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Title: Minimally invasive repair of pectus excavatum: A single institution experience

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Body: Minimally invasive repair of pectus excavatum (MIRPE) has become the treatment of choice in many centers in the recent years due to the successful surgical outcomes. The aim of this study was to investigate the results of MIRPE at our institute. Two hundred and fifty cases who had had MIRPE between August 2005 and February 2012 were included in the study and they were evaluated retrospectively according to the demographics, form of the deformity, number of retrosternal bars, operation duration, perioperative and postoperative complications, length of hospital stay, reoperations, bar removal and patient satisfaction. Two hundred and three of the patients were male, 47 were female and the median age was 16.5 (range: 6-36). The deformity was symmetric in 180 and asymmetric in 70 cases. One pectus bar was used in 157 cases, two in 87, three in 6 cases for the correction of the deformity. The median operation duration was 60 minutes (range: 20-180) and the median duration of hospital stay was 5 days (range: 2-10). Thirteen patients were reoperated due to inefficient correction of the deformity. Bars of the 30 patients have been removed on planned date without any recurrence in all but one patient. According to the evaluation of the quality-of-life questionnaires 95% of the patients were satisfied with surgical outcome. Minimally invasive repair of pectus excavatum is a successful surgical technique and can be preferred for the short operating time, low morbidity and high levels of patient satisfaction.