



Press Release:

**A new and innovative surgical technique for the
treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy**

***This disease is the most common cause of sudden death
in young people and athletes***

The Journal of the American College of Cardiology has published today the results of a new surgical technique conceived and performed at the Centre for the treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy at the Policlinico di Monza, Italy.

Dr. Paolo Ferrazzi, Director of the Centre for the Treatment of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy at the Policlinico di Monza, in Italy, has developed and perfected a new surgical technique to repair the abnormalities of the mitral valve that obstruct the free flow of blood from the heart in patients with obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. The results of this study were published today in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, one of the most prestigious journals of cardiology in America.

«This new technique» explains Dr Ferrazzi «represents an important step forward in the surgical treatment of obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy because it avoids replacement of the mitral valve with a prosthesis and substantially reduces the complications associated with a prosthetic valve.»

«This technique in fact» adds Dr. Spirito, Director of Cardiology at Galliera Hospital in Genoa, Italy, and co-author of the study, «allows for the repair rather than the substitution of the valve and thus abolishes the risk of the severe complications associated with a mechanical prosthesis, such as thromboembolic events (including stroke) and the need for life-long anticoagulation. These are complications that can dramatically effect the quality of life of patients who are operated at a young age.»



Policlinico di Monza

Istituto ad Alta Specializzazione



«It's enormously satisfying to transform an idea into an advantage for the patient. » says Dr. Ferrazzi. «This is the fruit of years of study and work, begun in Bergamo and continued in Monza, together with colleagues from some of Italy's most prestigious cardiology departments specialized in the treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. »

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a genetic disease characterized by a marked increase in the thickness of the heart's muscular walls and is the most common cause of sudden death in young people and athletes. In the general population, approximately 1 person in 500 is affected by this disease. A proportion of these patients have the obstructive form of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, in which the increased thickness of the heart's muscular walls, together with structural changes to the mitral valve (the valve which controls the flow of blood into the left side of the heart) obstruct the flow of blood to the body. Many of these patients become candidates to open heart surgery for removal of the obstruction to blood flow. Surgery abolishes the obstruction and symptoms in most patients. This operation is recommended by the International Guidelines for the Treatment of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy.

In the last 10 years Dr. Ferrazzi has performed more operations in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy than any other surgeon in Europe (more than 400) and with results on a par with those of the best North American referral centers for the surgical treatment of obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Under the guidance of Dr. Ferrazzi, the Policlinico di Monza performs the highest number of operations, annually, for this disease in Europe.

Policlinico di Monza

The Policlinico di Monza is a private hospital, recognized and supported by the Italian National Health System. The Policlinico offers complete and expert treatment in many specialized surgical and medical disciplines, and is endowed with the most avant guard equipment in order to guarantee the patient a complete and integrated course of diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.



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The clinic employs a work force of 760 people and has 238 in patient beds. It collaborates with the Universities of Pavia and Milan on several degree and specialization courses. In 2014, the Policlinico had 9.084 patient admissions and 775.163 out-patient visits.

The Centre for the Treatment of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy at the Policlinico di Monza has been structured to provide a "one stop" reference point and response to patients with this difficult and complex heart disease. The Centre consists of a team of highly specialized cardiologists, geneticists, radiologists, anesthetists, and cardiac surgeons working together in an integrated and technologically advanced environment. The Centre has an on going research program with research results validated by publications in major international scientific journals.

Finally, the Centre actively participates in spreading knowledge and expertise to others via the International Heart School. Every year, foreign students, many of whom come from developing countries, come to Monza to receive training in the treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and other cardiovascular diseases, to then return with this precious knowledge to their countries of origin.



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