



ΕΝΩΣΗ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΙΚΟΥ  
Γ.Ν.Α. «Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ» (Ε.Ε.Π.Ν.Ε.)

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ΣΥΝΕΧΙΖΟΜΕΝΗΣ  
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗΣ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ  
Γ.Ν.Α. «Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ»*

**ΥΒΡΙΔΙΚΕΣ ΕΠΕΜΒΑΣΕΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΠΑΘΗΣΕΩΝ  
ΤΗΣ ΑΟΡΤΗΣ: ΕΙΝΑΙ ΠΑΡΟΝ Ή/ΚΑΙ  
ΜΕΛΛΟΝ;**

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ΓΝΑ «Ο Ευαγγελισμός»

Αθήνα, 20 Φεβρουαρίου 2020



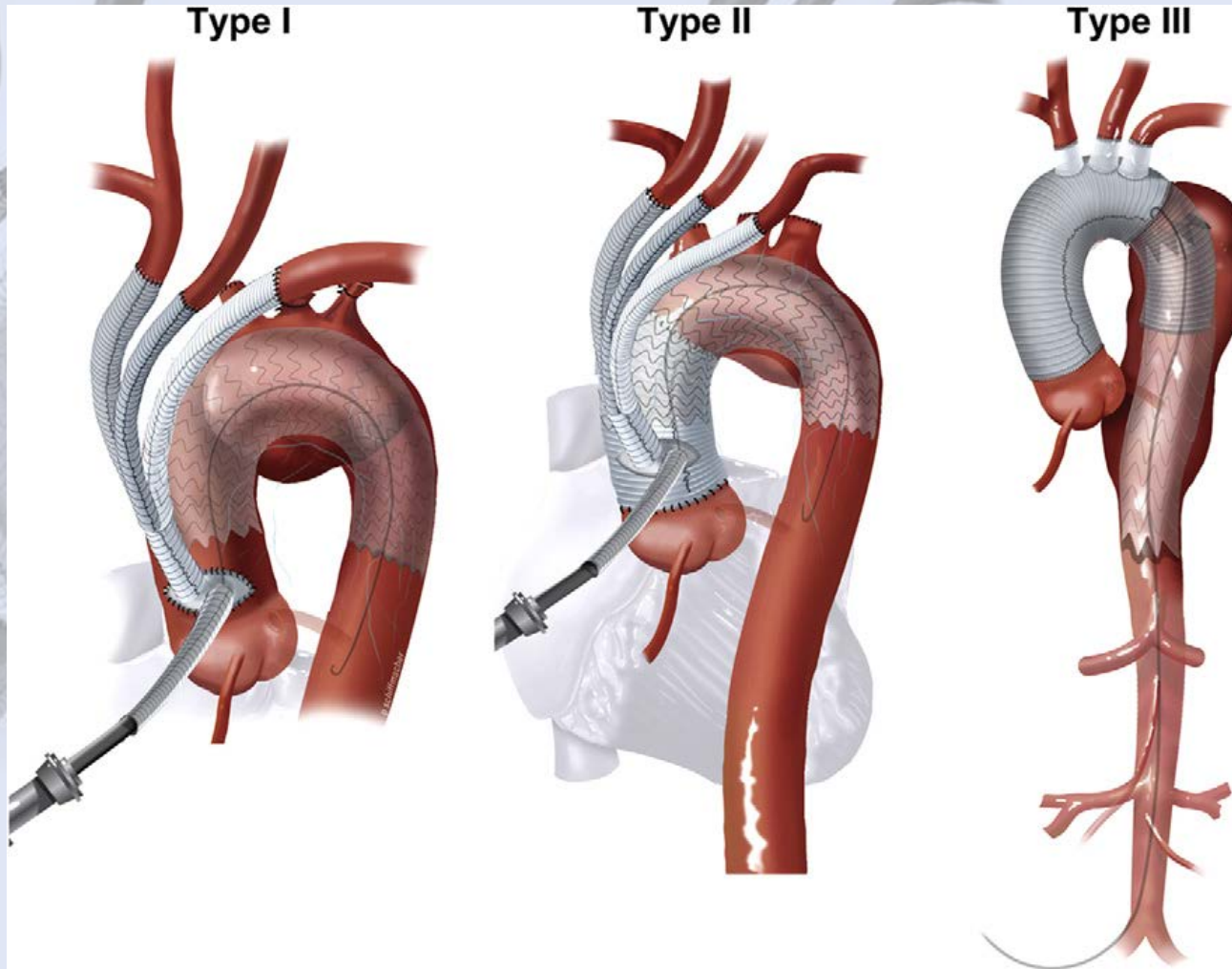
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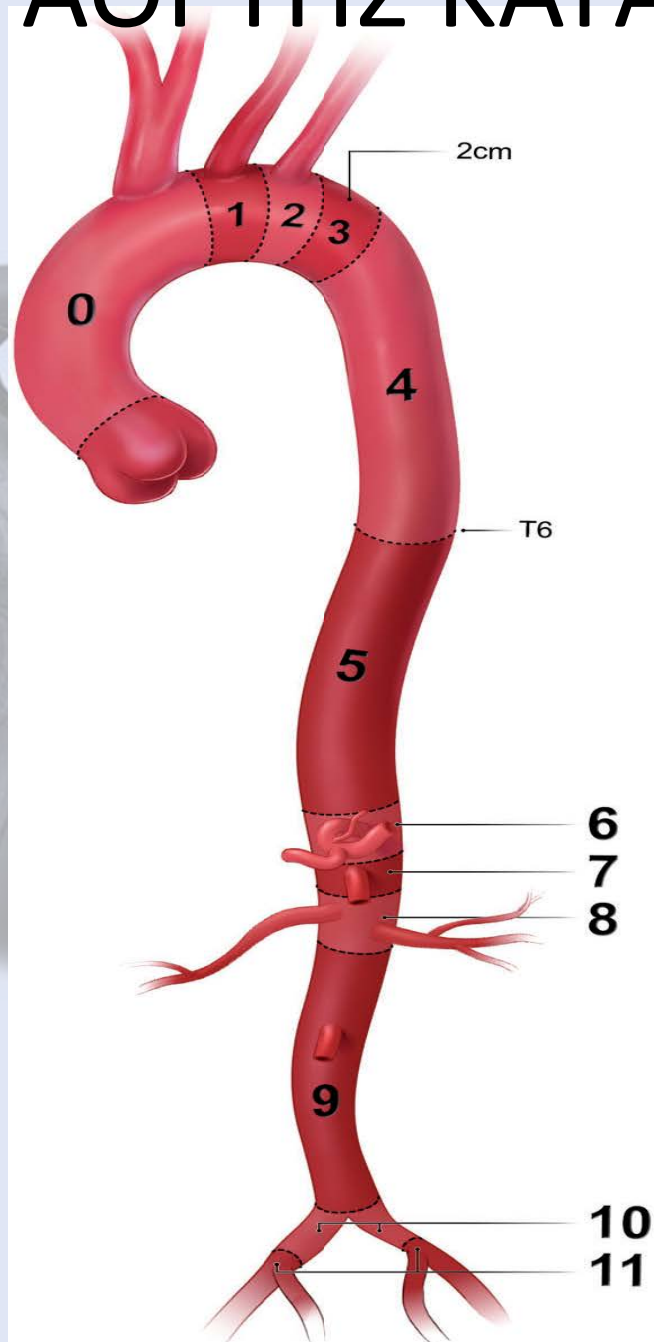




# ΥΒΡΙΔΙΚΕΣ ΕΠΕΜΒΑΣΕΙΣ ΑΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΟΡΤΙΚΟΥ ΤΟΞΟΥ



# ΖΩΝΕΣ ΑΟΡΤΗΣ ΚΑΤΑ ISHIMARU



•Czerny M, et al. [Current options and recommendations for the treatment of thoracic aortic pathologies involving the aortic arch: an expert consensus document of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic surgery \(EACTS\) and the European Society for Vascular Surgery \(ESVS\)](#). Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. 2018; [Epub ahead of print]

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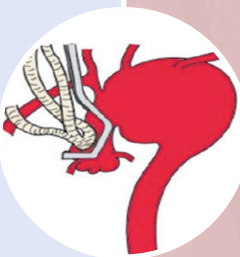


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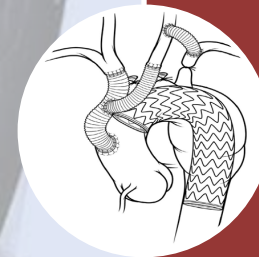
# ΤΥΠΟΣ I: DEBRANCHING



- Total arch debranching
- Partial clamping
- No CPB

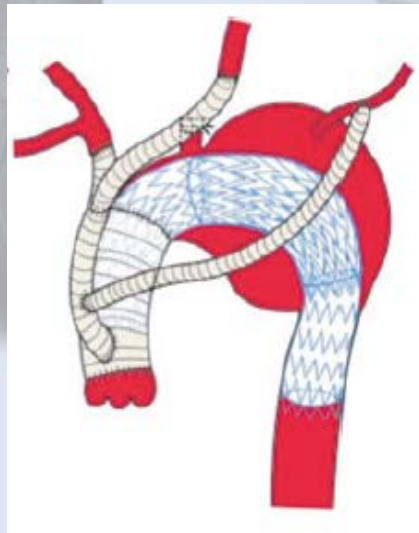
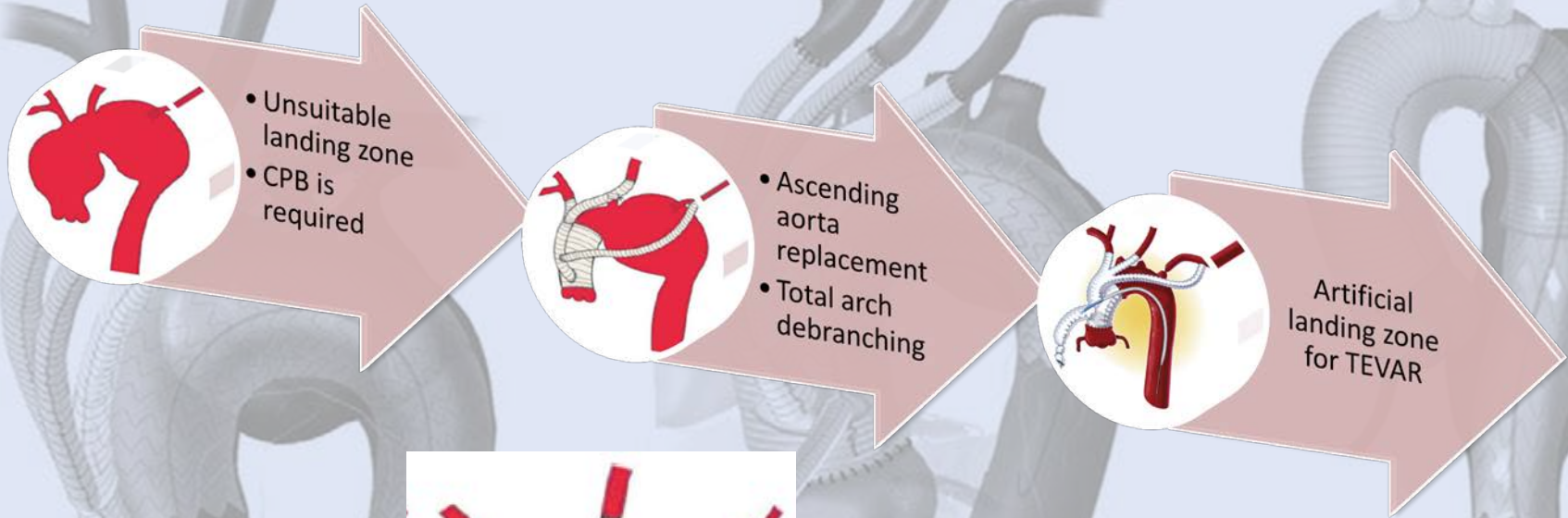


- Adequate proximal landing zone (20mm) in zone 0



TEVAR graft deployment in native zone 0

# ΤΥΠΟΣ II: DEBRANCHING ΜΑΖΙ ΜΕ ΑΝΤΙΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΑΝΙΟΥΣΗΣ ΑΟΡΤΗΣ



TEVAR graft deployment in artificial zone 0

Bavaria J, et al. [Hybrid approaches in the treatment of aortic arch aneurysms: postoperative and midterm outcomes](#). J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2013 Mar;145(3 Suppl):S85-90.

