

Impact of extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement in patients with primary mitral regurgitation undergoing transcatheter edge-to-edge repair

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KEYWORDS

- mitral regurgitation
- mitral valve disease
- mitral valve repair

Abstract

Background: In the context of primary mitral regurgitation (PMR), the selection of patients for transcatheter edge-to-edge repair (TEER) does not include a systematic assessment of PMR-associated cardiac remodelling.

Aims: We aimed to investigate the epidemiology and prognostic significance of different phenotypes of extra-mitral valve (MV) cardiac involvement in a large series of patients with PMR referred for TEER.

Methods: The study included 654 patients from the multicentre Italian GIOTTO registry, stratified into groups according to extra-mitral valve (MV) cardiac involvement. The primary endpoint was all-cause death at 2-year follow-up.

Results: Patients with no cardiac involvement (NI; n=58), left heart involvement (LHI; n=343) and right heart involvement (RHI; n=253) were analysed. Acute technical success was achieved in 98% of patients. Kaplan-Meier curve analysis revealed significantly worse survival in patients with LHI and RHI (p=0.041). On multivariate Cox regression analysis, extra-MV cardiac involvement, haemoglobin level and technical success were independent predictors of the primary endpoint occurrence.

Conclusions: Grading cardiac involvement may help refine risk stratification, since at least 1 group of extra-MV cardiac involvement represents in itself a negative predictor of midterm outcome.

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Abbreviations

LHI	left heart involvement
LV	left ventricular
MR	mitral regurgitation
MV	mitral valve
NI	no cardiac involvement
PMR	primary mitral regurgitation
RHI	right heart involvement
sPAP	systolic pulmonary artery pressure
TAPSE	tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion
TEER	transcatheter edge-to-edge repair

Introduction

Mitral regurgitation (MR) is one of the most prevalent valvular heart diseases in Western countries, with a significant impact on morbidity and mortality¹. As the burden of significant MR increases consistently with ageing² and the elderly often have multiple comorbidities affecting their operative risk, up to 50% of patients with severe symptomatic MR are not referred for surgery³.

Percutaneous techniques and, in particular, transcatheter edge-to-edge repair (TEER) have been proposed as feasible and effective therapeutic options for patients not suitable for mitral valve (MV) surgery⁴. The TEER MitraClip system (Abbott) is the device with the largest body of scientific evidence to support its use⁵.

Currently, in the context of primary MR (PMR), the selection of patients for TEER is exclusively based on the technical feasibility of the transcatheter approach and surgical risk assessment, without a systematic evaluation of other elements – such as cardiac remodelling associated with MR – that may have a relevant prognostic impact. Thus, the population of patients with PMR who are most likely to benefit from this treatment has yet to be identified.

Hence, the aim of this study was to investigate the epidemiology and prognostic significance of different phenotypes of extra-MV cardiac involvement in a large series of patients with PMR referred for TEER with the MitraClip system and to assess the predictors of clinical outcome. Accordingly, we sought to provide a useful tool to improve the risk stratification of candidates for TEER in this subset of patients.

Methods

STUDY POPULATION

The Italian Society of Interventional Cardiology (GISe) registry Of Transcatheter treatment of mitral valve regurgitaTiOn (GIOTTO) is an ongoing single-arm, multicentre, prospective registry of patients with significant symptomatic MR who have undergone TEER with the MitraClip system in Italian hospitals⁶.

The present analysis included patients with moderate-to-severe (3+) or severe (4+) PMR treated between February 2016 and May 2020. Registry inclusion and exclusion criteria, echocardiographic selection and protocols, together with data collection and follow-up scheduling have been previously detailed⁷. Briefly, preprocedural transthoracic and transoesophageal echocardiography were performed to assess the mechanism of regurgitation and

morphological suitability for MitraClip implantation. PMR was identified based on the main mechanism of regurgitation, whether this was due to prolapse, leaflet flail or restricted leaflet motion. MR and tricuspid regurgitation severity were graded according to current guidelines by means of a multiparametric approach⁴. Left ventricular (LV) end-diastolic and end-systolic diameters were evaluated from the parasternal long-axis view. LV end-diastolic and end-systolic volumes were assessed using the Simpson biplane method in the apical 2- and 4-chamber views and indexed to body surface area. The LV ejection fraction was then calculated. The maximum left atrial diameter was derived from the parasternal long-axis view in end-systole⁸. Systolic pulmonary artery pressure (sPAP) was estimated by the sum of the transtricuspid pressure gradient, calculated with the simplified Bernoulli equation, and right atrial pressure, derived from the diameter and inspiratory collapse of the inferior vena cava⁹. Tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion (TAPSE), derived from M-mode imaging of the right ventricle in the apical 4-chamber view, was used to quantify right ventricular function⁸. Patients without an exhaustive echocardiographic examination, including the aforementioned parameters, were not considered for statistical analysis. Details regarding TEER with the MitraClip system have been formerly described¹⁰. All patients included in the study signed a written informed consent after receiving an oral and written explanation of the issues concerning the procedure, data collection and subsequent analysis. The investigation conforms to the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki.

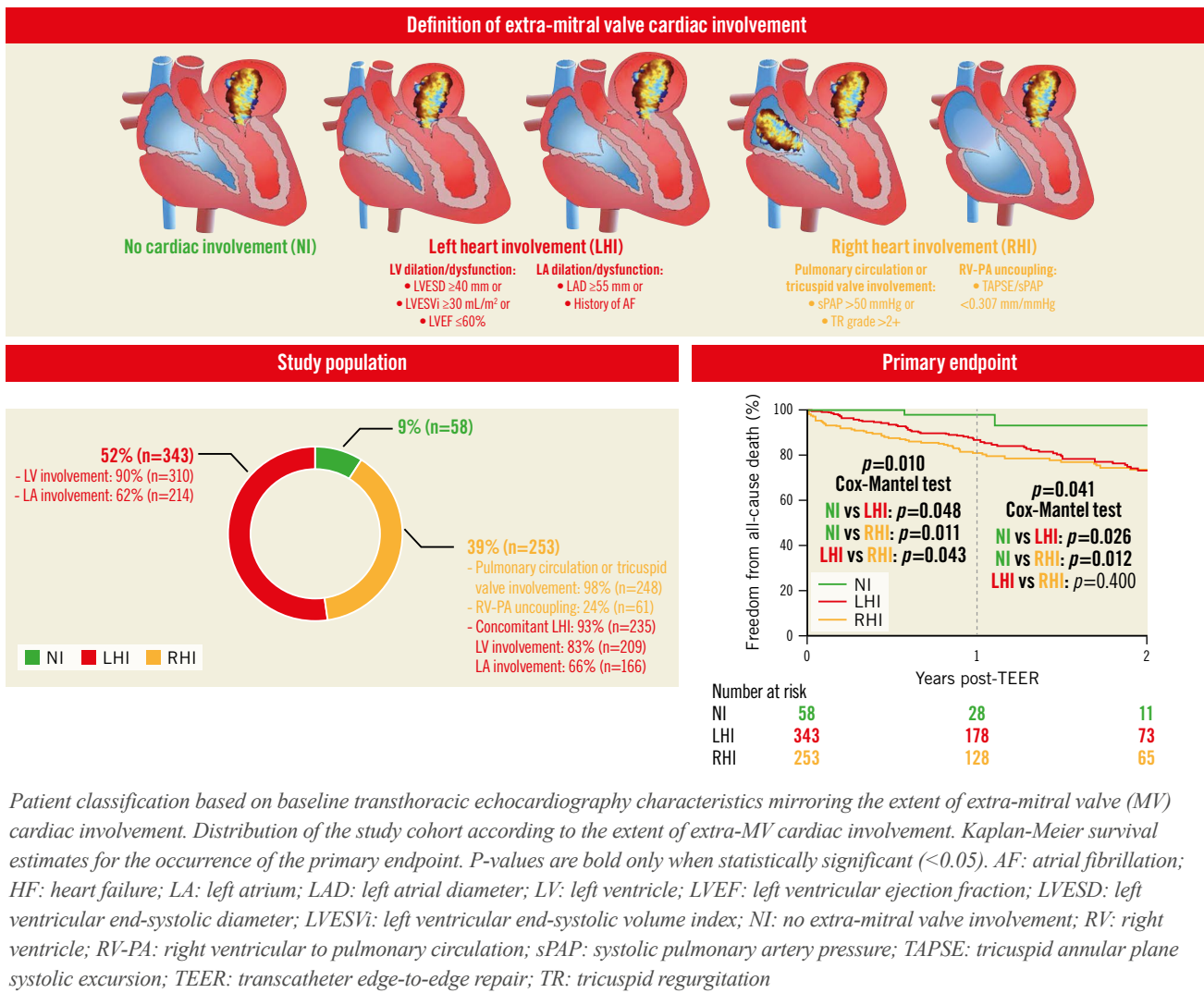
DEFINITION OF EXTRA-MV CARDIAC INVOLVEMENT

