

THE ETHICS REGARDING THE USE OF CADAVERS FOR MEDICAL AND DIDACTIC PURPOSES - REFLECTIONS OF CHRISTIAN VISIONS AND DOCTRINES

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Addressing the relationship between the attitude towards body donation for assimilating knowledge of anatomy in the dissecting rooms or for the education and medical research and indigenous Christian dogma is fully justified as long as our fellow gestures to donate their body during their lifetime are highly rare in the context of related traditions deeply rooted in the cult of the dead and the Christian Romanian cultural space. Theological debate on the doctrinal or dogmatic basis of the main religions practiced in Romania are meant to reveal the disposition for body donation does not violate any ethics or Christian dogma, as long as the use of individual autonomy is respected with regards to the use of the body after death for a noble purpose. Correctly discerning the meaning of body donation for noble purposes and medical research and training by conjugating the efforts of the medical and clerical body could raise the cultural and religious traditions rigid barriers that influence the existing ignorant attitude, to encourage volunteering.

Key words: ethics; cadaver; religions.

ISSUE AND CIRCULATING MIRNAS AS BIOMARKERS IN BICUSPID AORTIC VALVE DISEASE

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Recent data suggested that bicuspid aortic valve (BAV) with left-right (L-R), right-non coronary (R-NC) and left-non coronary (L-NC) cusp fusion represents distinct pathological entities¹. The rate of aortic enlargement varies according to the pattern of cusps fusion, with faster rates of aortic sinus and ascending aortic dilatation associated with the L-R compared to R-

NC and L-NC morphology. In our study, we sought to investigate the histological features of aneurysms associated to different BAV phenotypes and we looked for specific microRNAs (miRNA) as biomarkers of medial degeneration severity in order to optimize surgical indication and prevent catastrophic complications such as rupture and dissection. Aortic specimens were obtained from BAV patients treated surgically for the repair of thoracic aortic aneurysm (TAA). Histopathological and immunohistochemical analyses were performed to assess the ascending aorta wall degeneration. Plasma was obtained from blood and in a second stage, the expression patterns of the miRNA candidates (mir-122, mir-130, mir-718, mir-486) were validated by RT-qPCR. The morphological analyses showed severe medial degeneration in the aorta of BAV patients with R-L phenotype, moderate medial degeneration in patients with R-NC phenotype and faint medial degeneration in patients with L-NC. The data obtained by RT-qPCR revealed that the expression of miR-122, miR-130, miR-718 and miR-486 are influenced by the morphology of the BAV and the severity of aortic wall degeneration. In particular, the down-regulation of miR-122, miR-130, miR-718 and the up-regulation of miR-486 were more significant in BAV patients with R-L phenotype and severe medial degeneration. Morphologic and genetic features of TAA vary according to the pattern of BAV cusp fusion with severe medial cystic degeneration of the aortic wall associated with the L-R compared to R-NC and L-NC morphologies. Here, we proposed that miR-122, miR-130, miR-718, miR-486 can be considered new markers associated with severe medial degeneration in BAV patients with aortic dilatation. A significant dysregulation of these biomarkers might be associated with high risk of dissection and rupture.

Keywords: BAV disease; ascending aorta, microRNA.

EVOLUTIONARY ASPECTS OF THE SUPERFICIAL MUSCULOAPONEUROTIC SYSTEM OF THE FACE

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Introduction. The anatomy of SMAS is important both for understanding the morpho-functional organization of this structure and for early detection of certain congenital malformations.