We sought to evaluate clinical outcomes and time delays in patients undergoing TAVI during the pandemic period compared to an age and risk factor-matched cohort of patients prior to COVID-19. We hypothesized that there were significant time delays, more emergency procedures and related adverse outcomes in patients who underwent TAVI during the pandemic period.

**Methods**

We analysed prospectively collected data (patient characteristics, procedural details, complications and in-hospital outcomes) of 210 consecutive patients who underwent TAVI between March 2019 and February 2021 in a tertiary centre in the UK (the centre serves for a population of 2.5 million and provided in-patient treatment for 5,590 COVID-positive patients over a 12-month period). We compared time-lags from an initial referral to outpatient review, CT aortograms, MDT discussions, valve implantations and 30-day mortality between patients who underwent TAVI between March 2019 and February 2020 (Control group=134) and those who underwent TAVI between March 2020 and February 2021 (COVID Group=76).

**Results**

The mean age of the cohort was 81.9 ±6.4 years compared to 80.9±6.9 in the COVID-19 group. 59% of the control group and 43% of the COVID-19 group were female. Majority were in the moderate risk category (EuroSCORE II=4.53±5.5). Mean Katz index in the control group was 5.4 ±0.9 and 5.7±0.5 in the COVID-19 cohort. Patient characteristics are summarised in table 1. Of the total cohort, 4 (5.3%) patients acquired COVID-19 pneumonia during the hospital stay. The comorbidities and risk scores were comparable between the control group and the COVID cohort. (Table 1). There were no significant differences in procedural complications in the control group compared to the COVID-19 group (table 2). The median waiting time from referral to TAVI clinic was significantly shorter in the COVID-19 group (33 (8-66) vs. 51(17-89) days (P=0.04)) and there was no significant difference in time delays for CT aortogram, MDT or TAVI procedure between the two groups (Figure 1). The median length of stay (2 (2-4) vs 2.5(2-9) days) and 30-day mortality (1.4% vs 5.3%) was comparable between the two groups.

**Conclusion**

Contrary to our hypothesis, our analysis demonstrated that there were no significant time delays, excess complications or mortality in TAVI procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic period despite the excess burden imposed on our local health services. More importantly, very few TAVI patients acquired COVID-19 sepsis during in-hospital stay. This is likely due to prompt identification of innovative ways of re-configuring an existing local patient pathway, by the TAVI team, to deliver safe and uninterrupted TAVI services during this unprecedented pandemic setting.

**Conflict of Interest**

None

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**Prevalence of Aortic Root Dilatation in Patients with Fabry Disease: A Single Centre Experience**

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**Introduction**

Fabry disease is an X linked lysosomal storage disorder resulting from deficiency of the enzyme alpha-galactosidase A. Multi-systemic effects are seen due to deposition and accumulation of glycosphingolipids. Although left ventricular hypertrophy is often the most commonly cited cardiac finding, cardiac manifestations can be widely varied, and vascular structural changes with increased thickening of the intima media and progressive vascular dilatation have been observed. Aortic root dilatation in affected males has in the past been reported in up to 30 – 56% using echocardiography, with varying criteria used to define dilatation.

**Purpose**

To establish the prevalence of aortic root and ascending aortic dilatation evaluated by echocardiography in our cohort of Fabry patients.

**Method**

We identified genotype positive Fabry patients from our single centre Fabry database who underwent elective work, including TAVI services from March 2020. We sought to evaluate clinical outcomes and time delays in patients undergoing TAVI during the pandemic period compared to an age and risk factor-matched cohort of patients prior to COVID-19. We hypothesized that there were significant time delays, more emergency procedures and related adverse outcomes in patients who underwent TAVI during the pandemic period.

