

Structural and Valvular Heart Disease

Interest in structural and valvular disease has been growing steadily for the past few years. There is a remarkable degree of development in percutaneous mitral valve repair technologies and also in catheter-based aortic valve replacement approaches. Advances in septal occluder device design and delivery have made shunt closure an increasingly common procedure. The boundaries of these therapies are being both extended in practice and defined by numerous trials. Multiple trials for valve devices, and for PFO closure for both stroke and migraine, are underway. Along with the new technologies, there is a resurgence of interest in some older structural techniques, such as aortic valvuloplasty. This issue of *Cardiac Interventions Today* will explore much of this landscape.

The articles for the cover focus of this issue feature structural and valvular heart disease. Ziyad M. Hijazi, MD, and colleagues provide an overview of the current techniques and results for treating ventricular septal defects.

In their overview of percutaneous aortic valve replacement, Jacob Green, MD, Vasilis Babaliaros, MD, and Peter Block, MD, discuss the current and emerging technology associated with this challenging etiology, especially their potential use in treating high-risk, nonoperable patients.

My coauthors and I have contributed a detailed summary of the data and devices asso-

ciated with percutaneous PFO closure.

Jason H. Rogers, MD, and Jeffrey A. Southard, MD, explore percutaneous approaches for managing mitral valve disease.

Alan Zajarias, MD, and John M. Lasala, MD, PhD, address percutaneous management of atrial septal defects and its results that are comparable to surgery in appropriate cases.

Rajesh M. Dave, MD, has contributed an overview of the current state of the art and an introduction to percutaneous aortic valve technology.

The department articles for this issue feature coding expert Rosanne R. Wholey, who helps to clarify the complex coding of cardiology procedures. We close this issue with an interview with Rajesh M. Dave, MD, who discusses the COURAGE trial, the C3 conference, and his

experience at one of the largest-volume interventional practices in the US.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Rajesh M. Dave, MD, and Jason H. Rogers, MD, who graciously served as Guest Editors for this issue of *Cardiac Interventions Today*. Drs. Dave and Rogers were instrumental in developing and directing content for this issue, for which I am most appreciative.

I hope that you find this issue interesting and useful in your practice. ■



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Chief Medical Editor