demetrios Zikos

2 Percutaneous coronary revascularization in patients with end-stage renal disease, 19
Charles A. Herzog, Khalid Ashai

3 Cardiopulmonary bypass in patients with chronic renal failure: techniques and management, 51
Michael A. Sobieski II, Mark S. Slaughter

4 Coronary artery bypass grafting in dialysis-dependent renal failure patients, 63
Matthew Forrester, William Cohn

5 Surgical treatment of valvular heart disease in end-stage renal failure, 75
Mark S. Slaughter

6 Surgical evaluation and treatment of uremic pericarditis, 83
Rosemary F. Kelly, Sara J. Shumway

Index, 95
Contributors

Charles A. Herzog, MD
Director, Cardiovascular Special Studies Center
United States Renal Data System
Hennepin County Medical Center
Professor of Medicine
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
USA

Demetrios Zikos, MD
Division of Nephrology
Advocate Christ Medical Center
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
USA

Ejikeme O. Obasi, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Illinois at Chicago
Director of the Dialysis Program
Advocate Christ Medical Center
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
USA

Kelly E. Guglielmi, MD
Division of Nephrology
Advocate Christ Medical Center
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
USA

Khalid Ashai, MD
Chief Fellow, Cardiology Division
University of Minnesota
Hennepin County Medical Center
USA

Matthew Forrester, MD
Emory Medical School
Atlanta, GA
USA

Michael A. Sobieski II, RN, CCP
Cardiac Surgery Clinical Research Center, Inc.
Advocate Christ Medical Center
4400 West 95th Street, Suite 205
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
USA

Rosemary F. Kelly, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
University of Minnesota
420 Delaware Street SE, MMC 207
Minneapolis, MN 55455
USA

Rakhi Khanna, DO
Division of Nephrology
Advocate Christ Medical Center
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
USA

Sara J. Shumway, MD
Professor of Surgery
Division of Cardiovascular Surgery
University of Minnesota
420 Delaware Street SE, MMC 207
Minneapolis, MN 55455
USA

Mark S. Slaughter, MD
Director Cardiac Surgery Research
Division Cardiothoracic Surgery
Advocate Christ Medical Center
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
USA
Vidya Naidu, DO
Division of Nephrology
Advocate Christ Medical Center
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
USA

William Cohn, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Texas Heart Institute
Houston, TX 77030
USA
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Preface

Cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of death in patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). The diagnosis, management, and treatment of cardiac disease in ESRD remain a difficult problem for clinicians. In 1982, Love and co-authors published “Cardiac Surgery in Patients with Chronic Renal Disease” which compiled the latest and best treatment options at that time. Amazingly, many of the clinical experiences were based on treatment outcomes of fewer than 10 patients. The chapter on valves reported on a total of 11 patients on dialysis that had a replacement over a 10-year period at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Although important at that time, it was difficult to draw conclusions or make recommendations based on such small experiences. Clearly, we have more experience now but the morbidity and mortality of the treatment of cardiac disease remain very high in this group of patients.

Hopefully, this book will act as a catalyst to get more clinicians involved in looking for solutions to reduce the burden of cardiac disease in ESRD. Most chapters have some overlap of information. This was not an oversight but done on purpose. The book is designed to be read by a resident, fellow, or practicing clinician as individual chapters of interest. Hopefully, the information in that chapter will stimulate them to read additional sections to give them a more comprehensive review of the overall state of the surgical treatment of cardiovascular disease in ESRD.

As the number of patients with chronic renal failure and ESRD continues to expand, it is imperative that we have an increased awareness and knowledge of the effect of cardiovascular disease on their health and quality of life. It was my goal and that of my coauthors that this book will serve as a resource for some and a calling for others as we strive to improve outcomes and reduce the impact of cardiovascular disease in ESRD.