On the basis of their baseline transthoracic echocardiography, patients were classified into 3 groups according to the extent of extra-MV cardiac involvement (**Central illustration**): namely, the no extra-MV cardiac involvement (NI) group; the left heart involvement (LHI) group, including patients with LV or left atrial dilation/dysfunction – defined as LV end-systolic diameter ≥ 40 mm or LV end-systolic volume index ≥ 30 mL/m² or LV ejection fraction $\leq 60\%$, or maximum left atrial diameter ≥ 55 mm or history of atrial fibrillation, respectively; and the right heart involvement (RHI) group, considering as inclusion criteria pulmonary circulation or tricuspid valve involvement, defined as sPAP > 50 mmHg or tricuspid regurgitation grade $> 2+$, or right ventricle to pulmonary circulation uncoupling, defined as a TAPSE/sPAP ratio < 0.307 mm/mmHg. These criteria, with their associated cut-off values, were selected based on current recommendations for the management of valvular heart disease⁴ and evidence from previous analyses^{11,12}. From most to least extent of extra-MV cardiac involvement, patients were assigned to groups in the following hierarchical order: RHI, LHI and NI.

STUDY ENDPOINTS

As regards acute results, we defined acute technical, 30-day device and procedural success, as well as periprocedural complications, according to the Mitral Valve Academic Research Consortium (MVARC) criteria¹³. The primary study endpoint was all-cause

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Definition and prognostic significance of extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement.



mortality during a 2-year follow-up period in patients grouped according to extra-MV cardiac involvement. Secondary endpoints were cardiac death, first rehospitalisation for heart failure and a composite of overall death or rehospitalisation at 2-year follow-up.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Distribution of continuous data was tested with the Shapiro-Wilk test. Normally distributed variables are expressed as mean \pm standard deviation, whereas non-normally distributed variables are presented as median and interquartile range. Categorical variables are reported as absolute values and corresponding percentages. Differences in continuous variables were tested using 1-way analysis of variance; categorical variables were compared with the Chi-square test. Paired comparison between baseline and follow-up variables was performed with the paired-sample Student's t-test or Wilcoxon signed-rank test, as appropriate.

Adverse events are reported as observed number of events and as Kaplan-Meier estimated rates. Event-free survival up to 2 years was evaluated according to the unadjusted Kaplan-Meier method, and survival among subgroups was compared using the log-rank test (Cox-Mantel test). Cox proportional hazards regression analysis was used to determine significant predictors of primary and secondary clinical endpoints. Variables with a univariate statistical significance of < 0.1 were selected for inclusion in the multivariable model. Finally, multivariate analysis, using stepwise forward selection, was performed to analyse the association of baseline characteristics with study endpoints, expressed as hazard ratio (HR) with 95% confidence interval (CI) and p-values. All statistical tests were 2-sided, and p-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. The statistical analyses were performed using SPSS software version 28.0.0 (IBM) and GraphPad Prism software version 8 (GraphPad).

Results

BASELINE CLINICAL AND ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

In the present analysis, a total of 654 patients with moderate-to-severe (3+) and severe (4+) PMR who underwent a TEER procedure were included (mean age 80 ± 8 years; 53% male) (**Figure 1**). When patients were grouped according to extra-MV cardiac involvement, 9% (n=58) were in the NI group, 52% (n=343) in the LHI group and 39% (n=253) in the RHI group (**Central illustration**).

Patients with LHI were significantly younger when compared to the other groups; however, the prevalence of male gender was not different among the study groups. The RHI group exhibited higher surgical mortality risk, assessed by the European System for Cardiac Operative Risk Evaluation (EuroSCORE) II, accompanied by lower median baseline haemoglobin levels and estimated glomerular filtration rates.

Baseline MR severity was comparable among groups. Consistent with *a priori* definitions, the largest LV dimensions were observed in patients with LHI. Accordingly, significant tricuspid regurgitation and more impaired right ventricle to pulmonary circulation coupling characterised the RHI group. Baseline clinical and echocardiographic characteristics of the entire study cohort and subgroups are reported in **Table 1**.

PROCEDURAL OUTCOMES

MVARC technical success was achieved in 638 patients (98%), with no significant differences between the study groups, and overall sustained 30-day device and procedural success rates (88% and 86%, respectively). Of note, the RHI group showed the lowest percentage of device and procedural success (81% and 79%, respectively), with significant differences when compared to the other study groups. Among the 16 patients with unsuccessful MitraClip implantation, 5 (1%) had in-hospital single leaflet device attachment, with no significant differences among the groups. The number of implanted devices and residual MR $\geq 3+$ at the end of the TEER procedure did not differ between groups, nor the rate of acute heart failure, acute kidney injury, and periprocedural bleeding. In-hospital mortality was 2% (13 patients) and was significantly more frequent in the

RHI group, whereas no statistically significant difference was observed for in-hospital cardiac death. All procedural data are presented in **Table 2**.

MIDTERM FOLLOW-UP DATA

With 113 (17%) patients lost to follow-up, a total of 541 were followed for a median of 22 (12-24) months. One-year survival differences indicate worse outcomes with increasing extra-MV cardiac involvement (unadjusted HR per 1-group increase from NI to LHI and from LHI to RHI: 1.820, 95% CI: 1.229-2.695; $p=0.003$). According to 2-year Kaplan Meier analysis, the rate of all-cause mortality was significantly lower in the NI group (7%), compared to the LHI and RHI groups (both 27%) (**Central illustration**). Likewise, higher composite endpoint rates were observed in the cardiac involvement groups ($p=0.047$) (**Figure 2A, Supplementary Table 1**). In addition, the midterm cardiac death rate tended to be higher in the RHI group, whereas heart failure rehospitalisation occurred more frequently in patients with LHI, although, this did not reach statistical significance (**Figure 2B, Figure 2C**, respectively). Primary and secondary clinical endpoints at 1- and 2-year follow-up are shown in **Table 3**. At univariate Cox regression analysis, the subgroup of extra-MV cardiac involvement, together with age, New York Heart Association Functional Class $\geq III$, diabetes mellitus, haemoglobin concentration and technical success were able to predict the primary endpoint. On multivariable analysis, the subgroup of extra-MV cardiac involvement, haemoglobin level and technical success were found to be independent predictors of all-cause mortality (**Table 4**).

