# Acute Aortic Dissection

Dr.Hamidreza Vafaey Cardiovascular Surgeon

## **Aortic Dissection**

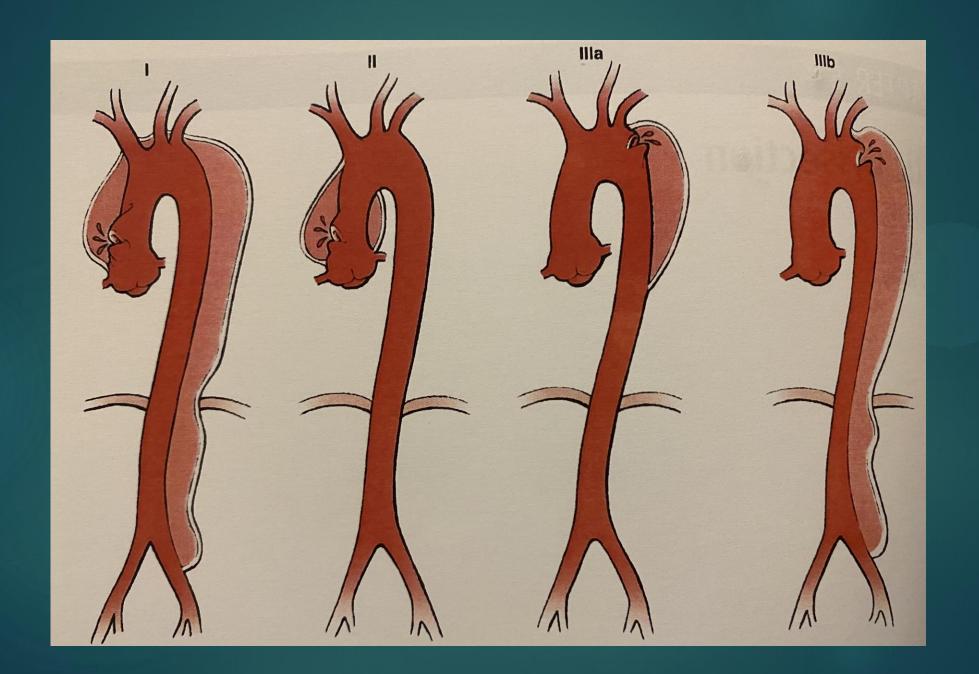
Thoracic aortic dissection occurs as blood flow is redirected from the aorta (true lumen) through on intimal tear into the media of the aortic wall (false lumen)

## Classification

Acute less than two weeks

Chronic Greater than two months

Subacute Between two weeks to two months



## Incidence

Aortic dissection is the most frequently diagnosed lethal condition of the aorta.

Three times more frequent than rupture of an A.A.A.

prevalence 0.5 to 2.95 per 100000 per year.

# **Etilogy And Pathogenesis**

Abnormality within the media

Cystic media necrosis

Intramural hematoma

Penetrating atherosclerotic ulcer

Hypertension is the mechanical force most often associated with dissection and is found in greater than 75% of cases.

Athero sclerosis is not a risk factor for aortic dissection except in preexisting; aneurisms or ulceration.

TABLE 50-2 Risk Factors for Type A and B Thoracic Aortic Dissection
Hypertension
Connective tissue disorders Ehlers-Danlos syndrome Marfan's disease Turner's syndrome
Cystic medial disease of aorta
Aortitis
latrogenic
Atherosclerosis
Thoracic aortic aneurysm
Bicuspid aortic valve
Trauma
Pharmacologic
Coarctation of the aorta
Hypervolemia (pregnancy)
Congenital aortic stenosis
Polycystic kidney disease
Pheochromocytoma
Sheehan's syndrome
Cushing's syndrome

## clinical presentation

40% of patients die immediately, diagnosis of aortic dissection requires a high level of suspicion.

Sever chest pain, anxiety, midsternum, inter scapular region, migratory pain, ripping pain.dissection may also present with malperfusion of brain, limb, visceral.

Patients suffering acute dissection appear ill. Tachycardia is usually accompanied by hypertension in the setting of baseline essential hypertension and increased catecholamine levels from pain and anxiety.

Hypotension and tachycardia may result from aortic rupture, pericardial tamponade, acute aortic valve regurgitation, or even acute myocardial ischemia with involvement of the coronary ostia.

An abnormal peripheral vascular examination is present in an minority of patients with acute aortic dissection.

A complete central and peripheral neurologic exam is critical in that abnormalities are present up to 40%.

Syncope, paraplegia, superior vena cava syndrome, vocal cord paralysis, hematemesis, Horner's syndrome, hemoptysis, and airway compression may be seen as a result of local compression and mass effect.

Chronic aortic dissection is usually asymptomatic. It may be incidentally discovered following an asymptomatic acute dissection, most often in patients with preexisting aortic aneurysm.