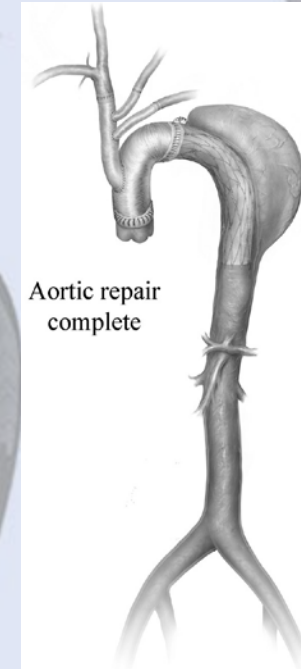
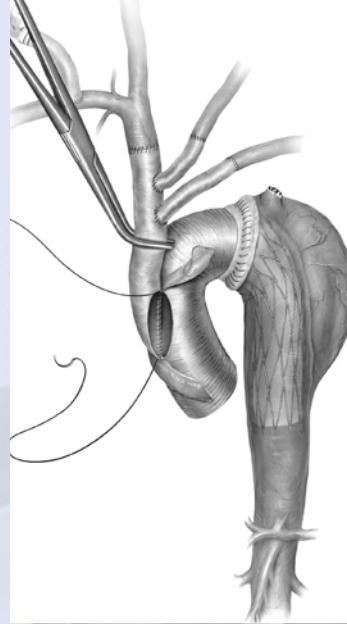
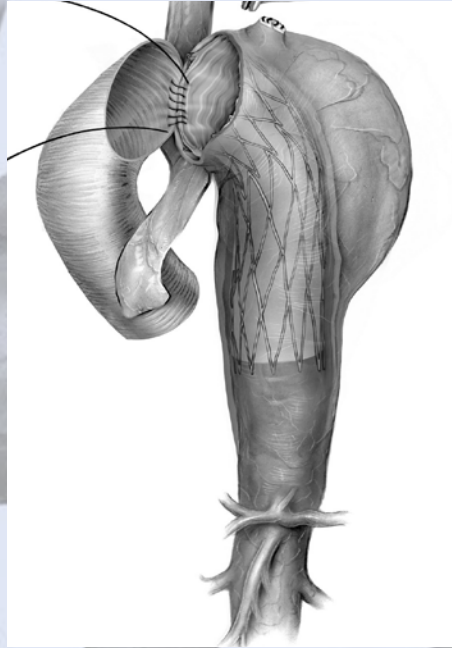
[Shirakawa Y](#)<sup>1</sup>, et al. The efficacy and short-term results of hybrid thoracic endovascular repair into the ascending aorta for aortic arch pathologies. [Eur J Cardiothorac Surg](#). 2014;45(2):298-304; discussion 304.

[Vallabhajosyula P](#)<sup>1</sup>, et al. Type I and Type II hybrid aortic arch replacement: postoperative and mid-term outcome analysis. [Ann Cardiothorac Surg](#). 2013;2(3):280-7.

[Kent WD](#)<sup>1</sup>, et al. Results of type II hybrid arch repair with zone 0 stent graft deployment for complex aortic arch pathology. [J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg](#) 2014;148(6):2951-5.



# ΤΥΠΟΣ III: FROZEN ELEPHANT TRUNK



- single-stage conventional open aortic arch repair with open endovascular treatment of the descending aorta
- CPB & DHCA
- direct suturing of conventional tube graft, endovascular stent and native aortic wall

•Bavaria J, et al. [Hybrid approaches in the treatment of aortic arch aneurysms: postoperative and midterm outcomes](#). J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2013 Mar;145(3 Suppl):S85-90.

•[Vallabhajosyula P](#), et al. Type I and Type II hybrid aortic arch replacement: postoperative and mid-term outcome analysis. [Ann Cardiothorac Surg](#). 2013;2(3):280-7.

•Roselli EE, et al. Frozen Elephant Trunk Procedure. [Oper Tech Thorac Cardiovasc Surg](#) 2013;18(2):87-100.

•Karck M, et al. The frozen elephant trunk technique: a new treatment for thoracic aortic aneurysms. [J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg](#) 2003;125:1550-1553.

Type I

Type II

Type III

# ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ- ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ

Conventional open total arch repair, "Elephant trunk", Borst 1983



- ✓CPB and DHCA
- ✓2-stage procedure
- ✓(7-17)% mortality rate
- ✓(4-12)% neurological injury rate
- ✓interval mortality
- ✓not all patients fit for open surgery

Endovascular repair, Volodos, 1991



- ✓but aortic arch anatomy?
- ✓adequate landing zone?

Hybrid approaches



- ✓combination of tools
- ✓extend the envelope
- ✓high risk patients unfit for open repair
- ✓acceptable mortality and morbidity rates

•Younes HK<sup>1</sup>, et al. Hybrid thoracic endovascular aortic repair: pushing the envelope. *J Vasc Surg*. 2010;51(1):259-66.  
 •Moulakakis KG, et al. *A systematic review and meta-analysis of hybrid aortic arch replacement*. *Ann Cardiothorac Surg*. 2013;2(3):247-60.  
 •Borst HG, et al. Extensive aortic replacement using "elephant trunk" prosthesis. *Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 1983;31:37-40.  
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 •Westaby S, et al. Arch and descending aortic aneurysms: influence of perfusion technique on neurological outcome. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 1999;15:180-5.  
 •Papakonstantinou NA<sup>1</sup>, et al. Cardiac surgery or interventional cardiology? Why not both? Let's go hybrid. *J Cardiol*. 2017;69(1):46-56.  
 •Oskowitz AZ<sup>1</sup>, et al. Hybrid treatment of aortic arch aneurysms. *J Cardiovasc Surg (Torino)*. 2015 Oct;56(5):719-28.  
 •Zerwes S, et al. *Clinical outcomes in hybrid repair procedures for pathologies involving the aortic arch*. *Vascular*. 2015 Feb;23(1):9-16.

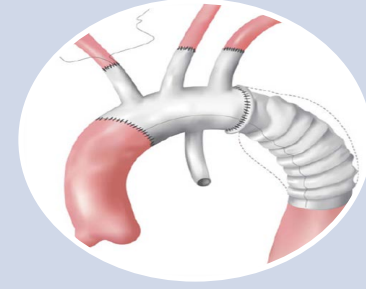
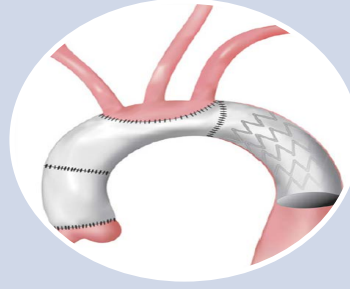


Open stent grafting technique, (home made)

The trunk evolution

Kato & Suto (1994 & 1996), first 10 pts by Kato in 1996

E-Vita Open Plus [Jotec] (2007)



Prozen elephant trunk (custom-made), Usui & Karck (2002 & 2003), Chavan-Haverich graft

2003 Birth of FET chavan-haverich



Thoraxflex [Vascutek] (2012)

2007 FET hybrid graft



2012 Branched FET



Fig. 3. Evolution of the ET technique over time. ET, elephant trunk; FET, frozen elephant trunk.

- Suto Y, Yasuda K, Shiiya N, Murashita T, Kawasaki M, Imamura M et al. Stented elephant trunk procedure for an extensive aneurysm involving distal aortic arch and descending aorta. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 1996;112:1389-90.
- Kato M, Ohnishi K, Kaneko M, Ueda T, Kishi D, Mizushima T et al. New graft-implanting method for thoracic aortic aneurysm or dissection with a stented graft. Circulation 1996;94(9 Suppl):II188-93.
- Usui A, Fujimoto K, Ishiguchi T, Yoshikawa M, Akita T, Ueda Y. Cerebrospinal dysfunction after endovascular stent-grafting via a median sternotomy: the frozen elephant trunk. Ann Thorac Surg 2002;74:51821-32.
- Karck M, Chavan A, Hagl C, Friedrich H, Galanski M, Haverich A. The frozen elephant trunk: a new treatment for thoracic aortic aneurysms. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2003;125:1550-3.
- Karck M, Chavan A, Khaladj N, Friedrich H, Hagl C, Haverich A. The frozen elephant trunk technique for the treatment of extensive thoracic aortic aneurysms: operative results and follow-up. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 2005;28:286-90.
- Shrestha M, Bacht J, Bavaria J, Carrel TP, De Paulis R, Di Bartolomeo R, et al. Current status and recommendations for use of the frozen elephant trunk technique: a position paper by the Vascular Domain of EACTS. Di Marco L, Pantaleo A, Leone A, Murana G, Di Bartolomeo R, Pacifico R, et al. The Frozen Elephant Trunk Technique: European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery Position and Bologna Experience. Korean J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2017;50:1-7.

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Di Bartolomeo R et al. Gen Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. (2019)

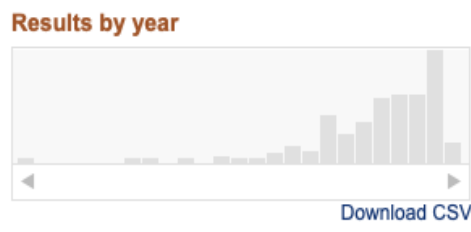
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Chen Y et al. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. (2018)

[Role of the frozen elephant trunk procedure for chronic aortic dissection.](#)  
Roselli EE et al. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. (2017)

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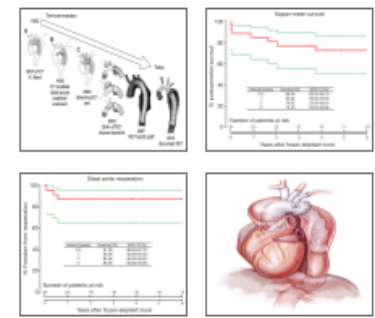
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1. Li JR, Ma WG, Chen Y, Zhu JM, Zheng J, Xu SD, Liu YM, Sun LZ.  
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2. Tong L, Zheng J, Zhang YC, Zhu K, Gao HQ, Zhang K, Jin XF, Xu SD.  
Front Physiol. 2020 Jan 21;10:1627. doi: 10.3389/fphys.2019.01627. eCollection 2019.

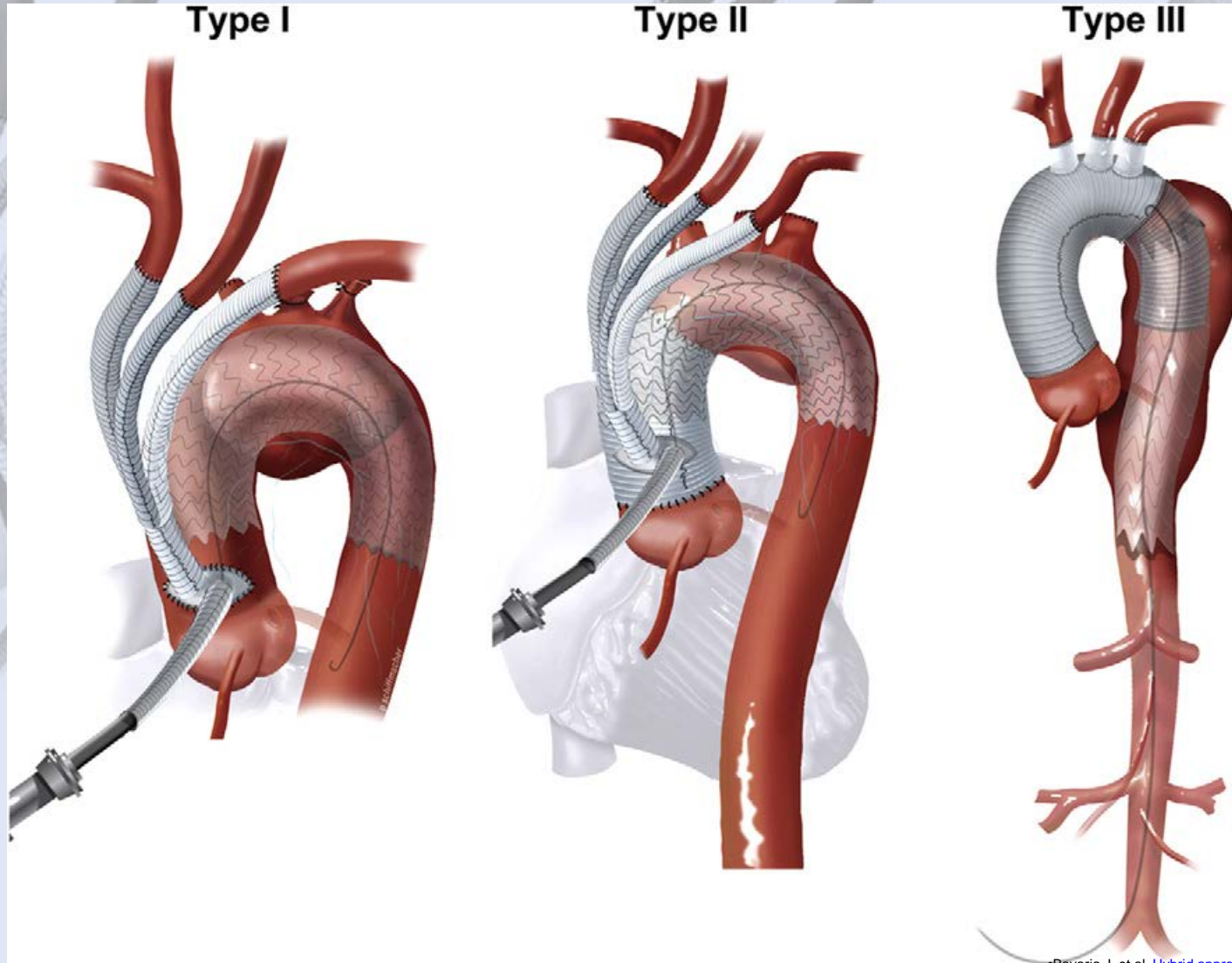
**PMC Images search for frozen elephant trunk**