A significant improvement in New York Heart Association Functional Class and MR grade was observed at 2-year follow-up (**Supplementary Figure 1, Supplementary Figure 2**).

One- and 2-year changes in the main echocardiographic features are shown in **Supplementary Table 2** and **Supplementary Table 3**, respectively.

Discussion

In this real-world multicentre experience of symptomatic patients with moderate-to-severe and severe PMR treated with MitraClip, we found the following:

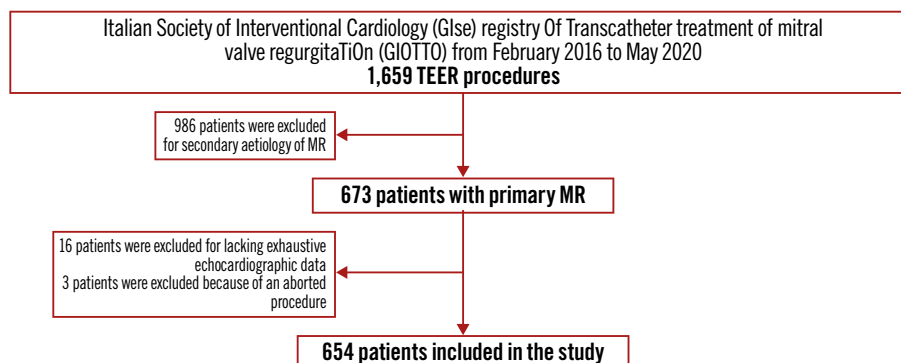


Figure 1. Study flowchart. MR: mitral regurgitation; TEER: transcatheter edge-to-edge repair

Table 1. Baseline clinical and echocardiographic characteristics of the entire study cohort and the three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement.

	Entire study cohort (n=654)	NI (n=58)	LHI (n=343)	RHI (n=253)	p-value
Demographic and clinical features					
Age, years	80±8	81±7	78±8	81±7	0.001
Male gender	348 (53)	29 (50)	192 (56)	127 (50)	0.330
BMI, kg/m ²	25±4	24±4	25±4	25±4	0.298
BSA, m ²	1.76±0.20	1.75±0.21	1.78±0.21	1.76±0.19	0.410
Previous or current smoker	62 (17)	4 (12)	33 (19)	25 (17)	0.614
EuroSCORE II, %	3.9 [2.4; 5.7]	3.1 [2.0; 4.7]	3.6 [2.2; 5.4]	4.5 [2.8; 6.1]	0.002
NYHA Class III-IV	493 (75)	30 (52)	259 (76)	204 (81)	<0.001
Haemoglobin, g/dL	12 [11; 14]	13 [11; 14]	13 [12; 14]	12 [11; 13]	0.012
eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m ²	44 [31; 58]	46 [34; 65]	46 [33; 60]	40 [28; 52]	<0.001
NT-proBNP, pg/mL	494 [237; 1,702]	360 [250; 916]	421 [220; 1,855]	568 [305; 2,544]	0.356
Comorbidities					
Hypertension	478 (73)	43 (74)	252 (74)	183 (72)	0.936
Diabetes mellitus	119 (18)	9 (16)	55 (16)	55 (22)	0.175
Dyslipidaemia	165 (41)	12 (33)	91 (44)	62 (39)	0.323
Coronary artery disease	169 (26)	8 (14)	97 (28)	64 (25)	0.064
History of MI	118 (18)	5 (9)	65 (19)	48 (19)	0.148
Previous CABG	57 (9)	3 (5)	32 (9)	22 (9)	0.583
Previous mitral valve repair/replacement	14 (2)	1 (2)	9 (3)	4 (2)	0.667
Previous TAVI	19 (3)	0 (0)	7 (2)	12 (5)	0.059
Atrial fibrillation	337 (52)	0 (0)	188 (55)	149 (59)	<0.001
Previous hospitalisation for HF	322 (49)	23 (40)	162 (47)	137 (54)	0.077
CKD	315 (48)	20 (35)	150 (44)	145 (57)	<0.001
COPD	97 (15)	9 (16)	49 (14)	39 (15)	0.918
PAD	98 (29)	7 (27)	57 (33)	34 (24)	0.208
Previous stroke	39 (6)	2 (3)	22 (6)	15 (6)	0.677
Devices					
ICD	59 (9)	0 (0)	37 (11)	22 (9)	0.029
CRT	106 (16)	2 (3)	62 (18)	42 (17)	0.020
Drugs					
ACEi/ARB/ARNI	215 (33)	29 (50)	113 (33)	73 (29)	0.008
Beta blockers	475 (73)	26 (45)	260 (76)	189 (75)	<0.001
K ⁺ -sparing diuretics	245 (38)	13 (22)	126 (37)	106 (42)	0.020
Loop diuretics, mg	50 [25; 100]	25 [25; 50]	50 [25; 75]	50 [25; 100]	0.058
Anticoagulant therapy	305 (47)	0 (0)	175 (51)	130 (51)	<0.001
Antiplatelet therapy	297 (46)	36 (62)	153 (45)	108 (43)	0.027
Mitral valve					
MR degree					0.077
Moderate-to-severe	113 (17)	6 (10)	72 (21)	35 (14)	
Severe	541 (83)	52 (90)	271 (79)	218 (86)	
*VC, mm	7 [5; 7]	7 [3; 8]	7 [5; 8]	7 [6; 7]	0.496
†EROA, cm ²	0.4 [0.3; 0.5]	0.4 [0.3; 0.4]	0.4 [0.3; 0.5]	0.5 [0.4; 0.5]	0.374
MV area	4.8±1.3	4.5±1.0	4.9±1.3	4.9±1.3	0.142
Left ventricular dimensions and function					
LVEDD, mm	55±9	51±6	56±9	55±9	0.001
LVESD, mm	37±11	29±6	39±11	37±11	<0.001

Table 1. Baseline clinical and echocardiographic characteristics of the entire study cohort and the three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement (cont'd).

