

4th International Conference on Clinical & Experimental Cardiology

April 14-16, 2014 Hilton San Antonio Airport, TX, USA

Open heart surgery

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Surgically approached cardiovascular procedures entailing an open thorax, commonly termed "open heart surgery" are treatment options frequently administered to address complications of Ischemic Heart Disease, including but not limited to Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG), surgical correction of Valvular Heart Disease and Congenital Heart Disease. Other procedures such as heart transplantation are also approached via open thorax and thus fall under the same umbrella term of Open Heart Surgery. Advances in medical management and improved diagnostic /screening techniques, coupled with increasing access to medical care is changing guidelines for the application of invasive procedures, of which open cardiothoracic interventions are highly invasive and therefore subject patients to potentially life threatening complications. Technological and procedural advancements/innovations and improved postoperative care and control of hospital acquired post-surgical infections and ventilator acquired pneumonias etc. have improved outcomes significantly. Additionally, thorough commitment to hospital quality improvement programs and accurate data reporting with long-term outcome tracking have made considerable reductions in procedure associated risk. Modern trends are towards minimally invasive cardiothoracic surgeries, and radiologically guided interventional procedures after maximization of medical management protocols for cardiac patients, and early institution of prophylactic pharmacological therapy are pushing open-heart surgeries down on the list of viable management options. Thorough risk to reward evaluation and exploration of patient long term care goals are essential components in the decision making process towards open heart surgery.

Biography

Ricardo Del Castillo is a recent medical graduate from Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara intending to establish himself in medical practice in the USA. He is very passionate about patient centered care and intents to acquire a year of clinical experience in the USA and pursue a residency and fellowship thereafter. Being involved in charity work, volunteering, and particularly educating the upcoming generation of medical students are all activities that he intends to remain involved in throughout the extent of his career.