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# ΥΒΡΙΔΙΚΕΣ ΕΠΕΜΒΑΣΕΙΣ DEBRANCHING



Type I

Type II

Type III

# ΕΝΔΕΙΞΕΙΣ & ΠΡΟΑΠΑΙΤΟΥΜΕΝΑ

elderly, extensive comorbidities, concomitant malignancy or high-risk anatomical features such as previous cardiac surgery

Type I if ascending aorta diameter  $\leq$  38-40mm

adequate distal & proximal landing zone  $\geq$  25 mm each

Hybrid debranching procedures

at least 1 access vessel with diameter  $>$  7mm

aortic arch pathologies

Type II if ascending aorta diameter  $\geq$  38-40mm

•Czerny M, et al. [Current options and recommendations for the treatment of thoracic aortic pathologies involving the aortic arch: an expert consensus document of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic surgery \(EACTS\) and the European Society for Vascular Surgery \(ESVS\)](#). Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. [Eur J Cardiothorac Surg](#). 2019 Jan 1;55(1):133-162.

•Moulakakis KG, et al. [A systematic review and meta-analysis of hybrid aortic arch replacement](#). Ann Cardiothorac Surg. 2013;2(3):247-60.

•Bavaria J, et al. [Hybrid approaches in the treatment of aortic arch aneurysms: postoperative and midterm outcomes](#). J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2013 Mar;145(3 Suppl):S85-90.

•Vallabhajosyula P<sup>1</sup>, et al. Type I and Type II hybrid aortic arch replacement: postoperative and mid-term outcome analysis. [Ann Cardiothorac Surg](#). 2013;2(3):280-7.

•Canaud L<sup>1</sup>, et al. Hybrid Aortic Repair of Dissecting Aortic Arch Aneurysm after Surgical Treatment of Acute Type A Dissection. [Ann Vasc Surg](#) 2016;30:175-80.

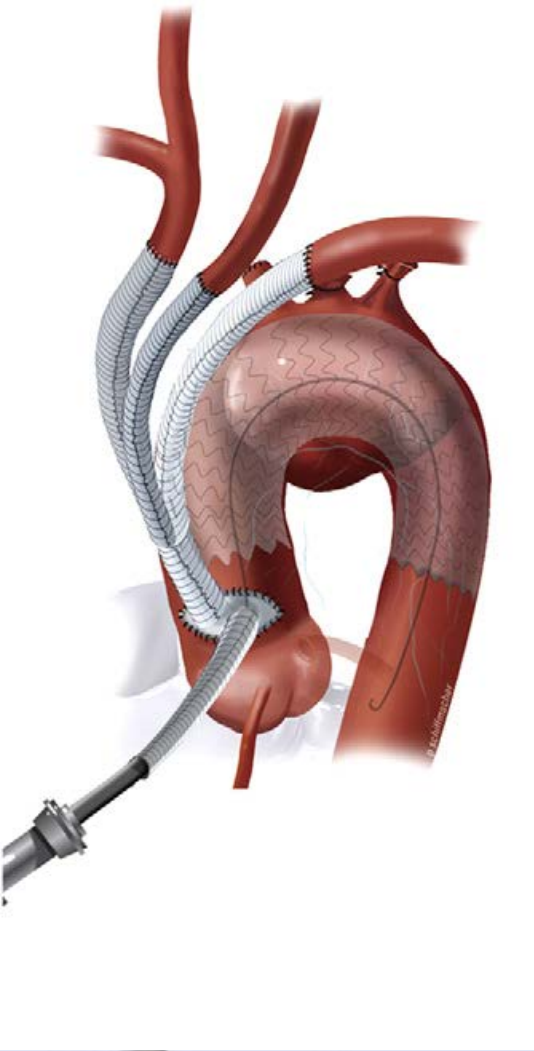
•Shirakawa Y, et al. The efficacy and short-term results of hybrid thoracic endovascular repair into the ascending aorta for aortic arch pathologies. [Eur J Cardiothorac Surg](#). 2014;45(2):298-304; discussion 304.

•Vallabhajosyula P, et al. Type II arch hybrid debranching procedure. Ann Cardiothorac Surg 2013;2(3):378-86.

•Brechtel K<sup>1</sup>, et al. Hybrid debranching and TEVAR of the aortic arch off-pump, in re-do patients with complicated chronic type-A aortic dissections: a critical report. [J Cardiothorac Surg](#) 2013;8:188.

•Mizuno T<sup>1</sup>, et al. Easy and Safe Total Debranching of Arch Aneurysms Using Axilloaxillary Arterial Bypass. [Ann Thorac Surg](#). 2015;100(4):1476-8.

Type I



Type II

Type III

# Pros

# Cons

no aortic cross clamping, no cardioplegia

no DHCA

no CPB

retrograde aortic dissection possibility

no concomitant cardiovascular procedures

high endoleak rate

neurologic complications, atheromatous or air embolism

•Younes HK<sup>1</sup>, et al. Hybrid thoracic endovascular aortic repair: pushing the envelope. *J Vasc Surg*. 2010;51(1):259-66.

•Leacche M, et al. *Surgical update: hybrid procedures, do they have a role?* *Circ Cardiovasc Interv*. 2010;3(5):511-8.

•Bavaria J, et al. *Hybrid approaches in the treatment of aortic arch aneurysms: postoperative and midterm outcomes.* *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2013 Mar;145(3 Suppl):S85-90.

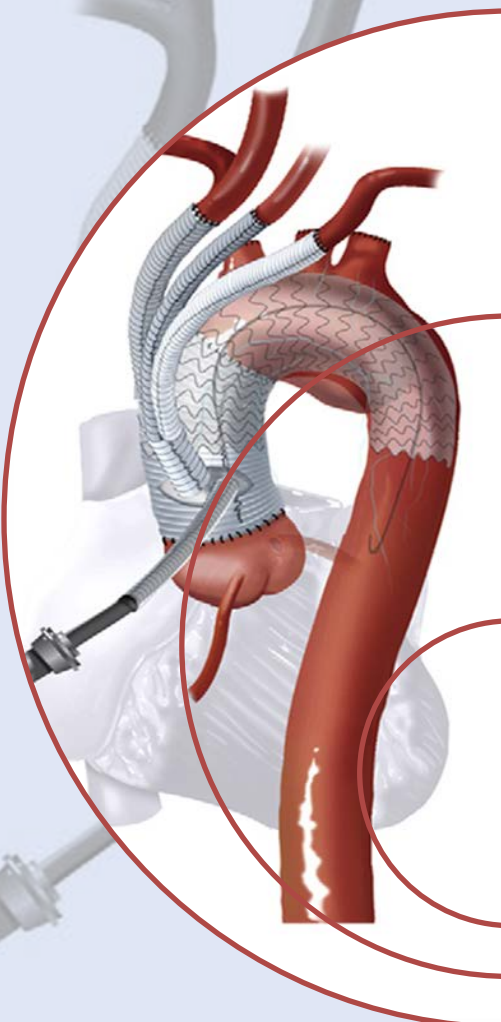
•Faulds J, et al. *Minimally Invasive Techniques for Total Aortic Arch Reconstruction.* *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovasc J*. 2016;12(1):41-4.

•Canaud L<sup>1</sup>, et al. Hybrid Aortic Repair of Dissecting Aortic Arch Aneurysm after Surgical Treatment of Acute Type A Dissection. *Ann Vasc Surg* 2016;30:175-80.

•Kollias VD<sup>1</sup>, et al. Single-stage, off-pump hybrid repair of extensive aneurysms of the aortic arch and the descending thoracic aorta. *Hellenic J Cardiol* 2014;55(5):355-60.



# Type II Hybrid advantages



risks of retrograde type A dissection  
and endoleak are eliminated

less invasive than total open arch  
replacement

less bleeding

# OPEN TOTAL AORTIC ARCH REPAIR VS HYBRID APPROACH

Cannot be directly compared due to selection bias



45 open total  
arch

66 hybrid arch



- ✓no significant difference in in-hospital mortality (16% open vs 11% hybrid)
- ✓no significant difference in transient neurologic complications (11% both)
- ✓no significant difference in permanent neurologic complications (9% open vs 13% hybrid)

- ✓9% mortality in patient <75 y.o. whereas 36% mortality in patients >75y.o.
- ✓no significant difference in hybrid group
- ✓when >75y.o. 11% mortality in hybrid group vs 36% mortality in open group

**Table 3** Predictors of all-cause mortality by multivariate analysis (limited in TAR/d-TEVAR)

Mark

Group	Covariate	HR	95% CI	p value
TAR	COPD	6.42	1.59–25.9	0.009
	Malignancy	5.28	0.97–28.6	0.05
	Previous cardiac and thoracic aortic surgery	65.9	2.49–1743	0.012
	Perioperative stroke	16.6	2.18–126	0.007
	Postoperative pneumonia	6.72	1.41–32.1	0.017
d-TEVAR	Neurologic dysfunction	2.97	1.23–7.18	0.016
	Perioperative stroke	12.1	1.40–104	0.023

TAR total arch replacement, d-TEVAR debranching thoracic endovascular aortic repair, COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm



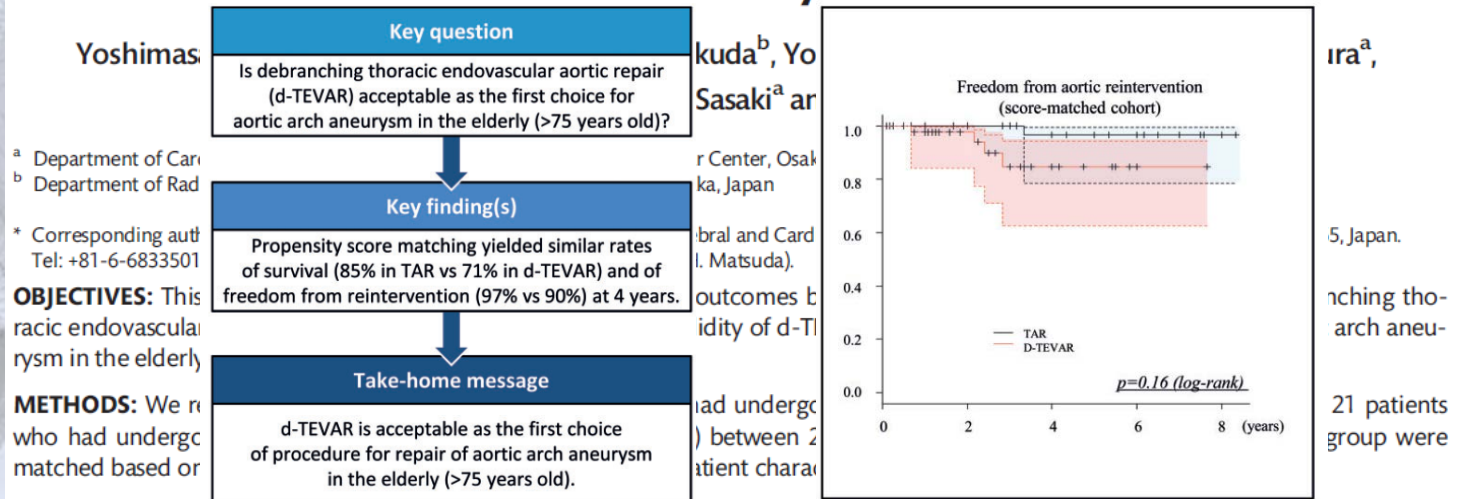
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# Is debranching thoracic endovascular aortic repair acceptable as the first choice for arch aneurysm in the elderly?