	Entire study cohort (n=654)	NI (n=58)	LHI (n=343)	RHI (n=253)	p-value
LVEDV, mL	126±51	104±28	131±52	126±52	0.003
LVEDVi, mL/m ²	71±27	59±13	73±28	71±29	0.003
LVESV, mL	60±36	34±11	65±37	60±36	<0.001
LVESVi, mL/m ²	34±19	19±5	36±20	34±19	<0.001
LVEF, %	53±12	68±4	50±12	54±12	<0.001
E/e'	13 [10; 18]	11 [10; 13]	13 [10; 18]	13 [10; 19]	0.336
Left atrial dimensions					
LAD, mm	50±11	43±6	50±11	51±12	<0.001
Right ventricle					
TR degree					<0.001
None	22 (3)	4 (7)	16 (4)	2 (1)	
Mild	264 (40)	39 (67)	184 (54)	41 (16)	
Moderate	266 (41)	15 (26)	143 (42)	108 (43)	
Severe	102 (16)	0 (0)	0 (0)	102 (40)	
TAPSE, mm	20±7	24±4	21±9	18±5	0.002
sPAP, mmHg	48±15	38±8	39±8	61±13	<0.001
TAPSE/sPAP, mm/mmHg	0.47±0.22	0.67±0.20	0.57±0.22	0.33±0.12	<0.001
Data are presented as n (%) or mean±SD or median [IQR]. *VC values are available for ~30% of the entire study cohort. †EROA values are available for ~20% of the entire study cohort. ACEi: angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARB: angiotensin 1 receptor blocker; AF: atrial fibrillation; ARNI: angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; BMI: body mass index; BSA: body surface area; CABG: coronary artery bypass graft; CKD: chronic kidney disease; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CRT: cardiac resynchronisation therapy; E/e': early mitral inflow velocity to mitral annular early diastolic velocity ratio at tissue Doppler imaging; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; EROA: effective regurgitant orifice area; EuroSCORE: European System for Cardiac Operative Risk Evaluation; HF: heart failure; i: index; ICD: implantable cardioverter-defibrillator; IQR: interquartile range; K+: potassium; LAD: left atrial diameter; LHI: left heart involvement; LVEDD: left ventricular end-diastolic diameter; LVEDV: left ventricular end-diastolic volume; LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction; LVESD: left ventricular end-systolic diameter; LVESV: left ventricular end-systolic volume; MI: myocardial infarction; MV: mitral valve; MR: mitral regurgitation; MV: mitral valve; NI: no extra-mitral valve involvement; NT-proBNP: N-terminal prohormone of brain natriuretic peptide; NYHA: New York Heart Association; PAD: peripheral artery disease; RHI: right heart involvement; RV: right ventricle; SD: standard deviation; S' TDI: systolic wave velocity at tissue Doppler imaging; sPAP: systolic pulmonary arterial pressure; TAPSE: tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion; TAVI: transcatheter aortic valve implantation; TR: tricuspid regurgitation; VC: vena contracta					

a) preoperative extra-MV cardiac involvement is a frequent occurrence, with fewer than 10% of patients presenting with no extra-MV involvement;

b) even though study group patients represent distinct clinical and echocardiographic entities, the TEER procedure with the MitraClip device was performed safely and was demonstrated to be effective in terms of acute technical success in the entire study cohort. However, the RHI group showed lower rates of MVARC device and procedural success;

c) all-cause mortality considered singularly, as well as a composite endpoint of overall death and rehospitalisation for heart failure, occurred more frequently in the extra-MV cardiac involvement groups; however, no differences were observed for cardiac death or heart failure hospitalisation alone;

d) being in ≥1 group of extra-MV cardiac involvement represents in itself a negative predictor of midterm outcomes.

MECHANISM AND PREVALENCE OF EXTRA-MV CARDIAC INVOLVEMENT IN PMR

MR induces volume and pressure overload in the left chambers and imposes an increased pulsatile loading on the pulmonary

circulation¹⁴. Indeed, the early haemodynamic derangement induced by chronic MR is an increase in stroke volume, resulting in eccentric myocardial hypertrophy and progressive LV dilation as compensatory mechanisms to normalise wall stress. However, LV contractility gradually declines. The left atrium also progressively dilates with a parallel increase in its compliance to counterbalance the increase in pressure. As the left atrium buffers pressure and flow oscillations during the cardiac cycle, when its function is impaired, a further haemodynamic stress on the pulmonary circulation takes place and favours an increase in lung capillary hydrostatic pressure. In this framework, the occurrence of atrial fibrillation is crucial in further promoting impaired LV filling, increasing pulmonary venous pressure and contributing to atrial remodelling. Right atrial enlargement might elicit tricuspid annulus dilation, leading to leaflet malcoaptation and, ultimately, tricuspid regurgitation (atrial-predominant phenotype). Long-standing elevated pulmonary pressure in turn often induces right ventricular dilation and the development of secondary tricuspid regurgitation, which ultimately results in right ventricular dysfunction (ventricular-predominant phenotype)¹⁵. The aforementioned is generally a timeline progression, as suggested by the 93% overlap

Table 2. Procedural and 30-day outcomes of the entire study cohort and the three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement.

Procedural outcomes	Entire study cohort (n=654)	NI (n=58)	LHI (n=343)	RHI (n=253)	p-value
MVARC technical success	638 (98)	57 (98)	337 (98)	244 (96)	0.344
Device implanted					0.011
MitraClip	155 (24)	8 (14)	90 (26)	57 (23)	
MitraClip NT	220 (33)	15 (26)	111 (33)	94 (37)	
MitraClip NTr	89 (14)	6 (10)	45 (13)	38 (15)	
MitraClip XTr	190 (29)	29 (50)	97 (28)	64 (25)	
Implanted clips					0.649
1	270 (41)	27 (47)	146 (43)	97 (38)	
2	323 (49)	29 (50)	165 (48)	129 (51)	
≥3	61 (10)	2 (3)	32 (9)	27 (11)	
MR ≥3+	29 (4)	1 (2)	14 (4)	14 (6)	0.401
Acute HF	13 (2)	1 (2)	6 (2)	6 (2)	0.856
AKI	14 (2)	1 (2)	9 (3)	4 (2)	0.667
Minor/major/disabling bleeding	44 (7)	4 (7)	26 (8)	14 (6)	0.614
Partial clip detachment	5 (1)	0 (0)	1 (0.3)	4 (2)	0.159
[†] In-hospital death	13 (2)	0 (0)	2 (1)	11 (4)	0.004
[†] In-hospital cardiac death	8 (1)	0 (0)	2 (1)	6 (3)	0.110
30-day outcomes					
MVARC device success	574 (88)	54 (93)	314 (92)	206 (81)	<0.001
MVARC procedural success	559 (86)	54 (93)	306 (89)	199 (79)	<0.001
Data are presented as n (%). [†] p-values are generated by Cox-Mantel analysis. AKI: acute kidney injury; HF: heart failure; LHI: left heart involvement; MR: mitral regurgitation; MVARC: Mitral Valve Academic Research Consortium; NI: no extra-mitral valve involvement; RHI: right heart involvement					

of LHI criteria in the RHI group. Nevertheless, this pathophysiological cascade might also occur in different ways, suggesting the influence of patient-related factors and comorbidities (e.g., underlying pulmonary disease), leading to distinct haemodynamic adaptations in response to severe MR.

Overall, the prevalence of different phenotypes of extra-MV cardiac involvement in candidates for TEER for significant PMR has never been comprehensively investigated. According to the results of our study, depicting a real-world contemporary cohort, 80% of patients presented with LV dilation and/or dysfunction: 58% with left atrium involvement, 38% with increased pulmonary artery pressure and/or significant tricuspid regurgitation, and 9% with impaired right ventricle to pulmonary circulation coupling. In a recent registry of patients undergoing TEER with PMR as the most prevalent aetiology, LV dysfunction (defined as LV ejection fraction <50%) and LV dilation (defined as LV end-systolic volume ≥40 mm) have been reported in 35% and 32% of patients, respectively¹⁶. In our study, the prevalence of atrial fibrillation is consistent with previous studies, in which atrial fibrillation burden was found to be as high as 50-67%^{17,18}. By contrast, the observed prevalence of pulmonary circulation and right ventricular involvement is lower than reported by Shamekhi et al¹⁹, likely because of the different echocardiographic parameters used for defining right heart remodelling.

