

Cardiac Surgery in Chronic Renal Failure

Edited by

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USA

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Contents

Contributors, vii

Acknowledgements, ix

Preface, x

Foreword, xi

- 1** Dialysis and the chronic renal failure patient, 1
Ejike O. Obasi, Rakhi Khanna, Vidya Naidu, Kelly E. Guglielmi, Demetrios Zikos
- 2** Percutaneous coronary revascularization in patients with end-stage renal disease, 19
Charles A. Herzog, Khalid Ashai
- 3** Cardiopulmonary bypass in patients with chronic renal failure: techniques and management, 51
Michael A. Sobieski II, Mark S. Slaughter
- 4** Coronary artery bypass grafting in dialysis-dependent renal failure patients, 63
Matthew Forrester, William Cohn
- 5** Surgical treatment of valvular heart disease in end-stage renal failure, 75
Mark S. Slaughter
- 6** Surgical evaluation and treatment of uremic pericarditis, 83
Rosemary F. Kelly, Sara J. Shumway

Index, 95

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Preface

Cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of death in patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). The diagnosis, management, and treatment of cardiac disease in ESRD remain a difficult problem for clinicians. In 1982, Love and co-authors published “Cardiac Surgery in Patients with Chronic Renal Disease” which compiled the latest and best treatment options at that time. Amazingly, many of the clinical experiences were based on treatment outcomes of fewer than 10 patients. The chapter on valves reported on a total of 11 patients on dialysis that had a replacement over a 10-year period at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Although important at that time, it was difficult to draw conclusions or make recommendations based on such small experiences. Clearly, we have more experience now but the morbidity and mortality of the treatment of cardiac disease remain very high in this group of patients.

Hopefully, this book will act as a catalyst to get more clinicians involved in looking for solutions to reduce the burden of cardiac disease in ESRD. Most chapters have some overlap of information. This was not an oversight but done on purpose. The book is designed to be read by a resident, fellow, or practicing clinician as individual chapters of interest. Hopefully, the information in that chapter will stimulate them to read additional sections to give them a more comprehensive review of the overall state of the surgical treatment of cardiovascular disease in ESRD.

As the number of patients with chronic renal failure and ESRD continues to expand, it is imperative that we have an increased awareness and knowledge of the effect of cardiovascular disease on their health and quality of life. It was my goal and that of my coauthors that this book will serve as a resource for some and a calling for others as we strive to improve outcomes and reduce the impact of cardiovascular disease in ESRD.