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

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Body: Minimally invasive repair of pectus carinatum (MIRPC) has become an alternative technique to open surgery in recent years due to the successful surgical outcomes of the centers performing it. The aim of this study was to investigate the results of MIRPC at our institute. Fifty-eight cases who had had MIRPC between January 2006 and February 2012 were included in the study and were evaluated retrospectively according to the demographics, form of the deformity, number of presternal bars, operation duration, perioperative and postoperative complications, length of hospital stay, reoperations, bar removal and patient satisfaction. Fifty-four of the patients were male and the median age was 16.5 (range:10-27) in the series. The deformity was symmetric in 40 and asymmetric in 18 cases. Following the first 3 cases being operated on placing regular excavatum bars presternally, we developed our own carinatum bar and stabilizing system and modified it in years, using them in the rest of the paitents. One bar and two stabilizers were used in all patients for the correction of the deformity. The median operation duration was 60 minutes (range: 45-110) and the median duration of hospital stay was 5 days (range: 2-18). Excellent esthetic results obtained regarding the postoperative course, verified with the satisfaction questionnaires; all patients except one feeling satisfied with surgical outcome. The bars have been removed in 10 patients on planned time without any recurrence. Minimally invasive repair of pectus carinatum can be preferred for the short operating time, low morbidity and high levels of patient satisfaction.