ACUTE AND 30-DAY PROCEDURAL RESULTS ACCORDING TO EXTRA-MV CARDIAC INVOLVEMENT

Despite distinct baseline clinical and echocardiographic features according to the study groups, TEER with the MitraClip device was performed safely in all patient groups and was demonstrated to be effective in terms of acute technical success, showing that extra-MV cardiac involvement *per se* does not affect acute results. Similarly, no significant differences were observed across the spectrum of extra-MV cardiac involvement with respect to acute kidney injury, bleeding complications or acute heart failure rates. However, as regards 30-day procedural outcomes, RHI patients showed lower rates of MVARC device and procedural success, as well as more frequent in-hospital death. These findings likely suggest that this phenotype deserves more clinical attention, especially in case of suboptimal postprocedural results^{7,20}.

MIDTERM PROGNOSTIC IMPACT OF CARDIAC INVOLVEMENT IN PRIMARY MR

The frailty of patients with LV dilatation and dysfunction, new-onset atrial fibrillation, or pulmonary hypertension, even in the absence of symptoms, has been underlined by the indications for MV surgery in current guidelines⁴. However, these red flags for procedural timing have been neglected in those patients who are unsuitable for cardiac surgery. In line with this, we sought to

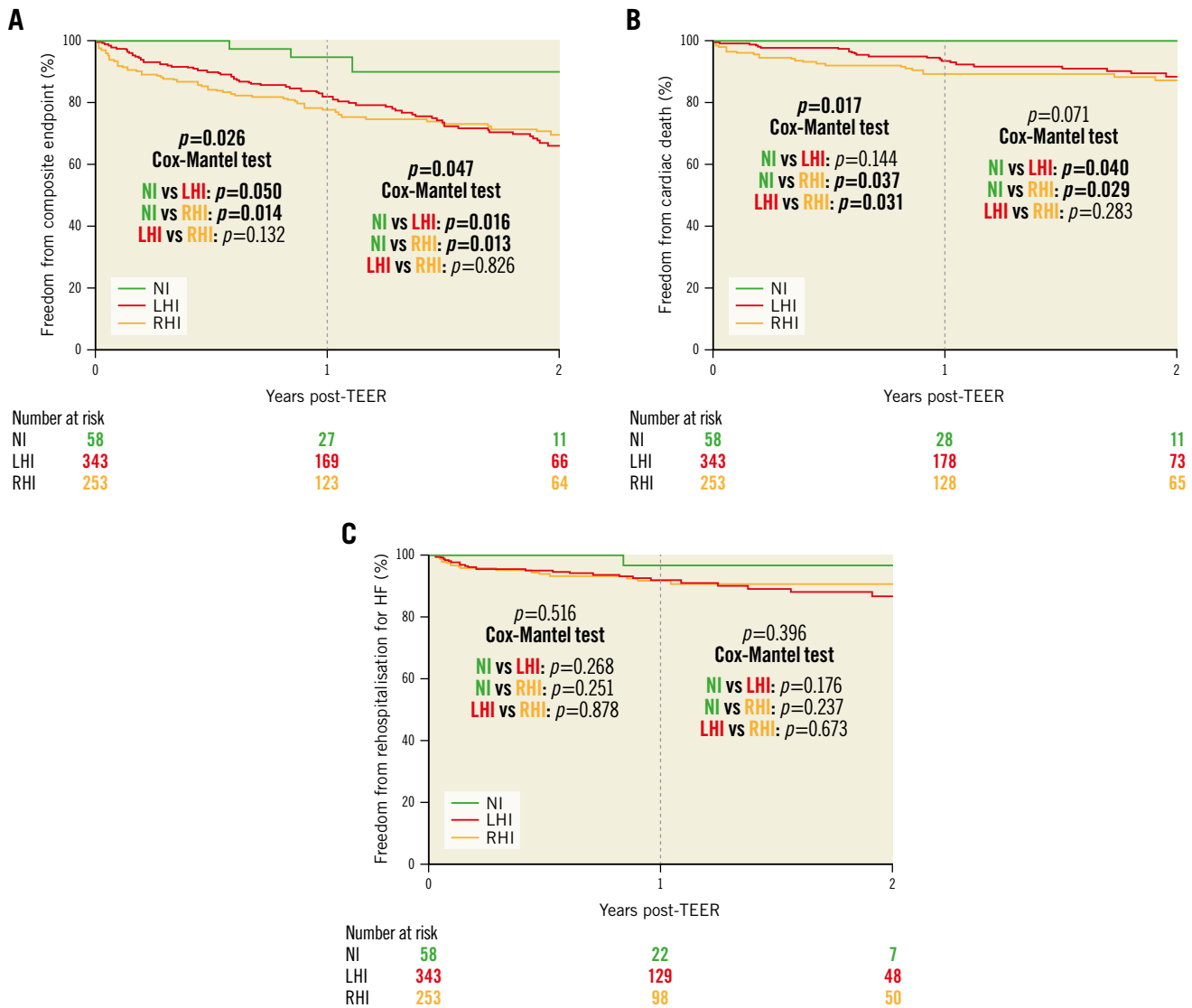


Figure 2. Unadjusted Kaplan-Meier survival estimates for the occurrence of the secondary endpoints. Plots of survival free from the composite endpoint of all-cause death or rehospitalisation for heart failure (HF) (A), cardiac death (B) and HF rehospitalisation (C), in patients stratified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement. P-values are bold only when statistically significant (<0.05). LHI: left heart involvement; NI: no extra-mitral valve involvement; RHI: right heart involvement; TEER: transcatheter edge-to-edge repair

characterise extra-MV cardiac involvement phenotypes by combining different parameters exploring both left and right heart anatomy and function and assessing their prognostic value. Accordingly, in the present study, an intuitive and practical classification system was applied including factors mirroring the extent of extra-MV cardiac involvement, which were tested in a real-world setting. The examined parameters were selected from those associated with adverse outcomes in previous studies²¹⁻²⁵.

To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first midterm analysis showing the association between heart chamber involvement and worse midterm outcome in terms of all-cause mortality in patients with PMR treated with TEER. Interestingly, while RHI exhibited the lowest survival rate at 1-year follow-up, Kaplan Meier analysis did not reveal significant differences

with LHI after 2 years following the procedure. This may be partly explained by a decreasing sample size and lower number of events. Additionally, a certain degree of group crossover should be considered, since LHI patients may develop RHI as the duration of follow-up increases. Nevertheless, we cannot assume MitraClip treatment to be futile in these patients, since symptomatic improvement was observed at 2-year follow up regardless of the burden of extra-MV involvement.

The rationale for early treatment would be to prevent pathological changes from occurring, thus preserving normal ventricular and atrial chamber dimensions and function, sinus rhythm, and better long-term valve function. Consistently, early MV surgery is associated with better long-term outcomes in terms of survival and new-onset heart failure, compared with initial medical management²⁶.

Table 3. Primary and secondary clinical endpoints in the entire study cohort and three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement at 1- and 2-year follow-up.

	Entire study cohort (n=654)	NI (n=58)	LHI (n=343)	RHI (n=253)	p-value
1-year follow-up					
All-cause death	78 (15)	1 (3)	36 (14)	41 (20)	0.010
All-cause death and/ or rehospitalisation for HF	97 (18)	2 (5)	48 (18)	47 (22)	0.026
Cardiac death	35 (7)	0 (0)	14 (6)	21 (11)	0.017
Rehospitalisation for HF	33 (7)	1 (3)	18 (8)	14 (8)	0.516
2-year follow-up					
All-cause death	108 (25)	2 (7)	57 (27)	49 (27)	0.041
All-cause death and/ or rehospitalisation for HF	132 (31)	3 (10)	73 (34)	56 (30)	0.047
Cardiac death	46 (11)	0 (0)	23 (11)	23 (13)	0.071
Rehospitalisation for HF	39 (11)	1 (3)	23 (13)	15 (9)	0.396

Data are presented as n (%). All percentages are Kaplan-Meier estimates at the specific timepoint and, thus, do not equal the number of events divided by the total number of patients in the treatment group. P-values are generated by Cox-Mantel analysis. HF: heart failure; LHI: left heart involvement; NI: no extra-mitral valve involvement; RHI: right heart involvement

Table 4. Primary endpoint-related univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis in the entire study cohort.