Interactive CardioVascular and Thoracic Surgery (2019) 1–8  
doi:10.1093/icvts/ivz027

Cite this article as: Seike Y, Matsuda H, Fukuda T, Hori Y, Inoue Y, Omura A *et al.* Is debranching thoracic endovascular aortic repair acceptable as the first choice for arch aneurysm in the elderly? *Interact CardioVasc Thorac Surg* 2019; doi:10.1093/icvts/ivz027.

## Is debranching thoracic endovascular aortic repair acceptable as the first choice for arch aneurysm in the elderly?



Yoshimas

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<sup>b</sup> Department of Rad

\* Corresponding aut  
Tel: +81-6-6833501

**OBJECTIVES:** This  
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**METHODS:** We r  
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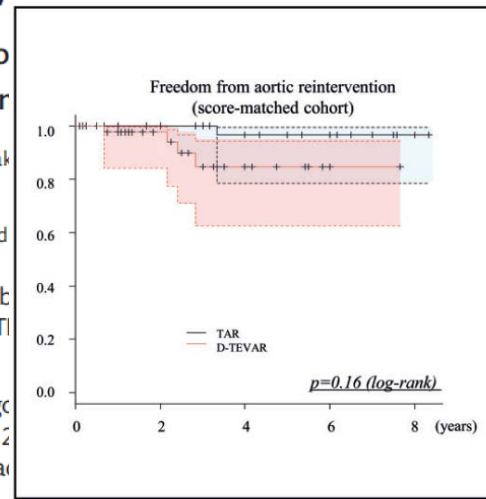
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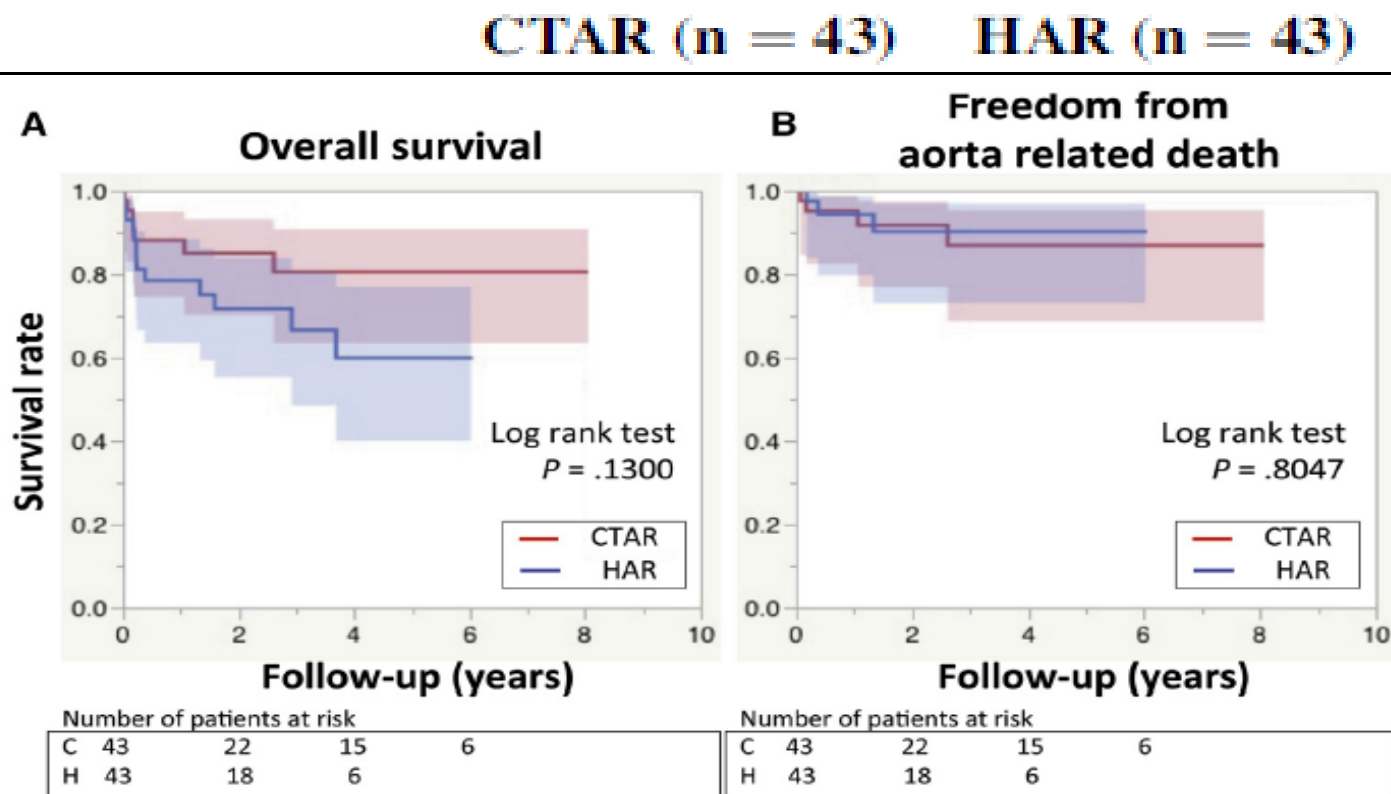
21 patients  
group were

**RESULTS:** Rates of freedom from all-cause mortality at 2 and 4 years were similar between the 2 groups (88% and 77% in the TAR group vs 82% and 64% in the d-TEVAR group,  $P=0.11$ ), but rates of freedom from reintervention at 2 and 4 years were significantly higher in the TAR group (100% and 96%) than in the d-TEVAR group (97% and 88%) ( $P=0.004$ ). Propensity score matching yielded similar survival rates of 88% and 85% for TAR vs 86% and 71% for d-TEVAR ( $P=0.53$ ) and comparable freedom from reintervention rates (100% and 97% in TAR, 98% and 90% in d-TEVAR,  $P=0.16$ ) at 2 and 4 years. Cox regression analysis identified previous cerebral infarction [hazard ratio (HR) 3.9;  $P=0.005$  in TAR/HR 3.1;  $P=0.002$  in d-TEVAR] as an independent positive predictor of overall mortality in both groups.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Midterm outcomes after TAR and d-TEVAR were satisfactory and propensity score matching-based evaluation revealed no significant differences in outcomes, implying that d-TEVAR is an acceptable first-choice procedure for aortic arch aneurysm in patients older than 75 years.

**Keywords:** Elderly • Aortic arch aneurysm • Total arch replacement • Debranching thoracic endovascular aortic repair • Propensity score matching

**TABLE 3. Matched comparison of postoperative data between CTAR and HAR groups**



**FIGURE 3.** A, Matched comparison of midterm overall survival. Between matching pairs of CTAR and HAR groups, there was no significant difference in the survival rate. B, Matching model also showed no significant differences in freedom from aorta-related death between the CTAR and HAR groups. *CTAR*, Conventional total aortic arch repair; *HAR*, hybrid arch repair.

revealed an equivalent 5-year survival rate between the CTAR and HAR groups (80.5% vs 59.9%;  $P = .1300$ ).

**Conclusions:** Matching analysis revealed a significantly greater incidence of stroke in the HAR group but equivalent midterm outcomes in the hybrid group compared with the CTAR group. (J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2017;154:100-6)

tional arch repair group. In a high-risk population, hybrid approaches have the potential to be alternatives to a conventional approach. Further development, however, is required for hybrid repair to become a superior option.

See Editorial Commentary page 107.

See Editorial page 98.

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 0.00  
 10.00

Study	Atrial fibrillation/ cardiac event (%)	Retrograde aortic dissection (%)	Peripheral embolization (%)	Reoperation for bleeding (%)	Endoleak (%)	Late mortality (%)	Cumulative survival at 1-year (%)	Reoperation rate (%)	Follow-up (months)
Vallabhajosyula (2013) (17)	50	nr	Nr	0	0	12.5	87% (at 1 and 3 years)	2pts	30±21
Kent (2014) (38)	Nr	nr	Nr	25	15 (type I), 5 (type II)	nr	!!!	10	17.5
Shirakawa (2014)* (15)	0**	0**	10**	0**	10 (type II)**	15	85 (74% at 3 years)	0**	15.4**
Bibiloni Lage (2016)* (47)	20	nr	20	50 (for cardiac tamponade)**	0**	0**	nr	0**	10**

Study	Technical success (%)	30-day/in-hospital mortality (%)	Stroke (%)	Permanent paraplegia (%)	Recurrent nerve palsy (%)	Transient neurologic deficit/ paraplegia (%)	Renal failure/requiring dialysis (%)	Multiorgan failure with respiratory insufficiency/prolonged intubation (%)
Vallabhajosyula (2013) (17)	nr	0	0	0	nr	25	0/0	Nr
Kent (2014) (38)	100	10	5	0	nr	25	0	15
Shirakawa (2014)* (15)	100**	0**	0**	0**	10**	0**	0**	10**
Bibiloni Lage (2016)* (47)	100**	50**	0**	0**	50**	0**	50**	50**

**Material and Methods**

A meta-analysis and detailed review of the literature published from January 2013 until December 2016, concerning hybrid aortic arch debranching procedures was conducted and data for morbidity and mortality rates were extracted. **wav: 5.3%** **wav: 2.5%**

**Results**

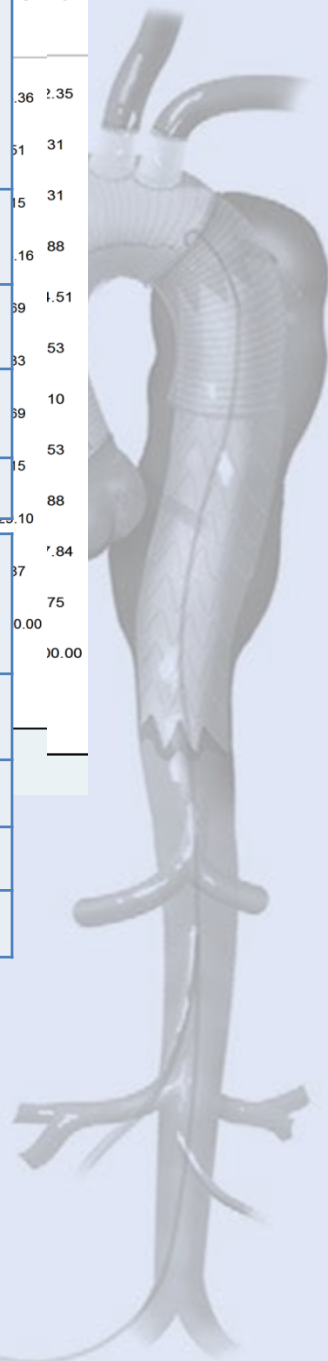
As far as type I hybrid aortic arch reconstruction is concerned, among the 122 patients included, the pooled endoleak rate was 10.78% (95%CI = 1.94–23.40), 30-day or in-hospital mortality was 3.89% (95%CI = 0.324–9.78), stroke rate was 3.79% (95%CI = 0.25–9.77) and weighted permanent paraplegia rate was 2.4%. In terms of type II hybrid approach, among 40 patients, endoleak rate was 12.5%, 30-day or in-hospital mortality rate was 5.3%, stroke rate was 2.5%, no permanent paraplegia was noticed and late mortality rate was 12.5%.

**Conclusions**

Hybrid aortic arch debranching procedures are a safe alternative to open repair with acceptable short- and mid-term results. They extend the envelope of intervention in aortic arch pathologies, particularly in high-risk patients who are suboptimal candidates for open surgery.

**Keywords**

Hybrid • Endovascular • Aortic arch • Debranching • Ascending aorta replacement





PRACTICE GUIDELINE: FULL TEXT

## 2010 ACCF/AHA/AATS/ACR/ASA/SCA/SCAI/SIR/STS/SVM Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Patients With Thoracic Aortic Disease

**9.2.2.2.1. Open Surgery.** At present, endovascular stent grafts have not been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for treatment of aneurysms or other conditions of the aortic arch. For patients with large aneurysms who are not candidates for conventional open operation, experience is accumulating with operative procedures that involve translocation of the brachiocephalic arteries from the aortic arch using branch grafts from the proximal ascending aorta, and placement of an endovascular graft into the distal ascending aorta, the entire aortic arch, and a segment of the adjacent descending thoracic aorta (371,460,461).