Presenting complaints often include intermittent, dull chest pain, or even severe skeletal pain from erosion into the bony thorax with large or rapidly expanding aneurysms.

Aortic insufficiency may develop with chronic type A dissection and present with typical feature of congestive failure. Including fatigue, dyspnea.

Infrequently, chronic dissection may result in paralysis/paraplegia from loss of vital intercostal arteries or even distal embolization of thrombus or atheroma from the false lumen.

## Diagnostic Studies

#### ► Blood tests:

Liver function tests, creatinine, myoglobin, and lactic acid may all be abnormal.

#### Chest x ray:

ischemic change are present in up to 20% of acute type A dissections.

#### **ECG**:

Chest x\_ray Normal CXR does not rule out the diagnosis.

The diagnosis should be made rapidly with minimal distress for the patient.

#### Diagnostic Imaging Study:

Computed Tomography, echocardiography(TEE), MRI/MRA, Angiography.

## Diagnostic Imaging

- Two imaging modalities currently meet these criteria and are used to diagnose acute aortic dissection: computed tomography(CT) and echocardiography.
- ► Helical CT scanning is widely available and is now the most frequently used test to diagnose acute aortic dissection.
- ▶ Transesophageal echocardiography(TEE) is currently second most frequently used study for making the diagnosis of acute aortic dissection.
- A negative transthoracicstudy should be complemented by a transesophageal study, which provides greater detail of the entire aorta.

Aortography was the first study used to diagnose acute dissection in 1939 and until recently was considered the gold standard for diagnosis.

Coronary angiography is not recommended given that the coronary ostic are involved in 10 to 20% of acute type A dissections and are easily evaluated at the time of surgery.

Coronary atherosclerosis is present in 25% of all patients with acute aortic dissection, but even in those patients repair of the dissection should take precedence.

MRI and MRA generate superior images reliably demonstrating aortic dissection.infact some consider this the gold standard imaging study given the published diagnostic accuracy.

# Diagnostic Strategy

► Stable patients

▶ Unstable patients

# Management Of Acute Type A Dissection

▶ Natural History

Initial Medical Management

Operative Indication

## **Natural History**

- ▶ 50% of patients suffering acute type A aortic dissection are dead within 48 hours if untreated.
- Acute type A dissection carries a" 1% per hour "mortality for missed diagnoses.
- ▶ In one study in octogenerians, type A dissection was managed medically in 28% of patients for various reason with a 58% in\_hospital mortality.

## Initial Medical Management

#### ▶ Pain control

Reduce catecholamine release and decrease the risk of rupture Narcotic most commonly used

### ► Hypertension Management

Immediate goal remains to achieve a target systolic blood pressure between 90 and 110 mm Hg with a target heart rate of less than 60 beats per minute.

After beta\_blocker treatment has been initiated, vasodilators such as sodium nitroprusside are used for further blood pressure control.

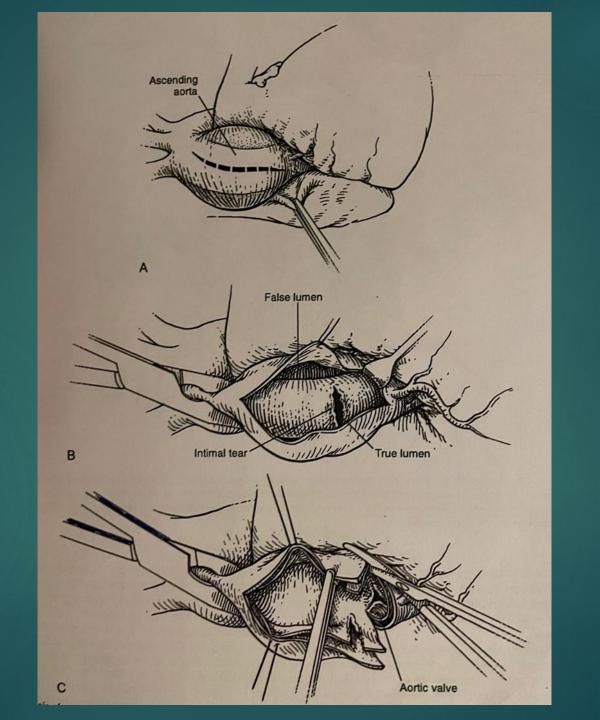
Loading doses for esmolol and sodium nitroprusside should be avoided to prevent hypotension.

## Operative Indications

The goals of surgery in acute type A dissection are to prevent aortic catastrophe.

Aortic catastrophe includes:

- 1 Aortic rupture into pericardium or pleural space
- 2 dissection and occlusion of the coronary ostia
- 3 progression to aortic valvular incompetence
- The presence of ascending aortic involvement is an indication for operative management in all but the highest\_risk patients.
- 1 patients greater than 80 years of age.
- 2 obtunded or comatose patients. (stroke or paraplegia are not contraindications to surgical correction.)