	Univariate analysis*			Multivariate analysis		
	HR	95% CI	p-value	HR	95% CI	p-value
Age, per 1-year increase	1.338	0.919-1.948	0.092			
NYHA Class III/IV	1.963	1.155-3.337	0.013			
Diabetes mellitus	1.684	1.106-2.565	0.015			
Haemoglobin, per 1-g/dL increase	0.791	0.700-0.895	<0.001	0.801	0.703-0.912	0.001
Technical success	0.163	0.082-0.324	<0.001	0.164	0.062-0.435	<0.001
NI	reference			reference		
LHI	4.315	1.053-17.675	0.344	4.726	1.116-20.010	0.035
RHI	5.184	1.261-21.308	0.022	4.245	1.010-17.845	0.048

Data are presented as hazard ratio (HR) with 95% confidence interval (CI) and p-values. *Only statistically significant covariates are reported. LHI: left heart involvement; NI: no extra-mitral valve involvement; NYHA: New York Heart Association; RHI: right heart involvement

Our results corroborate the hypothesis that this could also be the case in the transcatheter framework. Nevertheless, whether early TEER treatment might prevent progression to prognostically less favourable cardiac remodelling phenotypes remains to be determined in prospective trials.

Recent studies have demonstrated the utility of characterising the extent of cardiac involvement among patients presenting with severe aortic stenosis²⁷, moderate and severe secondary MR^{28,29}, or severe PMR undergoing surgery¹¹. In line with this, our findings suggest that more emphasis should be given to a systematic and comprehensive evaluation of anatomical and functional cardiac remodelling associated with PMR as a meaningful element impacting on midterm prognosis after transcatheter repair. The identification of extra-MV cardiac involvement can be easily

performed and, therefore, could be taken into consideration in patient selection, to improve risk stratification and to potentially guide the timing of an intervention.

Limitations

The present study has some limitations that should be acknowledged. The most relevant is related to its non-randomised, observational design. Patient selection and ascertainment bias may have influenced event rates. Although we performed a multivariable Cox regression model with a large number of covariates, the influence of unmeasured confounders cannot be excluded. Moreover, the evaluation of MR was based mainly on qualitative parameters. However, it is worth mentioning that in MV prolapse or leaflet flail, regurgitant jets are often very eccentric, and poor alignment

does not allow for adequate quantification of MR severity³⁰. In addition, an independent core lab to adjudicate echocardiographic data was not available, and a uniform protocol for postprocedural MR assessment was not clearly established. Lastly, midterm follow-up data were obtained with clinical visits (40%) and telephone calls (60%), and, therefore, outpatient assessments including New York Heart Association Functional Class and echocardiography at follow-up were incomplete and did not allow evaluation of the evolution of cardiac remodelling. In view of this, our results should be considered as hypothesis-generating, stimulating further investigations into an optimal treatment strategy (timing and selection) in patients suffering from PMR.

Conclusions

The classification of patients with PMR undergoing TEER into groups according to extra-MV cardiac involvement provides prognostic value in terms of postinterventional outcome. Grading cardiac remodelling may help refine risk stratification and timing of the procedure, since being in ≥ 1 group of extra-MV cardiac involvement represents in itself a negative predictor of midterm outcome.

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Impact on daily practice

Adequate risk stratification and timely indication for TEER in patients with severe primary MR remain a clinical challenge. This new classification system can be easily performed and suggests that more emphasis should be given to a systematic and comprehensive evaluation of anatomical and functional cardiac remodelling associated with PMR. Extra-MV cardiac involvement phenotyping might be taken into consideration in patient selection to improve the management and potentially guide the timing of an intervention. Larger prospective studies will be necessary to confirm whether early transcatheter treatment of PMR might prevent disease progression to prognostically less favourable cardiac remodelling phenotypes.

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Conflict of interest statement

M. Adamo, C. Grasso, P. Denti, A. Giordano, A.L. Bartorelli, M. Montorfano, A.S. Petronio, C. Tamburino and F. Bedogni received consultation and/or speaker fees from Abbott, outside the submitted work. The other authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Supplementary data

Supplementary Table 1. Two-year composite endpoint-related univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis in the entire study cohort.

Supplementary Table 2. Changes from baseline to 1-year follow-up of echocardiographic features in the entire study cohort and in the three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement.

Supplementary Table 3. Changes from baseline to 2-year follow-up of echocardiographic features in the entire study cohort and in the three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement.

Supplementary Figure 1. Variations from baseline to 2-year follow-up of New York Heart Association Functional Class and mitral regurgitation severity.

Supplementary Figure 2. Variations from baseline to 2-year follow-up of echocardiographic features.

The supplementary data are published online at:

<https://eurointervention.pcronline.com/>

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Supplementary data

Supplementary Table 1. Two-year composite endpoint-related univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis in the entire study cohort.

	Univariate analysis*			Multivariate analysis		
	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value
Age, per 1-year increase	1.362	0.969 – 1.914	0.075			
NYHA class III/IV	1.690	1.069 – 2.670	0.025			
Diabetes mellitus	1.803	1.237 – 2.627	0.002			
Coronary artery disease	1.435	1.004 – 2.052	0.047			
Previous hospitalization for HF	1.683	1.185 – 2.391	0.004			
Haemoglobin	0.788	0.704 – 0.882	<0.001	0.777	0.683 – 0.884	<0.001
Loop diuretics, per 25 mg increase	1.683	1.185 – 2.391	0.004	1.002	1.000 -1.004	0.022
Technical success	0.208	0.106 – 0.409	<0.001	0.180	0.068 – 0.477	0.001
NI	reference			reference		
LHI	3.736	1.178 – 11.854	0.025	5.524	1.303 – 23.425	0.020
RHI	3.955	1.238 – 12.628	0.020	4.229	1.004 – 17.820	0.049

HF: heart failure. LHI: left heart involvement. NI: non extra mitral-valve involvement. RHI: right heart involvement.

Data are presented as hazard ratio (HR) with 95% confidence interval (CI) and *p* values.

*Only statistically significant covariates are reported.

Supplementary Table 2. Changes from baseline to 1-year follow-up of echocardiographic features in the entire study cohort and in the three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement.