**Abstract 17**

Patient characteristics

| Parameter                  | Control (n=134) | Covid-19 (n=76) | P value |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Mean age ±sd (years)      | 81.9±6.4       | 80.9±6.9        |         |
| Female (%)                | 59 (79)        | 43 (57)         |         |
| EuroSCORE II              | 4.53±5.5       | 5.7±0.5         |         |
| Katz index (0-12)         | 5.4±0.9        | 5.7±0.5         |         |
| Comorbidities (n=90)      | 106±75         | 104±85.9        | 0.190   |
| Previous MI               | 14 (10.3)      | 11 (14.4)       | 0.393   |
| Previous Cardiac Surgery  | 15 (11.3)      | 17 (22.6)       | 0.051   |
| Coronary artery disease in >1 artery*| 9 (6.7) | 7 (9.2) | 0.533 |
| Chronic pulmonary disease | 49 (36.6)      | 24 (31)         | 0.016   |
| Major bleeding*           | 3 (2.3)        | 2 (2.6)         | 0.926   |
| ACH Stage 2 and 3         | 1 (0.7)        | 1 (1.3)         | 0.725   |
| Major aortic complications| 4 (3)          | 5 (6.6)         | 0.287   |
| Pericarditis               | 4 (3)          | 2 (2.6)         | 0.831   |
| Previous endocarditis     | 25 (18.7)      | 15 (20)         | 0.942   |
| Endocarditis              | 5 (3.7)        | 0 (0)           | 0.023   |
| Cardiac tamponade         | 0 (0)          | 1 (1.3)         | 0.2     |
| Valve malfunctioning      | 0 (0)          | 1 (1.3)         | 0.2     |

*Coronary artery disease defined as >30% stenosis. 
**EuroSCORE** = European System for Cardiac Operative Risk Evaluation.

**Complications and clinical outcomes**

| Complication                | Control (n=134) | Covid-19 (n=76) | P value |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Post procedural stroke      | 0 (0)           | 0 (0)           |         |
| Major bleeding              | 3 (2.3)         | 2 (2.6)         | 0.926   |
| ACH Stage 2 and 3           | 1 (0.7)         | 1 (1.3)         | 0.725   |
| Major aortic complications  | 4 (3)           | 5 (6.6)         | 0.287   |
| Pericarditis                | 4 (3)           | 2 (2.6)         | 0.831   |
| New pacemaker implantation  | 25 (18.7)       | 15 (20)         | 0.942   |
| Endocarditis                | 5 (3.7)         | 0 (0)           | 0.023   |
| Cardiac tamponade           | 0 (0)           | 1 (1.3)         | 0.2     |
| Valve malfunctioning        | 0 (0)           | 1 (1.3)         | 0.2     |

Values are N (%). *Bleeding and 1 Acute kidney injury as defined by the Acute Kidney Injury Network criteria. 
**Major vascular complications as defined by the Valve Academic Research Consortium 2.
evidence of fibrosis. The maximal aortic root dimension was assessed at the level of the sinus of Valsalva (SOV) and the proximal ascending aorta using echocardiography. Dimensions ≥40 mm, or with a Z3 score >2 (normalised for height by Devereux et al), were classed as dilated. Dimensions are quoted as mean ± standard deviation. Statistical analysis was through Chi-squared testing.

Results 82 patients were identified (31 male, 51 female) ages ranging between 23 and 83 years (mean of 51 ± 16.1 years). 21% had treated hypertension (n = 17) and 62% had cardiac involvement from their Fabry disease (n = 51). 54% were on ERT (n = 44), of whom 70% (n = 31) were on intravenous enzyme replacement therapies and 30% (n = 13) were on oral chaperone therapy. The SOV dimensions ranged from 24 to 43 mm (mean 32 ± 4.4 mm). Aortic root dilatation was identified in 8.5% of the patient group (n = 7). Ascending aortic dimensions beyond the root were available in 72 patients. 2 patients had ascending diameters >40mm, but both also had aortic root dilatation. Table 1 outlines the prevalence of aortic root dilatation in our cohort grouped by gender, history of hypertension, cardiac involvement and use of ERT. The prevalence of aortic root dilatation in patients with cardiac involvement from their Fabry disease was significantly greater compared to patients with no cardiac involvement (p = 0.03). The prevalence of aortic root dilatation was not statistically different when grouped by gender, history of hypertension or use of ERT.

