Transapical Mitral Implantation of Artificial Chordae Tendineae: An in vivo animal study

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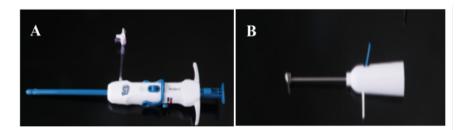
October 11, 2022

Abstract

Background This study investigated the feasibility of a novel preformed artificial chordae tendineaes(ACTs) implantation device (Halochord) for mitral valve repair(MVP) via apical access. Methods Nine pigs were randomly divided into three groups: A, B, and C, and survived for 1, 3, and 6 months after surgery, respectively. The ACTs were anchored in the leaflet throught Halochord, adjusted to the correct length to cause moderate MR guided by echocardiography, and secured at the epicardium. Echocardiography was used to assess hemodynamic data and valve function. Surviving pigs were killed at the end of the follow-up period to confirm the deployment of ACTs. Results The modeling was successful, with no operative mortality. According to the echocardiographic and the cardiac anatomical specimen, all ACT implantation sites were found in the P2 region of MV. No rupture of the ACTs was detected during the observation period. Additionally, the ACTs gradually internalized as time passed, particularly at their extremities. Conclusions We demonstrated that off-pump ACTs implantation from the LV apex is a feasible and reproducible procedure.

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