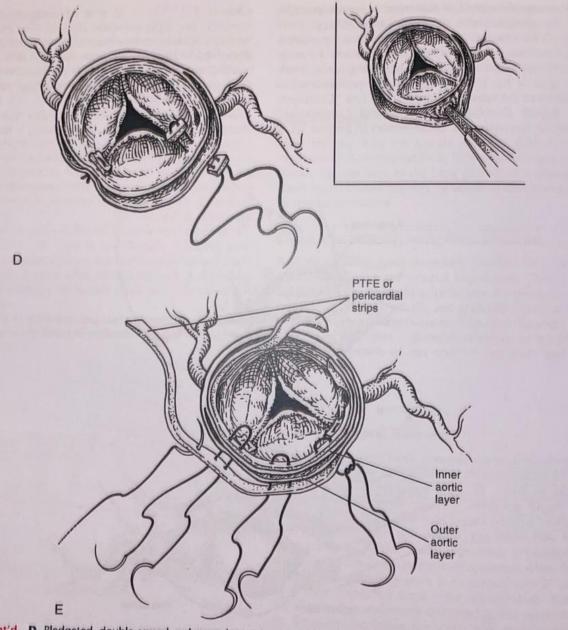
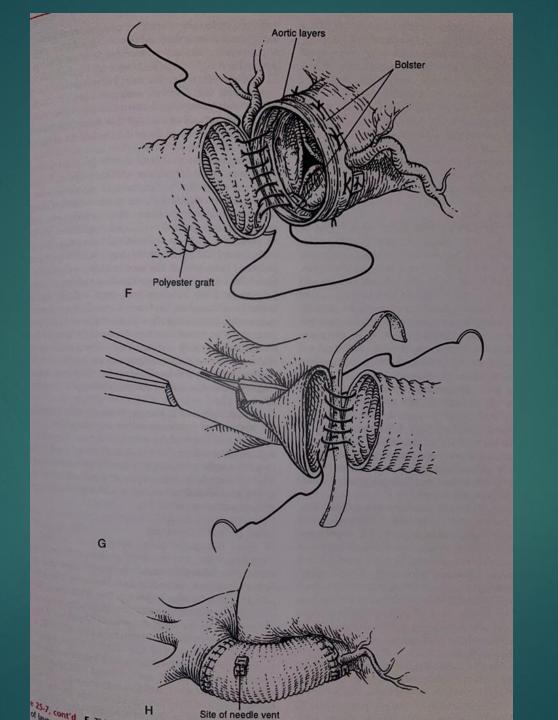
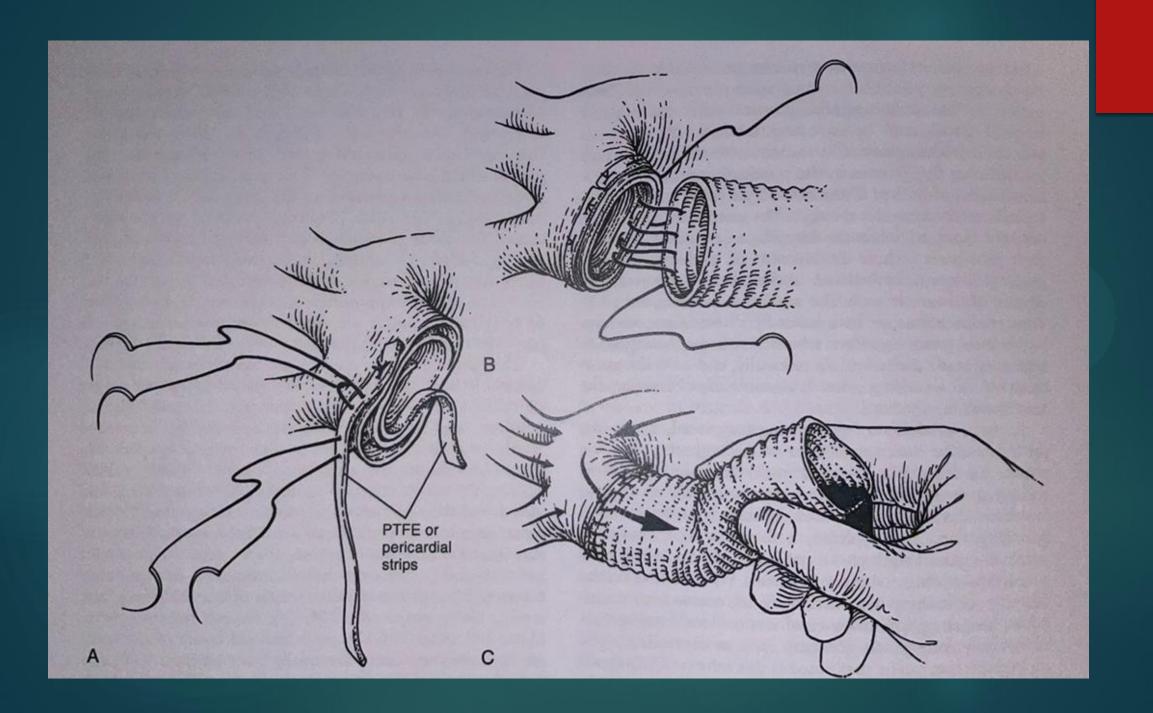