European Heart Journal (2014) 35, 2873–2926  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehu281

ESC GUIDELINES

## 2014 ESC Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of aortic diseases

Document covering acute and chronic aortic diseases of the thoracic and abdominal aorta of the adult

The Task Force for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Aortic Diseases of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

**Authors/Task Force members:** Raimund Erbel\* (Chairperson) (Germany), Victor Aboyans\* (Chairperson) (France), Catherine Boileau (France), Eduardo Bossone (Italy), Roberto Di Bartolomeo (Italy), Holger Eggebrecht (Germany), Arturo Evangelista (Spain), Volkmar Falk (Switzerland), Herbert Frank (Austria), Oliver Gaemperli (Switzerland), Martin Grabenwöger (Austria), Axel Haverich (Germany), Bernard Jung (France), Athanasios John Manolis (Greece), Folkert Meijboom (Netherlands), Christoph A. Nienaber (Germany), Marco Roffi (Switzerland), Hervé Rousseau (France), Udo Sechtem (Germany), Per Anton Sirnes (Norway), Regula S. von Allmen (Switzerland), Christiaan J.M. Vrints (Belgium).

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Arch vessel transposition (debranching) and TEVAR might be considered as an alternative to conventional surgery in certain clinical situations, especially when there is reluctance to expose patients to hypothermic circulatory arrest; however, especially after total arch vessel transposition, as well as in patients with the underlying diagnosis of acute Type B AD, the risk of retrograde Type A AD as a direct consequence of the procedure is elevated and should be weighed against the remaining risk of conventional surgery.<sup>105,117,324,325</sup>



Cite this article as: Czerny M, Schmidli J, Adler S, van den Berg JC, Bertoglio L, Carrel T *et al.* Current options and recommendations for the treatment of thoracic aortic pathologies involving the aortic arch: an expert consensus document of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic surgery (EACTS) and the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS). *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 2019;55:133–62.

**Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Canadian Society of Cardiac Surgeons/Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Joint Position Statement on Open and Endovascular Surgery for Thoracic Aortic Disease**

Jehangir J. Appoo, MDCM (Co-chair),<sup>a</sup> John Bozinovski, MD,<sup>b</sup> Michael W.A. Chu, MD,<sup>c</sup> Ismail El-Hamamsy, MD, PhD,<sup>d</sup> Thomas L. Forbes, MD,<sup>e</sup> Michael Moon, MD,<sup>f</sup> Maral Ouzounian, MD, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Mark D. Peterson, MD, PhD,<sup>h</sup> Jacques Tittley, MD,<sup>i</sup> and Munir Boodhwani, MD, MMSc (Co-chair);<sup>j</sup> on behalf of the CCS/CSGS/CSVS Thoracic Aortic Disease Guidelines Committee

**Current options and recommendations for the treatment of thoracic aortic pathologies involving the aortic arch: an expert consensus document of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic surgery (EACTS) and the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS)**

Martin Czerny (EACTS Chairperson)<sup>a,m,t</sup> and Jürg Schmidli (ESVS Chairperson)<sup>b,p</sup>

Writing Committee: Sabine Adler<sup>c,t</sup>, Jos C. van den Berg<sup>d,m,t</sup>, Luca Bertoglio<sup>t</sup>, Thierry Carrel<sup>b,t</sup>, Roberto Chiesa<sup>f,t</sup>, Rachel E. Clough<sup>g,t</sup>, Balthasar Eberle<sup>h,t</sup>, Christian Etz<sup>t</sup>, Martin Grabenwöger<sup>t</sup>, Stephan Haulon<sup>k,t</sup>, Heinz Jakob<sup>l,t</sup>, Fabian A. Kari<sup>i,t</sup>, Carlos A. Mestres<sup>m,t</sup>, Davide Pacini<sup>v,t</sup>, Timothy Resch<sup>o,t</sup>, Bartosz Ryłski<sup>q,t</sup>, Florian Schoenhoff<sup>b,t</sup>, Malakh Shrestha<sup>p,t</sup>, Hendrik von Tengge-Koblighk<sup>q,t</sup>, Konstantinos Tsagakis<sup>l,t</sup> and Thomas R. Wyss<sup>b,t</sup>

<b>Recommendation 23:</b> TEVAR in zone 0 after previous debranching may be considered in patients unfit for open repair and suitable anatomy [180, 191].	Class IIB	Level B
<b>Recommendation 24:</b> TEVAR in zones 1 and 2 should be considered in patients with suitable anatomy [4]	Class IIA	Level B
<b>Recommendation 25:</b> stent-graft deployment is not recommended in patients with a proximal and/or distal landing zone length less than 25 mm or 38 mm [4]	Class III	Level B
<b>Recommendation 26:</b> zones 0–2 TEVAR are not recommended in patients with connective tissue disease or native aortic arch pathology (zone 0 proximal neck). For patients at a higher risk of stroke, open aortic arch surgery remains the best therapeutic option because extensive manipulation during debranching as well as during TEVAR might cause embolization [178, 180, 181]. Patients presenting with distal arch pathology should be considered in patients with concomitant aortic valve pathology or at high risk for retrograde type A aortic dissection (ascending aorta > 38 mm, bicuspid aortic valve, arch abnormalities, lost sinutubular junction, extensive ascending aortic length) [175, 191].	Class III	Level C
<b>Recommendation 27:</b> TEVAR in zone 0 after previous debranching may be considered in patients unfit for open repair and suitable anatomy [180, 191].	Class IIB	Level B

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
13. We suggest that hybrid arch repair be considered in patients deemed too high-risk for conventional open repair who meet specific anatomic criteria (Weak Recommendation, Low-Quality Evidence).
<b>Values and preferences.</b> Stroke is a significant risk in conventional and hybrid techniques. Creation of an optimal straight landing zone in Dacron or native aorta is desirable for stent graft technology available today. Ascending aortic diameter $\geq 4$ cm is a risk factor for retrograde type A dissection. Hybrid arch repair should be avoided in patients with known or suspected connective tissue disorders unless proximal and distal landing zones are in Dacron replaced aorta.
14. We suggest that hybrid arch techniques might be considered for single-stage repair in patients with diffuse aneurysms involving the ascending, arch and descending aorta (mega aorta) (Weak Recommendation, Low-Quality Evidence).



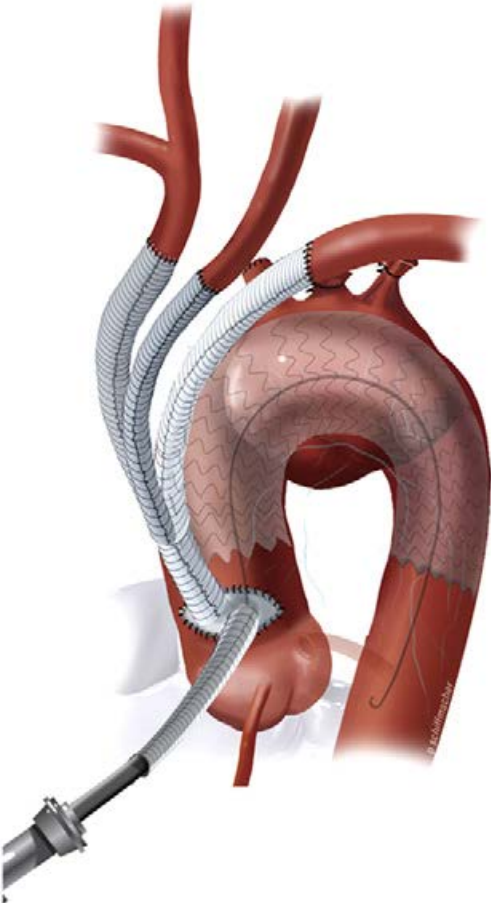
Type I

Type II

Type III

# FROZEN ELEPHANT TRUNK

Type I



Type II



Type III





# ΕΝΔΕΙΞΕΙΣ ΓΙΑ FROZEN ELEPHANT TRUNK

Type III

extensive aortic pathology (aneurysm or dissection of the arch)

mega-aorta syndrome

- Moulakakis KG, et al. [A systematic review and meta-analysis of hybrid aortic arch replacement](#). *Ann Cardiothorac Surg*. 2013;2(3):247-60.
- Bavaria J, et al. [Hybrid approaches in the treatment of aortic arch aneurysms: postoperative and midterm outcomes](#). *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2013 Mar;145(3 Suppl):S85-90.
- Vallabhajosyula P<sup>1</sup>, et al. Type I and Type II hybrid aortic arch replacement: postoperative and mid-term outcome analysis. [Ann Cardiothorac Surg](#). 2013;2(3):280-7.
- Canaud L<sup>1</sup>, et al. Hybrid Aortic Repair of Dissecting Aortic Arch Aneurysm after Surgical Treatment of Acute Type A Dissection. [Ann Vasc Surg](#). 2016;30:175-80.
- Vallabhajosyula P, et al. Type II arch hybrid debranching procedure. *Ann Cardiothorac Surg* 2013;2(3):378-86.
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- Mizuno T<sup>1</sup>, et al. Easy and Safe Total Debranching of Arch Aneurysms Using Axilloaxillary Arterial Bypass. [Ann Thorac Surg](#). 2015;100(4):1476-8.

## Society Position Statement

# Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Canadian Society of Cardiac Surgeons/Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Joint Position Statement on Open and Endovascular Surgery for Thoracic Aortic Disease

Jehangir J. Appoo, MDCM (Co-chair),<sup>a</sup> John Bozinovski, MD,<sup>b</sup> Michael W.A. Chu, MD,<sup>c</sup> Ismail El-Hamamsy, MD, PhD,<sup>d</sup> Thomas L. Forbes, MD,<sup>e</sup> Michael Moon, MD,<sup>f</sup> Maral Ouzounian, MD, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Mark D. Peterson, MD, PhD,<sup>h</sup> Jacques Tittley, MD,<sup>i</sup> and Munir Boodhwani, MD, MMSc (Co-chair);<sup>j</sup> on behalf of the CCS/CSCS/CSVs Thoracic Aortic Disease Guidelines Committee

### RECOMMENDATION

13. We suggest that hybrid arch repair be considered in patients deemed too high-risk for conventional open repair who meet specific anatomic criteria (Weak Recommendation, Low-Quality Evidence).

**Values and preferences.** Stroke is a significant risk in conventional and hybrid techniques. Creation of an optimal straight landing zone in Dacron or native aorta is desirable for stent graft technology available today. Ascending aortic diameter  $\geq 4$  cm is a risk factor for retrograde type A dissection. Hybrid arch repair should be avoided in patients with known or suspected connective tissue disorders unless proximal and distal landing zones are in Dacron replaced aorta.

14. We suggest that hybrid arch techniques might be considered for single-stage repair in patients with diffuse aneurysms involving the ascending, arch and descending aorta (mega aorta) (Weak Recommendation, Low-Quality Evidence).

15. We suggest that closed-chest arch reconstructions only be considered for patients at high risk for open or hybrid repair (Weak Recommendation, Low-Quality Evidence).



# ΣΥΣΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗ ΧΡΗΣΗ FET

**Recommendation 19:** the FET technique or TEVAR to close the primary entry tear should be considered in patients with acute type A aortic dissection with a primary entry in the distal aortic arch or in the proximal half of the DTA to treat associated malperfusion syndrome or to avoid its postoperative development

Class IIA

Level C

The FET is potentially indicated for all pathologies of the aortic arch, aneurysm and dissection [159–161]. Different from endovascular aortic repair, the fixation of the FET is performed by a circumferential suture, which eliminates the risk of a proximal endoleak. The endoluminal sealing of the surgical suture line by the stent graft improves haemostasis and makes FET ideal to fix

**Recommendation 22:** the FET technique should be considered in patients with concomitant distal thoracic and thoraco-abdominal aortic disease that, in a later stage, will or is likely to require either surgical or endovascular treatment.

Class IIA

Level C

DTA: descending thoracic aorta; FET: frozen elephant trunk; TEVAR: thoracic endovascular aortic repair.



## 2014 ESC Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of aortic diseases

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**Authors/Task Force members:** Raimund Erbel\* (Chairperson) (Germany), Victor Aboyans\* (Chairperson) (France), Catherine Boileau (France), Eduardo Bossone (Italy), Roberto Di Bartolomeo (Italy), Holger Eggebrecht (Germany), Arturo Evangelista (Spain), Volkmar Falk (Switzerland), Herbert Frank (Austria), Oliver Gaemperli (Switzerland), Martin Grabenwöger (Austria), Axel Haverich (Germany), Bernard Jung (France), Athanasios John Manolis (Greece), Folkert Meijboom (Netherlands), Christoph A. Nienaber (Germany), Marco Roffi (Switzerland), Hervé Rousseau (France), Udo Sechtem (Germany), Per Anton Sirnes (Norway), Regula S. von Allmen (Switzerland), Christiaan J.M. Vrints (Belgium).