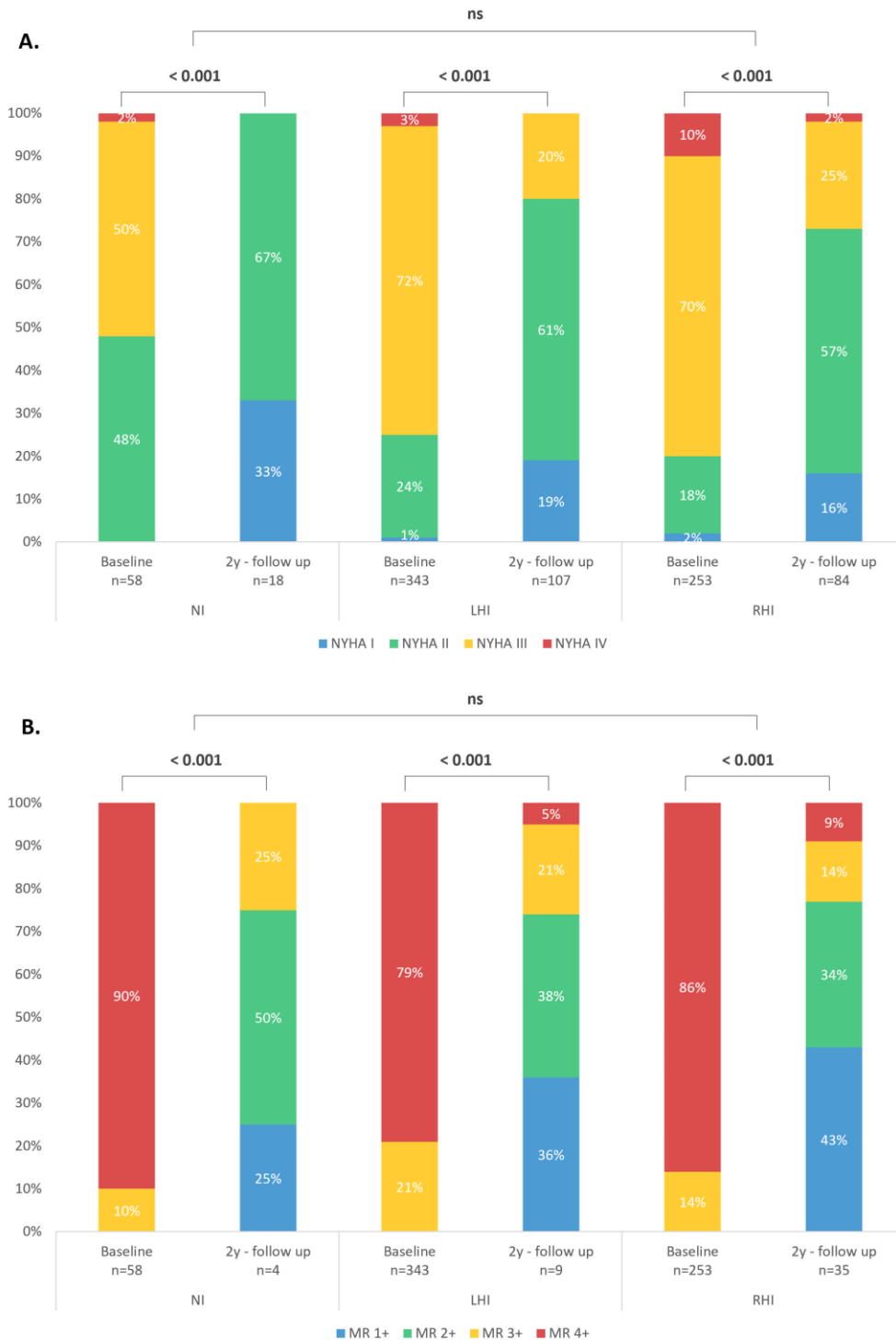
	Entire study cohort			NI			LHI			RHI		
	baseline (n = 654)	1-year follow-up (n = 167)	<i>P</i> value	baseline (n = 58)	1-year follow-up (n = 14)	<i>P</i> value	baseline (n = 343)	1-year follow-up (n = 92)	<i>P</i> value	baseline (n = 253)	1-year follow-up (n = 61)	<i>P</i> value
MR, n (%)			<0.001			<0.001			<0.001			<0.001
mild	0	65 (39)		0 (0)	5 (36)		0 (0)	36 (39)		0 (0)	24 (39)	
moderate	0	80 (48)		0 (0)	9 (64)		0 (0)	44 (48)		0 (0)	27 (44)	
moderate-to-severe	113 (17)	15 (9)		6 (10)	0 (0)		72 (21)	8 (9)		35 (14)	7 (12)	
severe	541 (83)	7 (4)		52 (90)	0 (0)		271 (79)	4 (4)		218 (86)	3 (5)	
LVEDD (mm)	55 ± 9	54 ± 11	0.086	51 ± 6	48 ± 6	0.212	56 ± 9	54 ± 11	0.072	55 ± 9	55 ± 11	0.942
LVESD (mm)	37 ± 11	35 ± 11	0.785	29 ± 6	28 ± 11	0.575	39 ± 11	36 ± 10	0.0825	37 ± 11	36 ± 10	0.707
LVEDV (mL)	126 ± 51	117 ± 49	<0.001	104 ± 28	102 ± 26	0.824	131 ± 52	114 ± 44	<0.001	126 ± 52	123 ± 48	0.077
LVEDVi (ml/m ²)	71 ± 27	66 ± 24	<0.001	59 ± 13	58 ± 12	0.859	73 ± 28	65 ± 26	<0.001	71 ± 29	68 ± 24	0.100
LVESV (mL)	60 ± 36	57 ± 35	0.297	34 ± 11	38 ± 12	0.261	65 ± 37	56 ± 29	0.081	60 ± 36	63 ± 43	0.907
LVESVi (ml/m ²)	34 ± 19	32 ± 19	0.344	19 ± 5	21 ± 6	0.286	36 ± 20	32 ± 18	0.103	34 ± 19	34 ± 22	0.898
LVEF (%)	53 ± 12	51 ± 11	0.242	68 ± 4	61 ± 5	0.003	50 ± 12	51 ± 11	0.310	54 ± 12	49 ± 12	0.137
LAD (mm)	50 ± 11	50 ± 12	0.764	43 ± 6	38 ± 16	0.944	50 ± 11	49 ± 10	0.602	51 ± 12	54 ± 10	0.964
TR, n (%)			0.907			0.480			0.019			0.033
none	22 (3)	3 (2)		4 (7)	1 (8)		16 (4)	2 (2)		2 (1)	0 (0)	
mild	264 (40)	68 (43)		39 (67)	8 (61)		184 (54)	43 (48)		41 (16)	17 (30)	
moderate	266 (41)	71 (45)		15 (26)	4 (31)		143 (42)	40 (45)		108 (43)	27 (48)	
severe	102 (16)	16 (10)		0 (0)	0 (0)		0 (0)	4 (5)		102 (40)	12 (22)	
sPAP (mmHg)	48 ± 15	40 ± 12	<0.001	38 ± 8	35 ± 6	0.929	39 ± 8	40 ± 11	0.638	61 ± 13	42 ± 14	<0.001

LAD: left atrial diameter. LHI: left heart involvement. LVEDD: left ventricular end-diastolic diameter. LVEDV: left ventricular end-diastolic volume. LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction. LVESD: left ventricular end-systolic diameter. LVESV: left ventricular end-systolic volume. MR: mitral regurgitation. NI: non extra mitral-valve involvement. i: index. RHI: right heart involvement. sPAP: systolic pulmonary arterial pressure. TR: tricuspidal regurgitation.

Supplementary Table 3. Changes from baseline to 2-year follow-up of echocardiographic features in the entire study cohort and in the three subgroups identified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement.