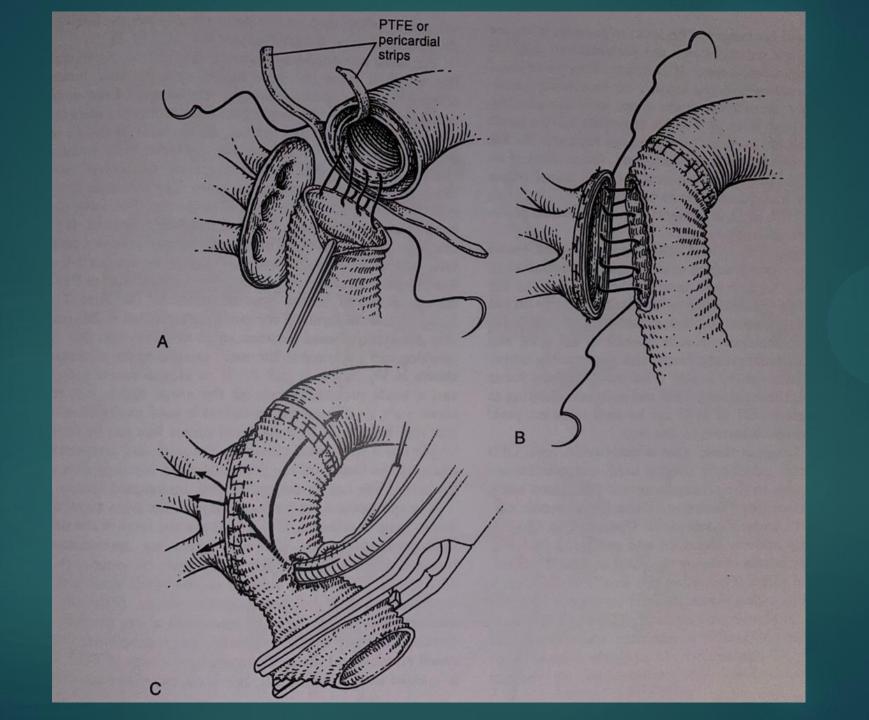
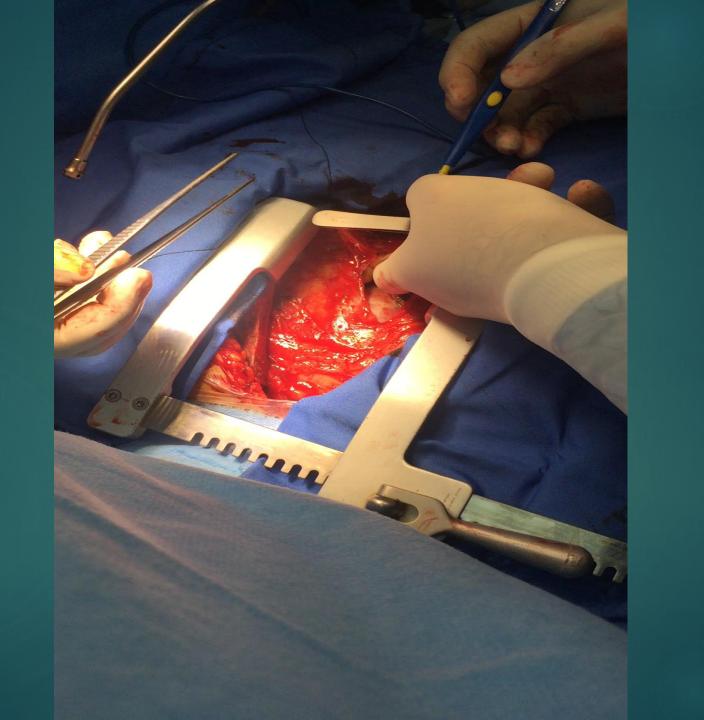


