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Surgical Remodeling in Heart Failure

Alternative to Transplantation

Despite all efforts and success in medical treatment, the incidence of (end-stage) chronic heart failure is increasing. Cardiac transplantation remains the only definite option; however, due to the shortage of donor organs, very few people benefit. Therefore, surgery of end-stage heart failure using conventional techniques has gained new interest after the introduction of the Batista operation. However, a clear surgical identification of the patients to be included in this group is lacking. Left ventricular reduction surgery as well as reduction of the base of the heart using mitral annuloplasty or mitral valve replacement, sparing both papillary muscles, is used in selected patients with satisfying results and good survival. Long-term mechanical support with subsequent surgical remodeling or supporting myoplasty may result in a beneficial alternative to heart transplantation.

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