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Extensive repair including graft replacement of the ascending aorta and aortic arch and integrated stent grafting of the descending aorta<sup>108</sup> ('frozen elephant trunk') was introduced as a single-stage procedure.<sup>103,105</sup> The 'frozen elephant trunk' is increasingly applied for this disease entity if complete ascending-, arch-, and descending AD are diagnosed in otherwise uncomplicated patients.<sup>113–117</sup> Originally designed for repair of chronic aneurysm, the hybrid approach, consisting of a single graft, is also applied, more often now in the setting of acute dissection (Web Figures 10 and 11).<sup>118–121</sup>

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
In all patients with AD, medical therapy including pain relief and blood pressure control is recommended.	I	C	
In patients with Type A AD, urgent surgery is recommended.	I	B	1,2
In patients with acute Type A AD and organ malperfusion, a hybrid approach (i.e. ascending aorta and/or arch replacement associated with any percutaneous aortic or branch artery procedure) should be considered.	IIa	B	2,118, 202–204, 227
In uncomplicated Type B AD, medical therapy should always be recommended.	I	C	
In uncomplicated Type B AD, TEVAR should be considered.	IIa	B	218,219
In complicated Type B AD, TEVAR is recommended.	I	C	
In complicated Type B AD, surgery may be considered.	IIb	C	

and peripheral arteries. In particular clinical situations, the 'frozen elephant trunk' technique might also be considered in the treatment of complicated acute Type B AD without a proximal landing zone, as it also eliminates the risk of retrograde Type A AD.<sup>226</sup>

Type I

Type II

Type III

## Elephant trunk Disadvantages- 2-stage operation

increased  
cumulative  
mortality after  
two major aortic  
procedures

interval mortality,  
up to 25%

failure to return  
for stage 2  
operation,  
32%-50%

- [Di Bartolomeo R](#)<sup>1</sup>, et al. Frozen versus conventional elephant trunk technique: application in clinical practice. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg*. 2017 Jan;51(suppl 1):i20-i28.
- [Lus F](#), et al. Elephant trunk procedure 27 years after Borst: what remains and what is new? *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 2011;40:1-11.
- [Kollias VD](#)<sup>1</sup>, et al. Single-stage, off-pump hybrid repair of extensive aneurysms of the aortic arch and the descending thoracic aorta. *Hellenic J Cardiol* 2014;55(5):355-60.
- [Kent WD](#), et al. Results of type II hybrid arch repair with zone 0 stent graft deployment for complex aortic arch pathology. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2014;148(6):2951-5.
- [Patel HJ](#), et al. Open arch reconstruction in the endovascular era: analysis of 721 patients over 17 years. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2011;141:1417-23.
- [Di Eusanio M](#), et al. Conventional versus frozen elephant trunk surgery for extensive disease of the thoracic aorta. *J Cardiovasc Med (Hagerstown)*. 2014;15(11):803-9.

# ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑΤΑ ΠΟΥ ΑΦΟΡΟΥΝ ΣΤΟ FET

## Recommendations for surgical techniques in aortic disease

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
Cerebrospinal fluid drainage is recommended in surgery of the thoraco-abdominal aorta, to reduce the risk of paraplegia.	I	B	126–127
Aortic valve repair, using the re-implantation technique or remodelling with aortic annuloplasty, is recommended in young patients with aortic root dilation and tricuspid aortic valves.	I	C	
For repair of acute Type A AD, an open distal anastomotic technique avoiding aortic clamping (hemiarach/complere arch) is recommended.	I	C	
In patients with connective tissue disorders <sup>d</sup> requiring aortic surgery, the replacement of aortic sinuses is indicated.	I	C	
Selective antegrade cerebral perfusion should be considered in aortic arch surgery, to reduce the risk of stroke.	IIa	B	139,131, 134,141
The axillary artery should be considered as first choice for cannulation for surgery of the aortic arch and in aortic dissection.	IIa	C	
Left heart bypass should be considered during repair of the descending aorta or the thoraco-abdominal aorta, to ensure distal organ perfusion.	IIa	C	

<sup>a</sup>Class of recommendation.

<sup>b</sup>Level of evidence.

<sup>c</sup>Reference(s) supporting recommendations.

<sup>d</sup>Ehlers-Danlos IV -, Marfan- or Loeys-Dietz syndromes.



European Heart Journal (2014) 35, 2873–2926  
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ESC GUIDELINES

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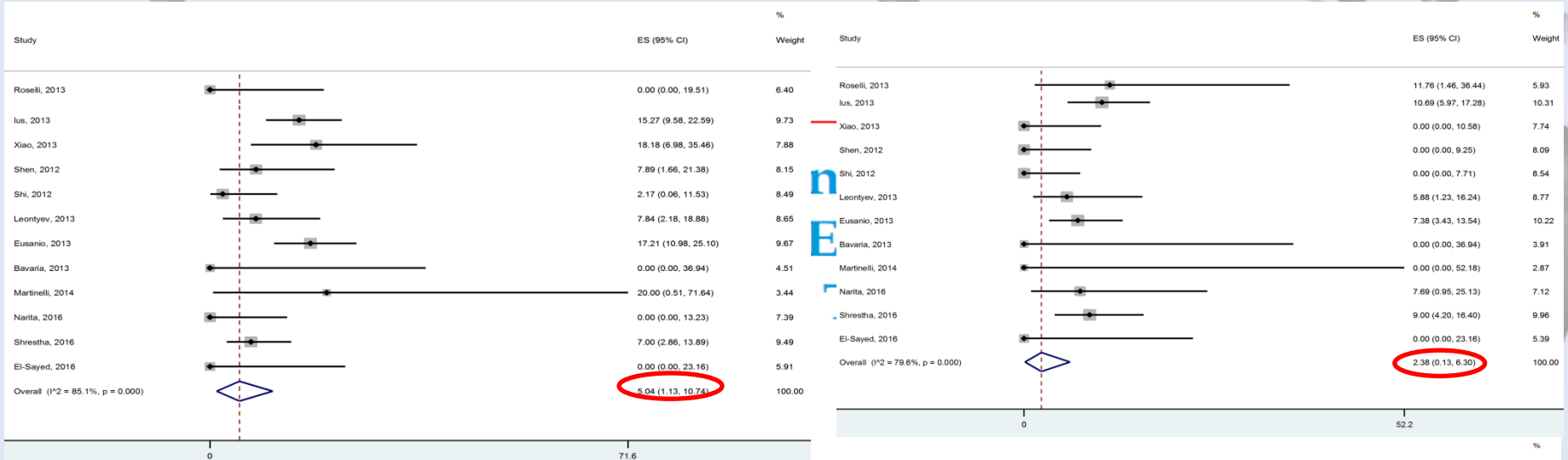
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✓distal landing zone of T10 or lower, embolization and postoperative hypotension, abdominal aortic aneurysm repair history and a core body temperature equal to or over 28°C during circulatory arrest combined with circulatory arrest time over 45 minutes are strong predictors of spinal cord injury

- \*Di Eusanio M. Frozen elephant trunk surgery-the Bologna's experience. *Ann Cardiothorac Surg* 2013;2:597–605.  
al. Impact of clinical factors and surgical techniques on early outcome of patients treated with frozen elephant trunk technique by using EVITA open stent-graft: results of a multicentre study. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 2016;49:660–6.  
S<sup>1</sup>, et al. Early- and medium-term results after aortic arch replacement with frozen elephant trunk techniques—a single center study. *Ann Cardiothorac Surg*. 2013 Sep;2(5):606–11.  
et al. Single-stage, off-pump hybrid repair of extensive aneurysms of the aortic arch and the descending thoracic aorta. *Hellenic J Cardiol* 2014;55(5):355–60.  
\*Di Eusanio M<sup>1</sup>, et al. Frozen elephant trunk surgery- the Bologna's experience. *Ann Cardiothorac Surg* 2013;2(5):597–605.  
GL, et al. Multibranch Frozen Elephant Trunk with Left Subclavian Artery Cannulation. *Aorta (Stamford)*. 2014 Apr 1;2(2):87–90.



# Η ΜΕΤΑ-ΑΝΑΛΥΣΗ ΜΑΣ



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## Background

Conventional open total arch replacement is the gold standard. However, it is a two-stage procedure related to high morbidity and mortality rates. Frozen elephant trunk hybrid approach is a one-stage procedure.

## Methods

A meta-analysis and detailed review of the literature published from January 2010 and December 2016, concerning frozen elephant trunk hybrid approach was conducted and data for morbidity and mortality rates were extracted.

## Results

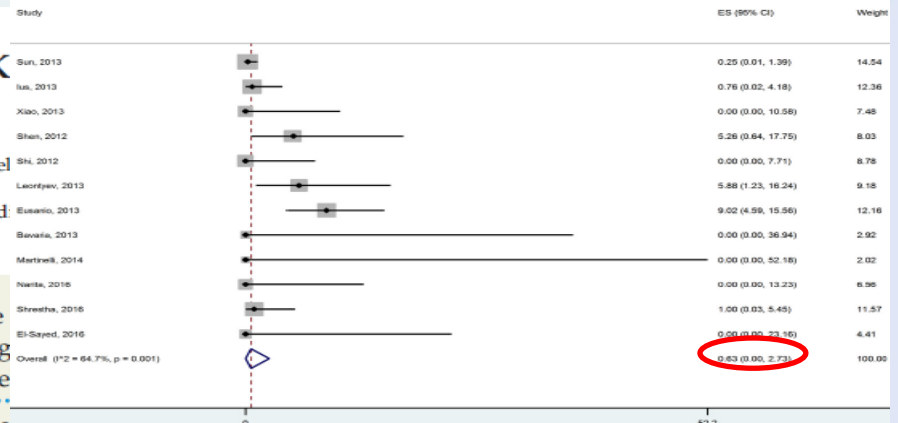
Among 989 patients included, the pooled 30-day or in-hospital mortality rate was 5.04% (95%CI = 1.13–10.74), stroke rate was 2.38% (95%CI = 0.13–6.30), and the irreversible paraplegia due to spinal cord injury rate was 0.63% (95%CI = 0.00–2.73). Finally, the pooled cumulative survival at 1 year was remarkably high (86.7%, 95%CI = 81.08–92.90).

## Conclusions

Frozen elephant trunk is a safe alternative to conventional elephant trunk repair for extensive aortic arch pathologies with acceptable short- and mid-term results, avoiding the interval mortality hazard.

## Keywords

Hybrid procedures • Aortic arch • Frozen elephant trunk



Cite this article as: Di Bartolomeo R, Murana G, Di Marco L, Pantaleo A, Alfonsi J, Leone A *et al.* Frozen versus conventional elephant trunk technique: application in clinical practice. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 2017;51:i25–i33

# Frozen versus conventional elephant trunk technique: application in clinical practice

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## Summary

Treating complex aortic arch disease with proximal and distal aortic segment involvement is challenging. In recent years, different surgical and endovascular techniques have been applied in a single or multiple-stage approach with the aim to cure and simplify these conditions. The first procedure available for this purpose was the conventional elephant trunk technique. Its recent evolution is the frozen elephant trunk, which treats the descending thoracic aorta using the antegrade release of a self-expandable stent graft. In the following review article, we analyse the advantages and drawbacks of both techniques from clinical and practical perspectives.