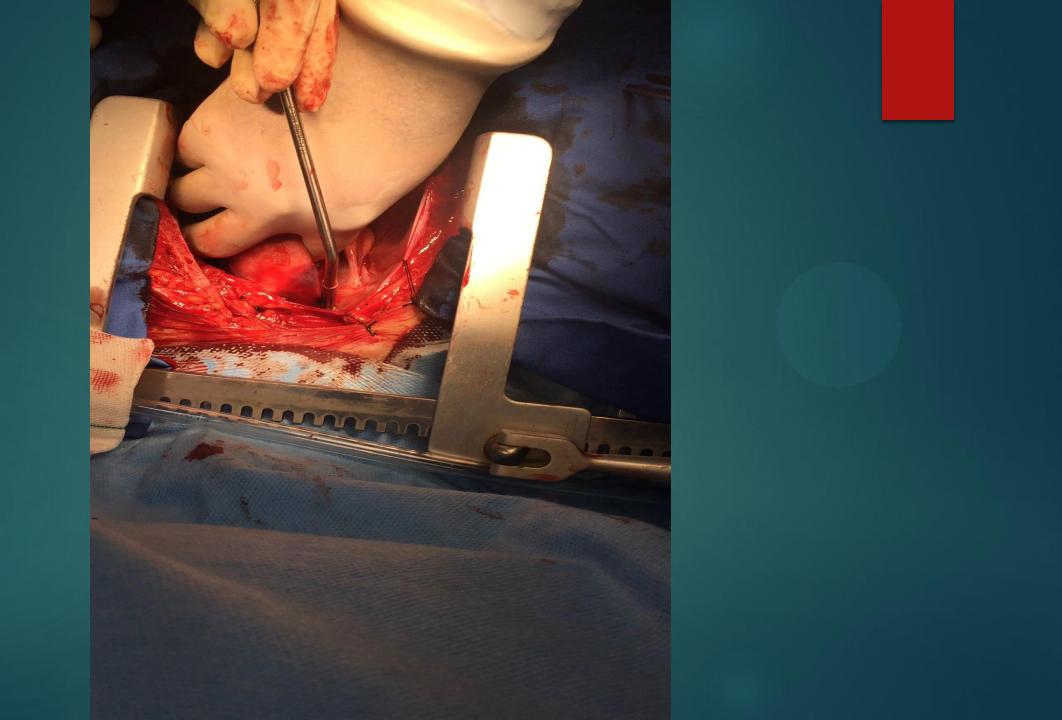
Figure 25-7, cont'd D, Pledgeted, double-armed, polypropylene sutures are placed across each detached commissure and through outer layer of aorta, and are tied over a second pledget. *Inset:* Gelatin-resorcinol-formaldehyde or other glue may be used to obliterate false with multiple polypropylene mattress sutures.