Conclusion Fabry disease is a recognised lysosomal storage disorder associated with aortic root dilatation, although the exact mechanism remains incompletely understood. The prevalence of aortic root dilatation in our cohort was lower than previously reported. This may reflect advancements in treatment strategies and varying criteria used to define dilatation in previous studies. In our patient cohort the degree of aortic dilatation was mild, not reaching surgical requirement, and was not related to a history of hypertension. Although numbers were small, a higher prevalence was seen in patients with myocardial involvement by their Fabry disease, suggesting a possible link between the cardiac Fabry process and changes in the aortic wall.

Conflict of Interest none

Abstract 19 Table 1

| Variable                                | Baseline (n = 32) | Follow up (n = 32) | P value |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|
| LV end diastolic volume (ml)            | 159 ± 29         | 145 ± 22          | 0.005*  |
| LV end diastolic volume index (mL/m²)   | 78 ± 12          | 73 ± 10           | 0.02*   |
| LV end systolic volume (ml)             | 64 ± 16          | 65 ± 19           | 0.5     |
| LV end systolic volume index (mL/m²)    | 31 ± 7           | 33 ± 9            | 0.3     |
| LV stroke volume (ml)                   | 95 ± 20          | 80 ± 14           | 0.001*  |
| LV ejection fraction (%)                | 60 ± 7           | 55 ± 8            | 0.0001* |
| ΔLVEF (%)                               | (5.66 ± 4.38)    |                   |         |
| LV mass (g/m²)                          | 102 ± 17         | 94 ± 16           | 0.01*   |
| LV mass index (g/m²)                    | 51 ± 8           | 47 ± 8            | 0.04*   |
| LV mass to LV end diastolic volume (g/ml)| 0.65 ± 0.12     | 0.66 ± 0.14       | 0.8     |
| Peak diastolic circumferential strain rate (1/s) | 0.98 ± 0.28 | 1.04 ± 0.23 | 0.4 |
| Peak diastolic longitudinal strain rate (1/s) | 0.75 ± 0.21 | 0.69 ± 0.16 | 0.2 |
| RV end diastolic volume (ml)            | 166 ± 33         | 142 ± 25          | 0.03*   |
| RV end diastolic volume index (mL/m²)   | 82 ± 14          | 71 ± 12           | 0.0001* |
| RV end systolic volume (ml)             | 76 ± 18          | 70 ± 16           | 0.05*   |
| RV end systolic volume index (mL/m²)    | 37 ± 8           | 35 ± 8            | 0.1     |
| RV stroke volume (ml)                   | 91 ± 20          | 72 ± 15           | <0.001* |
| RV ejection fraction (%)                | 55 ± 5           | 51 ± 7            | 0.003*  |
| ΔRVEF (%)                               | (6.69 ± 4.15)    |                   |         |
| LA maximum volume (ml)                  | 88 ± 17          | 67 ± 21           | 0.0001* |
| LA ejection fraction (%)                | 58 ± 6           | 56 ± 9            | 0.4     |
| Extra-cellular volume (%)               | 24.96 ± 3.02     | 24.10 ± 2.66      | 0.3     |

Abstract 18 Table 1

| Subgroups                              | Dilated aortic root, n (%) |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| None                                    | 5 (4.3)                     |
| Female                                  | 2 (4.4)                     |
| History of hypertension                 | 1 (3.3)                     |
| No history of Hypertension              | 6 (8.3)                     |
| Cardiac involvement                    | 1 (2.7)                     |
| Noncardiac involvement                 | 0 (0)                       |
| GRT                                     | 4 (8.0)                     |
| No GRT                                  | 1 (2.3)                     |

Values are mean±standard deviations or percentages. *signifies P<0.05. CMR-cardiac magnetic resonance imaging; n-numbers; LV-left ventricle; ml-milliliters; m-metre; ΔLVEF-change in LV ejection fraction; gm-grams; s-seconds; RV-right ventricle; ΔRVEF-change in RV ejection fraction; LA-left atrium.