**Keywords:** Aortic arch • Frozen elephant trunk • Elephant trunk • Aortic • Cerebral perfusion

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## Conventional elephant trunk

- Not definitive repair (second stage operation is required)
- No need to clamp proximally the LSA (reduced stroke and paraplegia risk, 0.4%-2.8% SCI risk)
- Partial false lumen thrombosis due to reentries
- Kinking, graft occlusion and clot formation around the graft

Table 1: Elephant trunk procedure options for extensive aortic arch and descending thoracic aorta pathologies

Surgical technique	Advantage	Disadvantage
Conventional elephant trunk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplify distal aortic arch anastomosis [10, 20, 49]</li> <li>• Facilitate thoracoabdominal aortic interventions [2, 5, 10, 49]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a II stage procedure [4, 19, 20, 49]</li> <li>• Interval mortality [4, 5, 44]</li> </ul>
FET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows single-stage treatment [1, 19, 26, 38]</li> <li>• Facilitates thoracoabdominal aortic interventions [17, 28, 19]</li> <li>• Reduces the risk of additional distal aortic surgery [26, 28, 30, 41]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased risk of spinal cord injury [7, 39, 44, 47]</li> <li>• Technically demanding [31, 37]</li> <li>• Cost of the device [52]</li> </ul>

## FET

- Allows single-stage treatment (20% risk for secondary reintervention)
- Over than to 10% SCI risk- increased paraplegia risk
- Induce depressurization and false lumen thrombosis and fully opens compressed true lumen
- Prolonged hypothermic circulatory arrest



# Neurologic complications after the frozen elephant trunk procedure: A meta-analysis of more than 3000 patients

TABLE 4. Summary of clinical outcomes

First author (year)	N	Overall stroke % (95% CI)	Overall SCI/paralysis/ paraplegia % (95% CI)	Operative mortality % (95% CI)
Usui (2002) <sup>14</sup>	24	4.2 (0.0-12.2)	12.5 (0.0-25.7)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)
Flores (2006) <sup>15</sup>	25	16.0 (1.6-30.4)	24.0 (7.3-40.7)	12.0 (0.0-24.7)
Shimamura (2008) <sup>16</sup>	126	5.6 (1.6-9.6)	6.3 (2.1-10.6)	5.6 (1.6-9.6)
Li (2009) <sup>17</sup>	31	3.2 (0.0-9.4)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	6.5 (0.0-15.1)
Chen (2010) <sup>18</sup>	28	10.7 (0.0-22.2)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	14.3 (1.3-27.2)
Sun (2010) <sup>19</sup>	19	5.3 (0.0-15.3)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	5.3 (0.0-15.3)
Lima (2012) <sup>20</sup>	31	12.9 (1.1-24.7)	12.9 (1.1-24.7)	9.7 (0.0-20.1)
Shen (2012) <sup>21</sup>	38	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	5.3 (0.0-12.4)	7.9 (0.0-16.5)
Zhao (2012) <sup>22</sup>	24	4.2 (0.0-12.2)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	4.2 (0.0-12.2)
Hoffman (2013) <sup>23</sup>	32	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	3.1 (0.0-9.2)
Di Marco (2014) <sup>24</sup>	11	9.1 (0.0-26.1)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)
Ma (2014) <sup>25a</sup>	456	2.9 (1.3-4.4)	2.4 (1.0-3.8)	8.1 (5.6-10.6)
Ma (2014B) <sup>25b</sup>	347	0.9 (0.0-1.8)	2.3 (0.7-3.9)	4.3 (2.2-6.5)
Nakamura (2014) <sup>26</sup>	51	NR	3.9 (0.9-9.2)	NR
Shi (2014) <sup>27</sup>	84	33.3 (23.3-43.4)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	6.0 (0.9-11.0)
Xiao (2014) <sup>28</sup>	33	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	18.2 (5.0-31.3)
Yang (2014) <sup>29</sup>	86	NR	2.3 (0.5-5.5)	5.8 (0.9-10.8)
Zhang (2014) <sup>30</sup>	88	14.8 (7.4-22.2)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	5.7 (0.8-10.5)
Dias (2015) <sup>31</sup>	21	4.8 (0.0-13.9)	9.5 (0.0-22.1)	14.3 (0.0-29.3)
Hiraoka (2015) <sup>32</sup>	26	7.7 (0.0-17.9)	11.5 (0.0-23.8)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)
Katayama (2015) <sup>33</sup>	224	2.7 (0.6-4.8)	3.6 (1.1-6.0)	3.6 (1.1-6.0)
Ahmad (2016) <sup>34</sup>	14	14.3 (0.0-32.6)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)
Gong (2016) <sup>35</sup>	74	6.8 (1.0-12.5)	6.8 (1.0-12.5)	12.2 (4.7-19.6)
Leontyev (2016) <sup>36</sup>	509	8.1 (5.7-10.4)	7.5 (5.2-9.7)	15.9 (12.7-19.1)
Ma (2016) <sup>37</sup>	99	34.3 (25.0-43.7)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	17.2 (9.7-24.6)
Shrestha (2016) <sup>38</sup>	100	9.0 (3.4-14.6)	7.0 (2.0-12.0)	7.0 (2.0-12.0)
Aalaci-Andabili (2017) <sup>39</sup>	48	6.3 (0.0-13.1)	4.2 (0.0-9.8)	16.7 (6.1-27.2)
Chen (2017) <sup>40</sup>	20	NR	5.0 (0.0-14.6)	5.0 (0.0-14.6)
Hu (2017) <sup>41</sup>	106	4.7 (0.7-8.8)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	7.5 (2.5-12.6)
Preventza (2017) <sup>42</sup>	37	5.4 (0.0-12.7)	5.4 (0.0-12.7)	21.6 (8.4-34.9)
Verhoye (2017) <sup>43</sup>	94	9.6 (3.6-15.5)	4.3 (0.2-8.3)	11.7 (5.2-18.2)
Koizumi (2017) <sup>44</sup>	30	10.0 (0.0-20.7)	3.3 (0.0-9.8)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)
Kreibich (2018) <sup>45</sup>	14	14.3 (0.0-32.6)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)
Ma (2018) <sup>46</sup>	132	40.9 (32.5-49.3)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	14.4 (8.4-20.4)
Roselli (2018) <sup>47</sup>	72	2.8 (0.0-6.6)	4.2 (0.0-8.8)	4.2 (0.0-8.8)
All studies (range)	3154	0-40.9	0-24.0	0-21.6

N, Number of patients included in study; SCI, spinal cord ischemia; CI, confidence interval; NR, not reported. \*Upper entry, labeled Ma (2014), refers to data from acute type A dissection cases. Lower entry, labeled Ma (2014B), refers to data from chronic cases.

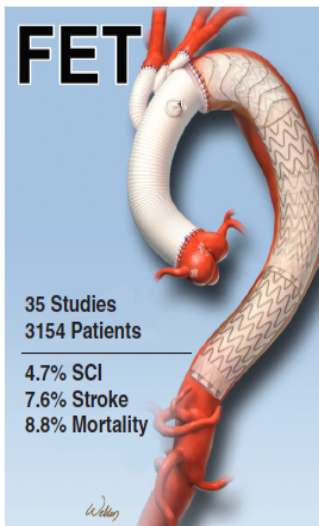


FIGURE 4. A visual summary of the main points of our study. The overall pooled rates of the outcomes of interest were 4.7% for overall SCI, 7.6% for overall stroke, and 8.8% for operative mortality. Additionally, 2 subgroup analyses were performed: One showed that SCI was significantly more frequent in the patients with longer stents or coverage at or beyond T8. The other subgroup analysis found that the FET technique was associated with higher rates of mortality and stroke in patients with acute type A dissection, and the overall adverse event rate (which included mortality, stroke, and SCI) was higher in these patients, too. FET, Frozen elephant trunk; SC, spinal cord; SCI, spinal cord ischemia.

## Central Message

In FET, 10-cm stent length is advisable; length 15 cm or greater or coverage to or beyond T8 should be avoided to prevent SCI. FET should be used cautiously for acute type A aortic dissection.

See Commentary on page XXX.

**Conclusions:** As the frozen elephant trunk procedure becomes more popular, accurate data regarding outcomes are vital. We associated the frozen elephant trunk technique with (nonsignificantly) more adverse events overall in acute type A dissection cases. Stent length of 10 cm was associated with significantly less risk of spinal cord ischemia. Using a stent 15 cm or greater or coverage extending to T8 or farther should be avoided. (J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2019; ■:1-14)

# Total arch repair with frozen elephant trunk using the “zone 0 arch repair” strategy for type A acute aortic dissection

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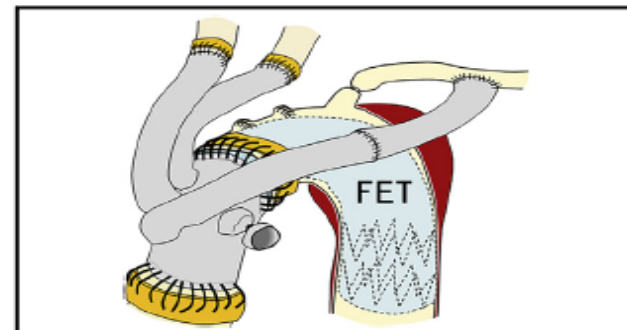
## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of frozen elephant trunk deployment from the zone 0 aorta to the descending aorta on early and midterm postoperative results in patients with acute type A aortic dissection.

**Methods:** Between October 2014 and April 2018, 108 patients underwent a combined strategy of frozen elephant trunk deployment, ascending aortic replacement, and arch vessel reconstruction (“zone 0 arch repair” strategy) for acute type A aortic dissection (excluding DeBakey type II). Of the 108 patients, 32 (29.6%) had primary tears of the aortic arch or descending aorta.

**Results:** The 30-day mortality rate was 2.8% (3 patients), and in-hospital mortality rate was 6.5% (7 patients). New-onset permanent neurologic dysfunction and spinal cord injury occurred in 3.7% and 0% of patients, respectively. Five of the 101 survivors underwent thoracic endovascular aortic repair during hospitalization (2 for rapid false lumen enlargement; 3 for true lumen stenosis). The overall survival was 89.8%, 88.1%, and 88.1% at 1, 2, and 3 years, respectively. The cumulative incidence of distal aortic reintervention was 5.8%, 9.1%, and 9.1% at 1, 2, and 3 years, respectively. Two patients underwent thoracic endovascular aortic repair for distal aortic enlargement after discharge.

**Conclusions:** The use of the “zone 0 arch repair” strategy can eliminate the need for invasive aortic arch resection. It also eliminates the false lumen and produces satisfactory early and midterm postoperative results. Therefore, it can be an alternative to hemiarch and total arch replacements, which are based on a conventional “tear-oriented resection” strategy. (*J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2019; ■ :1-10)



FET from the zone 0 aorta, ascending aortic replacement, and arch vessel reconstruction.

### Central Message

“Zone 0 arch repair,” consisting of FET deployment from the zone 0 aorta, ascending aortic replacement, and arch vessel reconstruction, is straightforward and produces satisfactory late results.

### Perspective

TAR, based on a tear-oriented strategy, is more invasive and carries a higher risk of unfavorable early results but less risk of late aortic reintervention than ascending aortic replacement. “Zone 0 arch repair,” consisting of FET deployment from the zone 0 aorta, ascending aortic replacement, and arch vessel reconstruction, is straightforward and provides satisfactory late results.

## Total Arch Replacement Combined With Stented Elephant Trunk Implantation

### A New “Standard” Therapy for Type A Dissection Involving Repair of the Aortic Arch?

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**Table 3. Postoperative Outcomes**

Variable	Acute Dissection			Chronic Dissection		
	SET (n=148)	CSR (n=66)	P	SET (n=148)	CSR (n=66)	P
Injury to recurrent nerves, n (%)	0	0		3 (2.1)	0	0.563
Stroke, n (%)	4 (2.7)	1 (1.5)	1.000	3 (2.1)	0	0.563
Paraplegia, n (%)	2 (1.4)	0	1.000	0	0	
Paraparesis, n (%)	1 (0.7)	1 (1.5)	0.523	4 (2.8)	0	0.577
Acute renal failure, n (%)	1 (0.7)	2 (3.0)	0.226	2 (1.4)	0	1.000
Ventilator support of duration >5 d, n (%)	14 (9.5)	5 (7.6)	0.797	7 (4.9)	1 (1.9)	0.450
Return to operating room for bleeding, n (%)	5 (3.4)	2 (3.0)	1.000	10 (7.0)	5 (9.3)	0.560
Drainage of pericardial sac, n (%)	1 (0.7)	0	1.000	2 (1.4)	1 (1.9)	1.000
In-hospital death, n (%)	7 (4.7)	4 (6.1)	0.741	2 (1.4)	2 (3.7)	0.302

SET indicates stented elephant trunk; CSR, conventional surgical repair.

**Table 5. Follow-Up Results**

Variable	Acute Dissection			Chronic Dissection		
	SET (n=141)	CSR (n=62)	P	SET (n=141)	CSR (n=52)	P
Follow-up time (±SD), mo	42±18	49±20	0.007	43±19	46±22	0.408
Out of follow-up, n (%)	6 (4.3)	5 (8.1)	0.316	8 (5.7)	3 (5.8)	1.000
Thrombosis of the false lumen, n (%)	130 (94.2)	7 (14.5)	0.000	126 (92.0)	3 (10.3)	0.000
Secondary surgical intervention, n (%)	1 (0.7)	4 (6.5)	0.031	4 (2.8)	2 (3.8)	0.661
Follow-up death, n (%)	4 (2.8)	2 (3.2)	1.000	6 (4.3)	3 (5.8)	0.704

SET indicates stented elephant trunk; CSR, conventional surgical repair.



