

# The 4th Conference of Working Group in Congenital Heart Diseases of Polish Society of Cardiology

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Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common developmental anomaly and represents about 1% of all live-born children. Recent progress in cardiac surgery and pediatric cardiology has resulted in large numbers of adult patients who have surgically corrected complex congenital heart defects. It is estimated that about 85% of newborns with heart defects will reach adulthood. The population of adults with congenital heart disease is heterogeneous with respect to the type and complexity of the defect as well as the clinical manifestations. In many patients congenital heart disease, after corrective surgery in the childhood, does not significantly affect their adult life. However, some of them require multispecialist care. The 4th Conference of Working Group in Congenital Heart Diseases of Polish Society of Cardiology took place on 31st of May 2014 in Krakow, Poland. This conference is held every year, attracting cardiologists who are interested in congenital heart diseases in adults.

Its objective is to present the latest achievements in the field of diagnosing and treating congenital heart defects, to exchange views, and to establish cooperation. The event was conducted in 4 sessions pertaining to: 1) Arrhythmias in congenital heart diseases,

2) Thromboembolic complications in adults with congenital heart diseases, 3) Coarctation of the aorta, 4) Valvular heart diseases in patients with congenital heart diseases, 5) Pulmonary hypertension in congenital heart diseases. The lectures were held by the most outstanding specialists in congenital heart diseases.

The keynote lecture entitled “Adult with congenital heart diseases – what we can expect?” was given by Professor Bohdan Maruszewski, who explained why managing adults patients with congenital heart diseases has become a burning medical and public health problem all over the world. The Professor emphasized the fact, that especially in Poland the number of adults with single ventricle after Fontan procedure will be increased.

The first session was dedicated to arrhythmias in adult with congenital heart diseases. Professor Maria Olszowska (Krakow) presented pathomechanisms of arrhythmias. Scarring after atrial incision, site of synthetic fabric sewing and atrial remodeling predispose to arrhythmias. Professor Gasior (Katowice) very clearly analyzed the risk of sudden cardiac death in this group of patients. Professor Barbara Malecka (Krakow) discussed the indication for pacemaker implantation and resynchronization therapy. Professor Zbigniew Karalus, the President of Polish Society of Cardiology presented the results of percutaneous treatments of arrhythmia in adults with congenital heart diseases.



**Figure 1.** The conference was attended by 150 participants. Professor Piotr Hoffman (Warszawa), Professor Brzezinska-Rajszys (Warszawa), Professor Jacek Rozanski (Warszawa), Professor Piotr Podolec (Krakow), Professor Maria Olszowska (Krakow), Professor Wieslawa Tracz (Krakow), Professor Jadwiga Moll (Lodz), Professor Youri Iwaniv (Lwow)



**Figure 2.** Professor Jadwiga Moll (Lodz) discussed posters with young researchers: Monika Smas-Suska, Pawel Prochownik, Marcin Waligora



**Figure 3.** Professor Gasior (Katowice) during the lecture



**Figure 4.** Doktor Lidia Tomkiewicz-Pajak (Krakow) – The Head of the Working Group of Grown-up Congenital Heart Diseases in Adults of Polish Society of Cardiology presented thromboembolic complication in adults after Fontan procedure

Although the prevalence, risk factors, and management of thromboembolic complication in some of congenital heart diseases have been well described, for the management of others there is a paucity of data, and controversy exists even among experts. During the next session Assoc Professor Miroslaw Kowalski presented the prevalence and risk factor of thromboembolic complication in adult with congenital heart diseases. Doctor Monika Komar discussed the indication for persistent foramen ovale closure. Professor Anetta Undas very clearly presented indication for primary prevention and treatment of thromboembolic complication. Thrombosis is an important cause of morbidity and mortality for patients after Fontan procedure. This subject were discussed by doctor Lidia Tomkiewicz-Pajak.

During the last session interesting and rare cases presented by Professor Aldona Siwinska, Professor Katarzyna Mizia-Stec, Professor Anna Klisiewicz and doctor Monika Komar were discussed.

All lectures were very stimulating and generated interesting discussions between the experts and the participants.

In conclusion, it was an important congress, exhibiting the interdisciplinary complementarity of various subspecialties concerned with the treatment of congenital heart defects in adolescents and adults.

During the next session a very important and relevant subject-pulmonary hypertension in patients with congenital diseases was discussed. Professor Piotr Hoffman presented the frequency of occurrence and diagnostic methods. Doctor Grzegorz Kopec showed new possibility of treatment. The survival rates of patients with Eisenmenger's syndrome are better than those with idiopathic pulmonary hypertension. For this reason, Potts anastomosis (connecting the descending aorta with the left pulmonary artery) has been effectively used in children with primary pulmonary hypertension, resulting in the improvement of their survival rates and functional class. Assoc. Professor Tomasz Mroczek presented the case report of patient after this procedure.

The third teaching session, was dedicated to coarctation of the aorta. Professor Brzezinska-Rajszyś presented the pathophysiology of the coarctation of the aorta, Assoc Professor Jacek Kolcz showed the methods of surgical treatment, while dr Tomasz Pawelec presented the case reports of patients treated using percutaneous angioplasty of the coarctation of the aorta. Late follow-up of threaded patients showed Professor Olga Trojnarśka.

# Information for authors

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## Aims and scope

Journal of Rare Cardiovascular Diseases (JRCD) is an international, quarterly, peer reviewed journal that keeps cardiologists up to date with rare disorders of heart and vessels. Topics covered include congenital heart defects, cardiomyopathies, rhythm abnormalities, rare forms of arterial hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, cardiac tumors and other rare diseases affecting heart and vessels such as connective tissue diseases, metabolic disorders, neuro-muscular diseases another unclassified rare diseases.

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