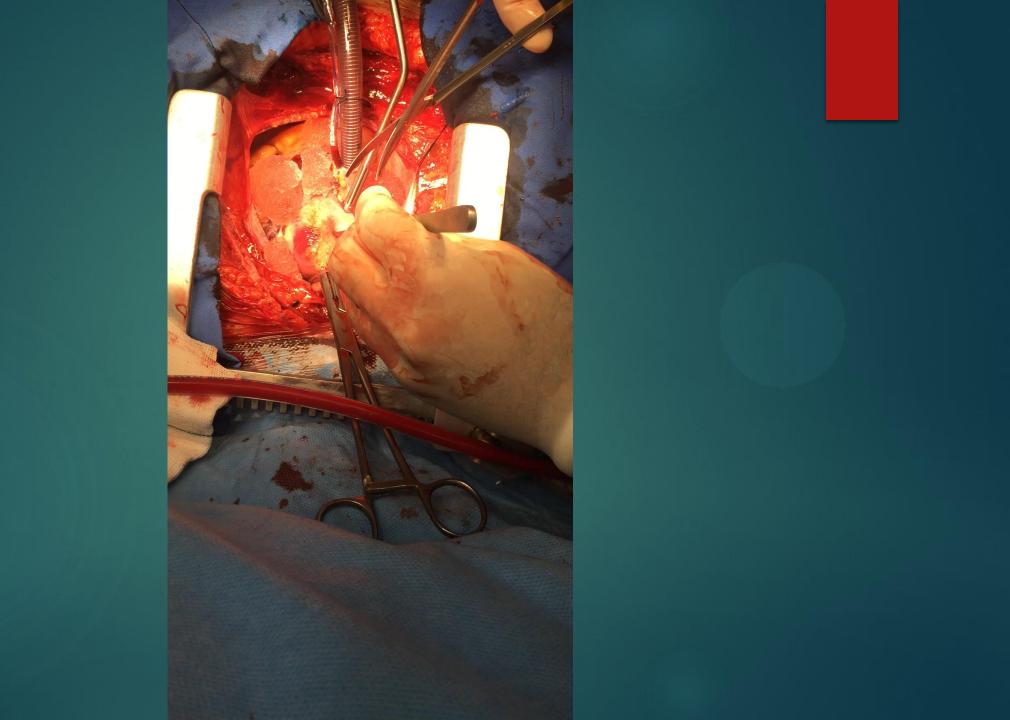


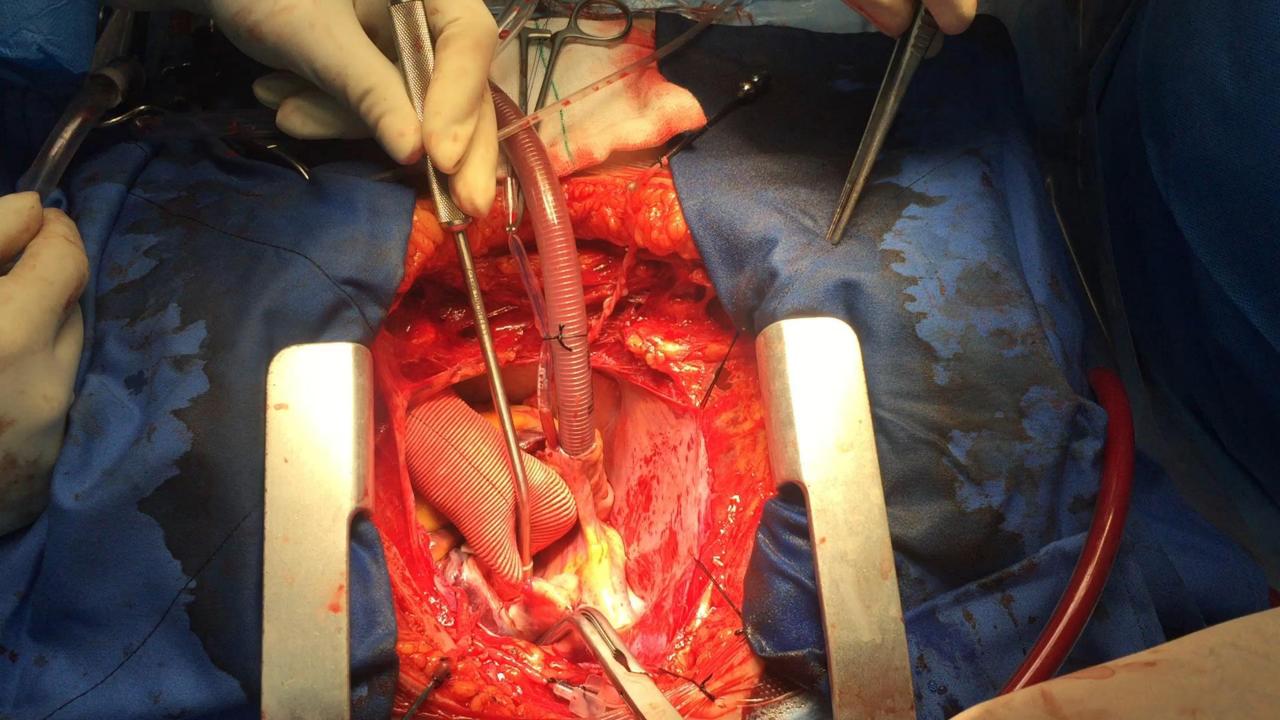


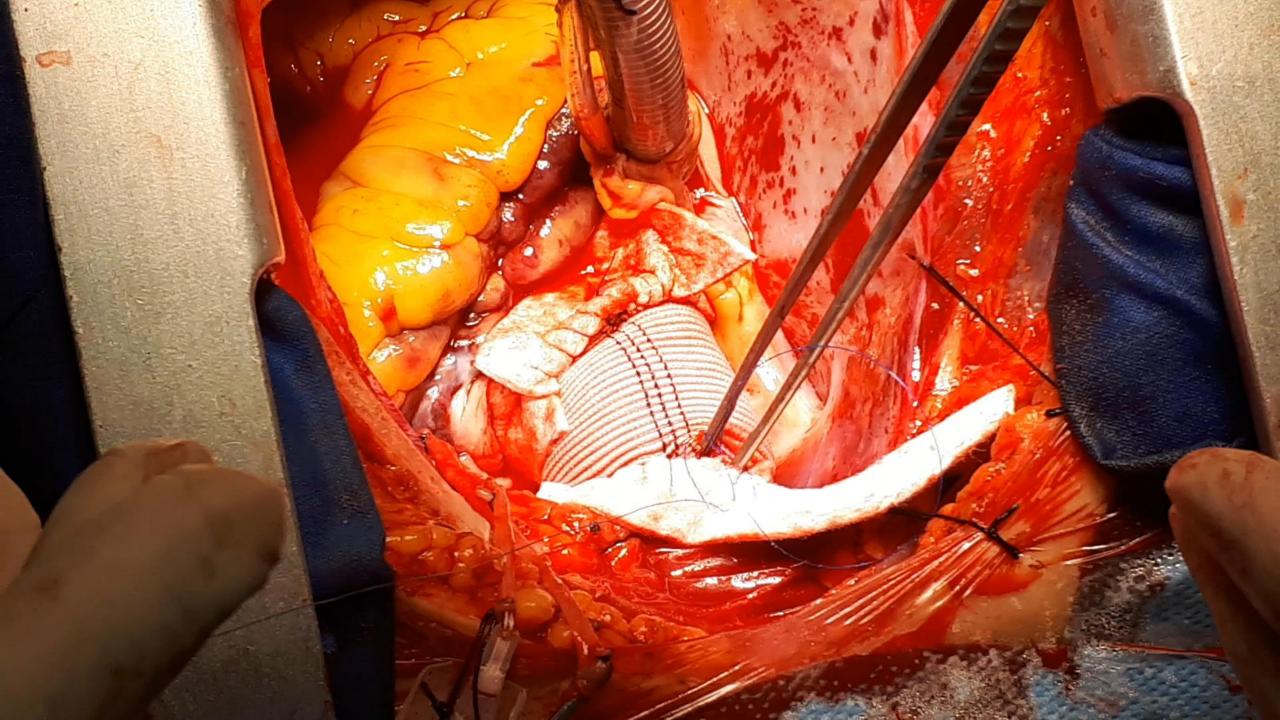


