Aim: We aimed to evaluate short and mid-term results of commercially available prefabricated vascular grafts made of bovine pericardium. Herein, we report on our institutional experience with the use of these grafts.

Methods: Six patients underwent Aorto-Iliac repair with commercially available grafts made of bovine pericardium (BPG), in an additional patient a BPG was utilized for the management of an infected PTFE fem-pop bypass graft, for the management of graft infection or in the presence of systemic infection. Comorbidities, procedure related details, postoperative mortality and mid-term follow up were assessed and analyzed. The seven patients treated with BPGs form the base of this study.

Results: 71% (5) were male, mean age was 61.4±10.9 years. Comorbidities: arterial hypertension 100% (7), smoking 71% (5), coronary artery disease 43% (3), peripheral arterial disease 86% (6) and chronic renal disease 29% (2). Indications for surgery were: i) graft infection 71% (5), ii) arterial reconstruction in the presence of systemic infection 29% (2). Five patients (71%) had a history of previous vascular surgery. In 86%, polymicrobial cultures were available (6), amongst the isolated pathogens were Staph aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and E. coli. For direct repair a bifurcated graft configuration was used in all aortic cases. Median follow-up: 107 days (max: seven months). Thirty-day mortality was 14% (1) – congestive heart failure – a patient operated successfully for an infected graft, undergoing surgery for control of infection prior to intended cardiac surgery, overall mortality was 14%.

Conclusion: Our data support the conclusion that the use of BPGs represents an excellent conduit for the management of: i) aortic graft infections, ii) aortic reconstruction in the presence of systemic infection, and iii) infected prosthetic grafts utilized in peripheral arterial reconstructive surgery.

Recent Publications


Biography

Ihor Huk is the Chairman of Division of Vascular Surgery since 2013 and Director of Vascular Laboratory since 1994, Department of Surgery Medical
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