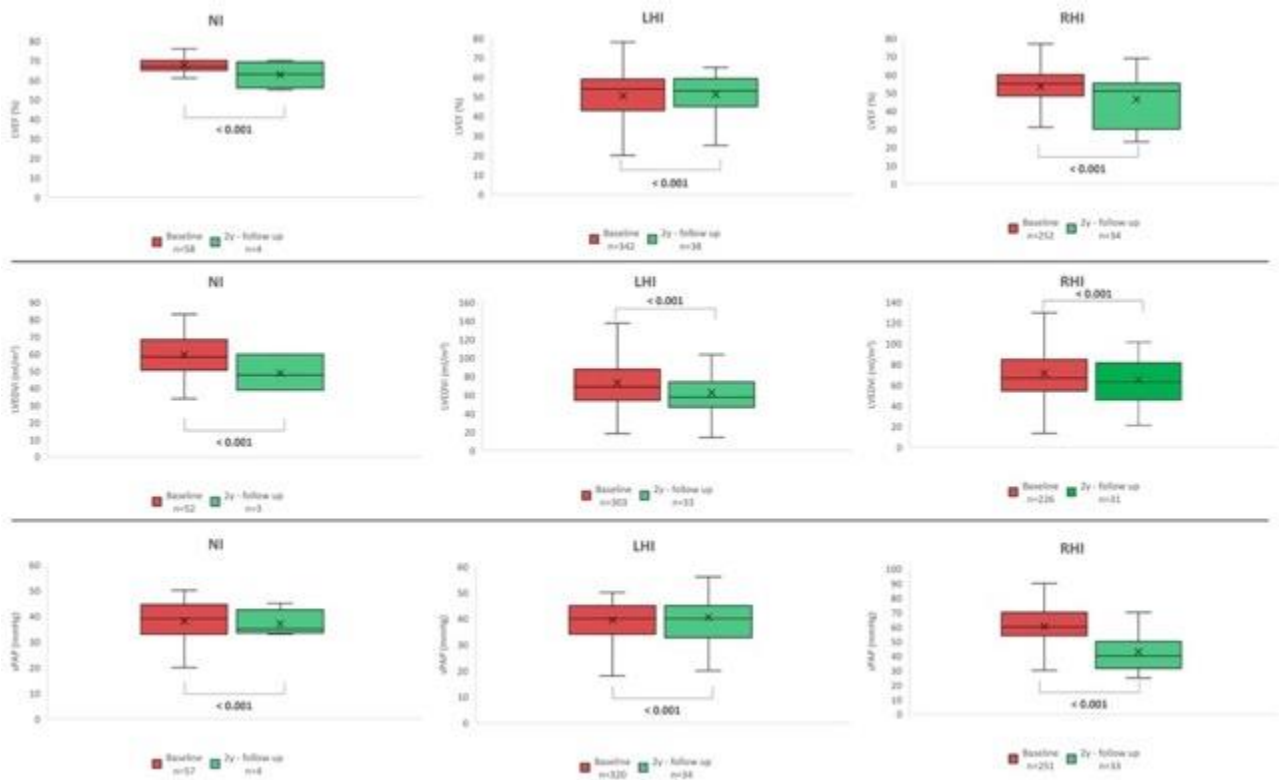
	Entire study cohort			NI			LHI			RHI		
	baseline (n = 654)	2-year follow-up (n = 78)	<i>P</i> value	baseline (n = 58)	2-year follow-up (n = 4)	<i>P</i> value	baseline (n = 343)	2-year follow-up (n = 39)	<i>P</i> value	baseline (n = 253)	2-year follow-up (n = 35)	<i>P</i> value
MR, n (%)			<0.001			<0.001			<0.001			<0.001
mild	0	30 (38)		0 (0)	1 (25)		0 (0)	14 (36)		0 (0)	15 (43)	
moderate	0	29 (37)		0 (0)	2 (50)		0 (0)	15 (38)		0 (0)	12 (34)	
moderate-to-severe	113 (17)	14 (18)		6 (10)	1 (25)		72 (21)	8 (21)		35 (14)	5 (14)	
severe	541 (83)	5 (7)		52 (90)	0 (0)		271 (79)	2 (5)		218 (86)	3 (9)	
LVEDD (mm)	55 ± 9	53 ± 11	0.051	51 ± 6	48 ± 7	0.285	56 ± 9	53 ± 9	0.707	55 ± 9	53 ± 12	0.039
LVESD (mm)	37 ± 11	36 ± 12	0.651	29 ± 6	38 ± 3	0.317	39 ± 11	36 ± 13	0.615	37 ± 11	35 ± 12	0.449
LVEDV (mL)	126 ± 51	109 ± 44	0.001	104 ± 28	81 ± 8	0.276	131 ± 52	107 ± 34	0.006	126 ± 52	114 ± 53	0.027
LVEDVi (ml/m ²)	71 ± 27	63 ± 25	0.002	59 ± 13	49 ± 10	0.285	73 ± 28	62 ± 22	0.007	71 ± 29	65 ± 28	0.026
LVESV (mL)	60 ± 36	57 ± 38	0.315	34 ± 11	28 ± 6	0.180	65 ± 37	55 ± 33	0.153	60 ± 36	62 ± 43	0.650
LVESVi (ml/m ²)	34 ± 19	33 ± 22	0.336	19 ± 5	16 ± 1	0.180	36 ± 20	32 ± 21	0.183	34 ± 19	35 ± 23	0.689
LVEF (%)	53 ± 12	50 ± 12	0.022	68 ± 4	63 ± 7	<0.001	50 ± 12	51 ± 11	0.001	54 ± 12	47 ± 13	<0.001
LAD (mm)	50 ± 11	51 ± 12	0.603	43 ± 6	42 ± 3	0.987	50 ± 11	52 ± 16	0.588	51 ± 12	51 ± 9	0.570
TR, n (%)			0.575			0.157			0.042			0.142
none	22 (3)	1 (1)		4 (7)	1 (25)		16 (4)	1 (3)		2 (1)	0 (0)	
mild	264 (40)	22 (39)		39 (67)	3 (75)		184 (54)	12 (33)		41 (16)	9 (26)	
moderate	266 (41)	49 (54)		15 (26)	0 (0)		143 (42)	20 (56)		108 (43)	17 (50)	
severe	102 (16)	11 (15)		0 (0)	0 (0)		0 (0)	3 (8)		102 (40)	8 (24)	
sPAP (mmHg)	48 ± 15	42 ± 13	<0.001	38 ± 8	37 ± 5	0.066	39 ± 8	41 ± 12	0.523	61 ± 13	43 ± 19	<0.001

LAD: left atrial diameter. LHI: left heart involvement. LVEDD: left ventricular end-diastolic diameter. LVEDV: left ventricular end-diastolic volume. LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction. LVESD: left ventricular end-systolic diameter. LVESV: left ventricular end-systolic volume. MR: mitral regurgitation. NI: non extra mitral-valve involvement. i: index. RHI: right heart involvement. sPAP: systolic pulmonary arterial pressure. TR: tricuspidal regurgitation.



Supplementary Figure 1. Variations from baseline to 2-year follow-up of New York Heart Association Functional Class and mitral regurgitation severity.

Variations from baseline to 2-year follow-up of New York Heart Association functional class (panel A) and mitral regurgitation severity (panel B) in patients stratified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement group. NYHA = New York Heart Association; MR = mitral regurgitation



Supplementary Figure 2. Variations from baseline to 2-year follow-up of echocardiographic features.

Variations from baseline to 2-year follow-up of echocardiographic features in patients stratified according to extra-mitral valve cardiac involvement group. LVEDVi = end-diastolic volume index; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; sPAP = systolic pulmonary artery pressure.