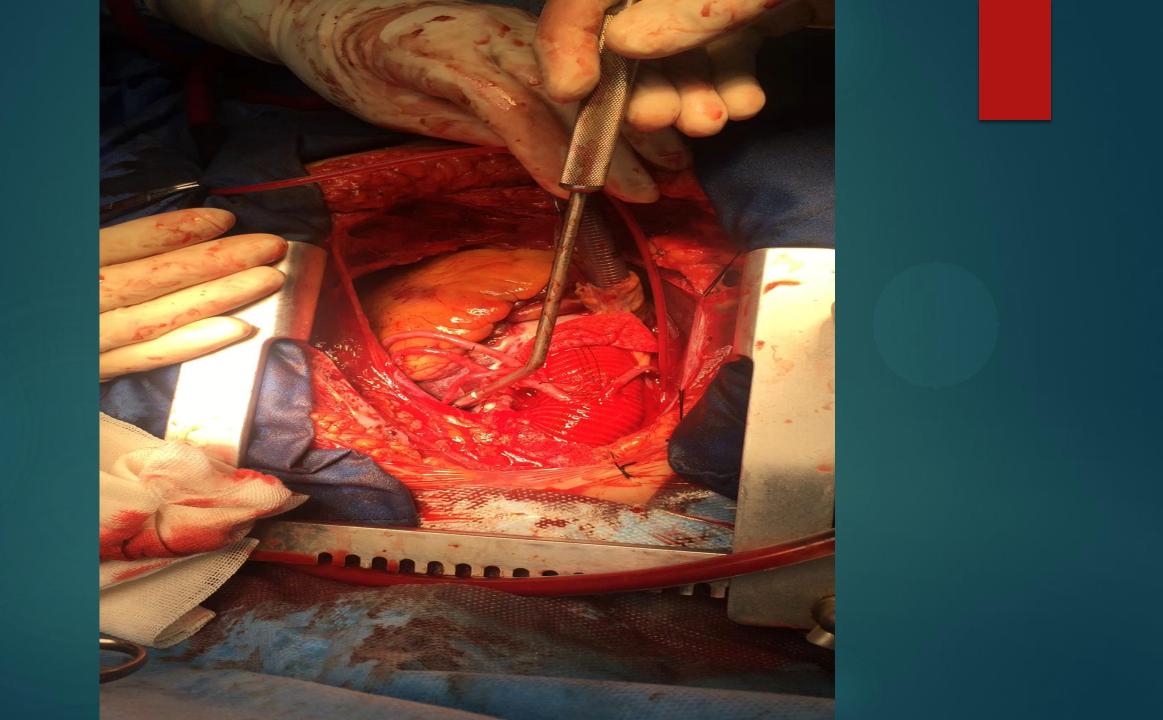


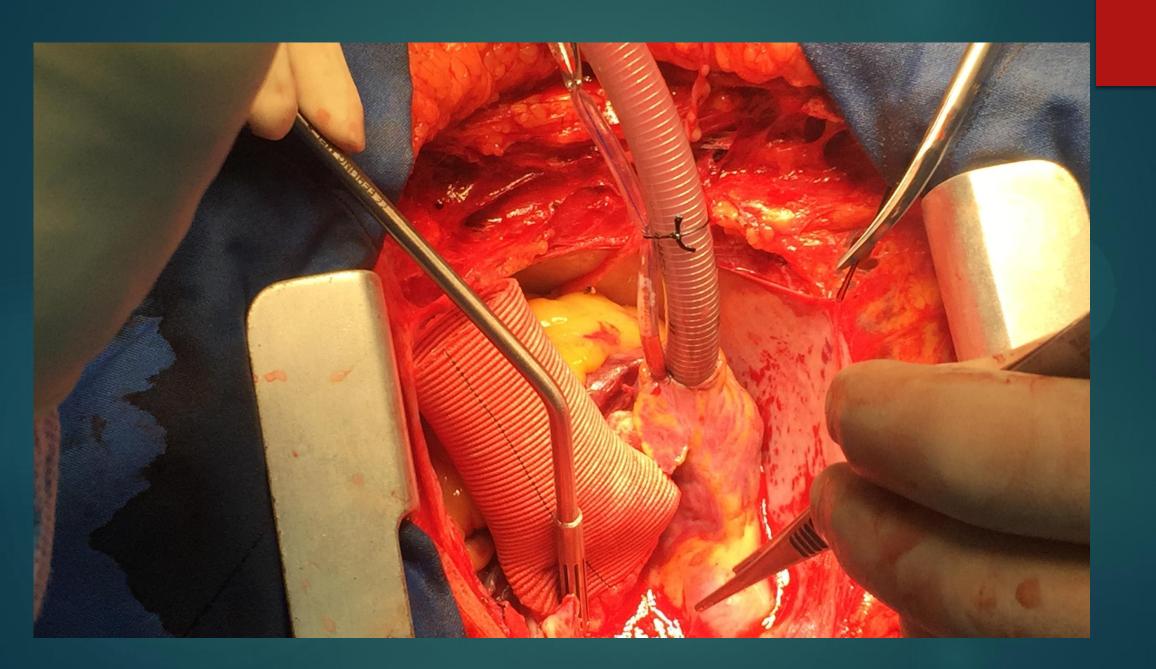


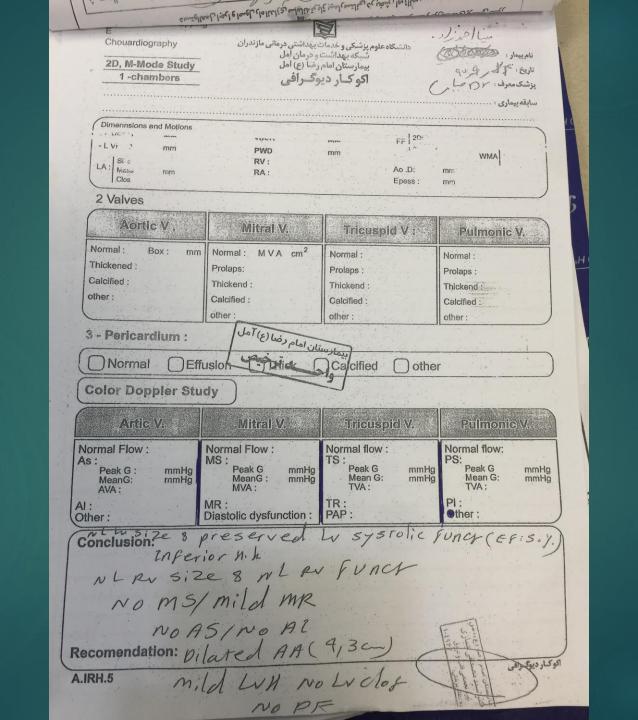






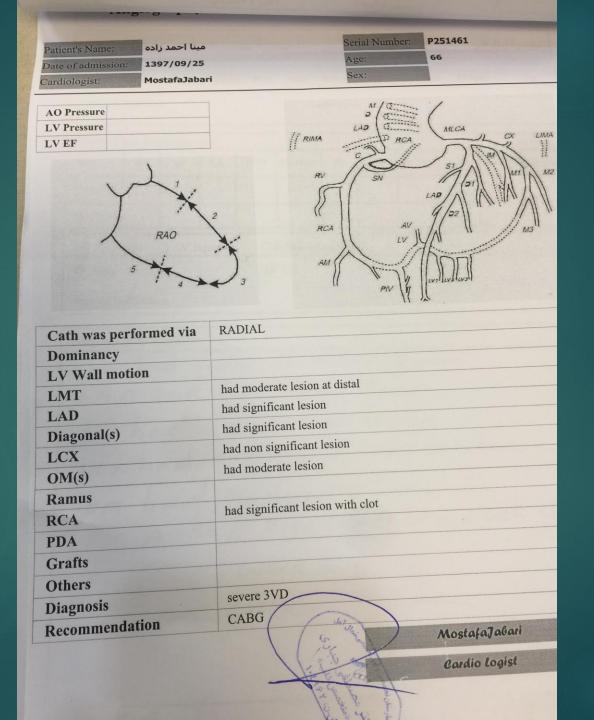






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