# Fate of distal aorta after frozen elephant trunk : arch replacement for type A aortic dissection in Marfan syndrome

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The use of the frozen elephant trunk technique for type A aortic dissection in Marfan syndrome is limited by the lack of imaging evidence for long-term aortic remodeling. We seek to evaluate the changes of the distal aorta and late outcomes after frozen elephant trunk and total arch replacement for type A aortic dissection in patients with Marfan syndrome.

**Methods:** Between 2003 and 2015, we performed frozen elephant trunk + total arch replacement for type A aortic dissection in Marfan syndrome patients.

**Results:** In 172 patients with Marfan syndrome suffering from type A aortic dissection, the frozen elephant trunk technique induced true lumen expansion across the aorta, stabilized the distal aorta in 63.5%, and achieved a 65% event-free survival at 8 years.

**Conclusions:** The frozen elephant trunk technique can expand the true lumen across the aorta, decrease or stabilize the false lumen, and stabilize the distal aorta.

was stable at the frozen elephant trunk and renal artery ( $P > .05$ ), but grew at the descending aorta ( $P = .001$ ) and diaphragm ( $P < .001$ ). Respective maximal aortic sizes before discharge were 40.2 mm, 32.1 mm, 31.6 mm, and 26.9 mm, and growth rate was 0.4 mm/year, 2.8 mm/year, 3.6 mm/year, and 2.6 mm/year. By the latest follow-up, distal maximal aortic size was stable in 63.5% (99/156), and complete remodeling down to the mid-descending aorta occurred in 28.8% (45/156). There were 22 late deaths and 23 distal reoperations. Eight-year incidence of death was 15%, reoperation rate was 20%, and event-free survival was 65%. Preoperative distal maximal aortic size (mm) predicted dilatation (hazard ratio, 1.11;  $P < .001$ ) and reoperation (hazard ratio, 1.07;  $P < .001$ ). A patent false lumen in the descending aorta predicted dilatation (hazard ratio, 3.88;  $P < .001$ ), reoper-

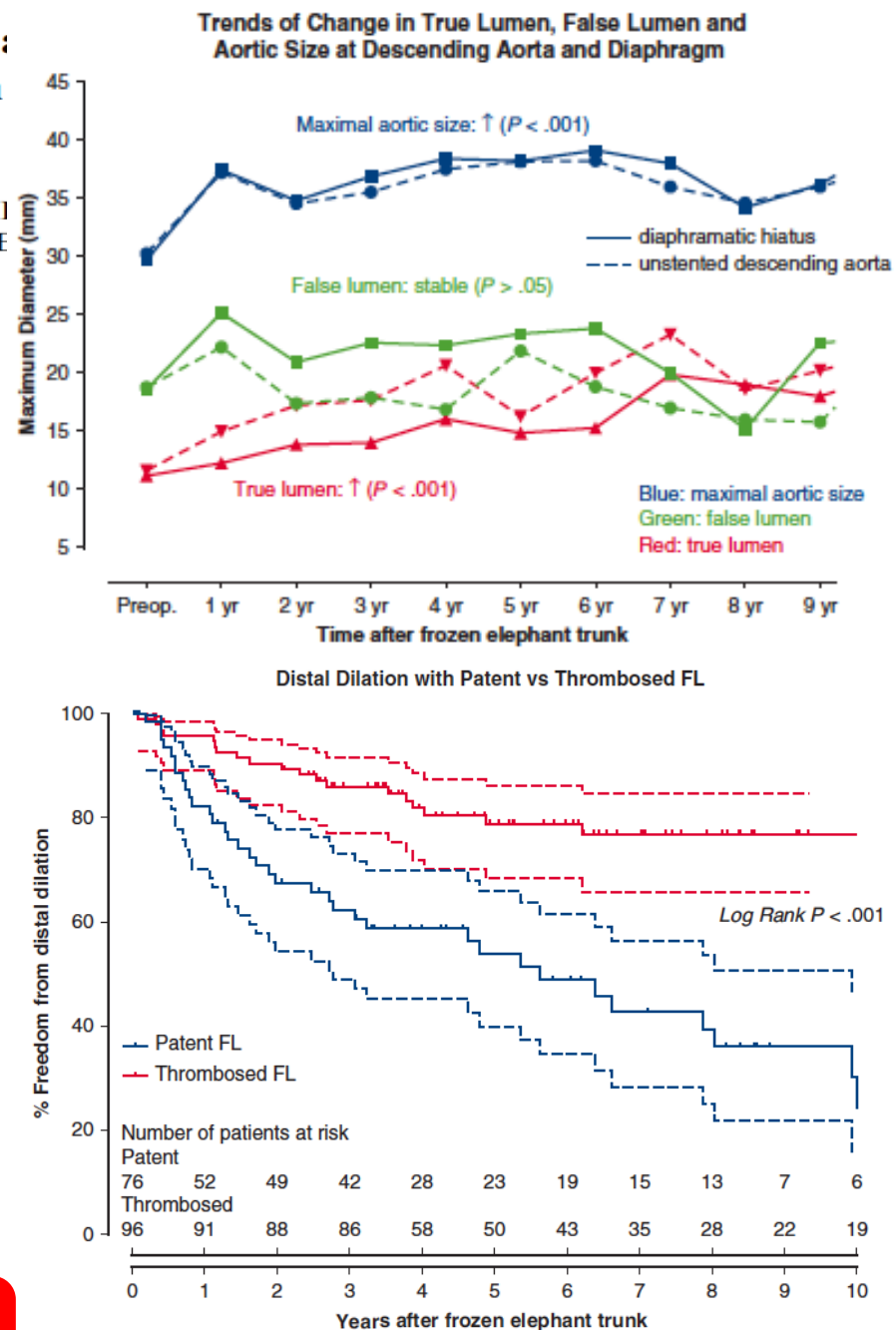


FIGURE 3. Distal aortic dilatation in patent versus thrombosed FL. FL, False lumen.

## Experience with the conventional and frozen elephant trunk techniques: a single-centre study<sup>†</sup>

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Table 4: Postoperative clinical characteristics for cET vs FET patients and for patients with and without Type A aortic dissection

	Total n = 171	cET n = 125	FET n = 46	P
Postoperative outcome				
PND	26 (15.2)	20 (16.0)	6 (13.0)	0.6
TND	27 (15.8)	23 (18.4)	4 (8.7)	0.1
Paraplegia	15 (8.8)	5 (4.0)	10 (21.7)	<0.001
Respiratory failure	76 (44.4)	57 (45.6)	19 (41.3)	0.6
Renal failure	34 (19.9)	23 (18.4)	11 (23.9)	0.4
Reoperation for bleeding	30 (17.5)	24 (19.2)	6 (13.0)	0.3
30-day mortality	28 (16.4)	24 (19.2)	4 (8.7)	0.1
In-hospital mortality	31 (18.1)	27 (21.6)	4 (8.7)	0.053

## The elephant trunk is freezing: The Hannover experience

TABLE 3. Postoperative data

	Total			Aneurysm			Acute dissection			Chronic dissection		
	Group A (ET)	Group B (FET)	<i>P</i>	Group A (ET)	Group B (FET)	<i>P</i>	Group A (ET)	Group B (FET)	<i>P</i>	Group A (ET)	Group B (FET)	<i>P</i>
Patients	97	180		43	62		47	67		7	51	
Ventilation (d [range])	0.91 (0.58-2.7)	1.2 (0.58-4.4)	.13	0.63 (0.50-1.0)	0.87 (0.51-3.2)	.055	2.1 (0.84-5.8)	2.0 (0.70-5.6)	.79	0.76 (0.40-0.96)	1.2 (0.54-4.6)	.29
Hospital stay (d [range])	12 (7.5-20)	15 (9.0-23)	<b>.037</b>	12 (9.0-18)	15 (9.0-22)	.31	14 (5.0-22)	13 (8.0-21)	1.00	11 (8.0-12)	17 (12-30)	<b>.0049</b>
Rethoracotomy for bleeding	23 (24)	30 (17)	.20	6 (14)	8 (13)	1.00	15 (32)	12 (18)	.12	2 (29)	10 (20)	.62
Stroke	12 (12)	24 (13)	1.00	2 (5)	6 (10)	.47	10 (21)	11 (16)	.62	0 (0)	6 (12)	1.00
Prolonged ventilation	27 (28)	44 (24)	.57	4 (9)	8 (13)	.76	13 (28)	10 (15)	.10	1 (14)	14 (28)	.66
Paraparesis	5 (5)	9 (5)	1.00	0	2 (3)	.51	5 (11)	6 (9)	.76	0 (0)	1 (2)	1.00
Recurrent nerve palsy	15 (16)	36 (20)	.42	8 (19)	10 (16)	.80	5 (11)	13 (19)	.30	1 (14)	9 (18)	1.00
Renal failure; dialysis	12 (12)	25 (14)	.85	2 (5)	7 (11)	.30	10 (21)	9 (13)	.31	0 (0)	9 (18)	.58
30-d mortality	<b>24 (25)</b>	<b>22 (12)</b>	<b>.011</b>	4 (9)	9 (15)	.55	<b>19 (40)</b>	<b>10 (15)</b>	<b>.004</b>	1 (14)	4 (8)	.42

Boldface indicate  $P < .005$ . Values are n, or n (%), unless otherwise indicated. ET, Elephant trunk; FET, frozen elephant trunk.

proximal descending aorta, the FET approach potentially allows for single-stage therapy, whereas a second-stage operation is inevitable with the classic ET approach. Moreover, owing to the availability of prefabricated, easy-to-use, FET, hybrid prostheses that result in significantly better outcomes in patients who have acute aortic dissection, type A, and if necessary, and provide an ideal “landing zone” for future endovascular completion, the classic ET procedure is “freezing,” in the sense that it is being replaced by the FET approach. (J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2015;149:1286-93)



# Conventional versus frozen elephant trunk surgery for extensive disease of the thoracic aorta

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**Objective** To compare early and mid-term outcomes after repair of extensive aneurysm of the thoracic aorta using the conventional elephant trunk or frozen elephant trunk (FET) procedures.

**Methods** Fifty-seven patients with extensive thoracic aneurysmal disease were treated using elephant trunk ( $n = 36$ ) or FET ( $n = 21$ ) procedures. Patients with aortic dissection, descending thoracic aorta (DTA) diameter less than 40 mm, and thoracoabdominal aneurysms were excluded from the analysis, as were those who did not undergo antegrade selective cerebral perfusion during circulatory arrest. Short-term and mid-term outcomes were compared according to elephant trunk/FET surgical management.

**Results** Preoperative and intraoperative variables were similar in the two groups, except for a higher incidence of female sex, coronary artery disease and associated procedures in elephant trunk patients. Hospital mortality (elephant trunk: 13.9% versus FET: 4.8%;  $P = 0.2$ ), permanent neurologic dysfunction (elephant trunk: 5.7% versus FET: 9.5%;  $P = 0.4$ ) and paraplegia (elephant trunk: 2.9% versus FET: 4.8%;  $P = 0.6$ ) rates were similar in the two groups. Follow-up was 100% complete. In the elephant trunk group, 68.4% of patients did not undergo a second-stage procedure during follow-up for a variety of reasons. Of these patients, the DTA diameter was greater than 51 mm in 72.2% and two (6.7%) died due to aortic rupture while awaiting stage-two intervention. Endovascular second-stage procedures were successfully performed in all FET

patients with residual DTA aneurysmal disease ( $n = 3$ ), whereas nine of 11 elephant trunk patients who returned for second-stage procedures required conventional surgical replacement through a lateral thoracotomy. Kaplan–Meier estimate of 4-year survival was  $75.8 \pm 7.6$  and  $72.8 \pm 10.6$  in elephant trunk and FET patients, respectively (log-rank  $P = 0.8$ ).

**Conclusion** In patients with extensive aneurysmal disease of thoracic aorta, elephant trunk and FET procedures seem to be associated with similar satisfactory early and mid-term outcomes. The FET approach leads to single-stage treatment of all aortic disease in most patients, and facilitates endovascular second-stage treatment in patients with residual DTA disease. The elephant trunk staged-approach appears to leave a considerable percentage of patients at risk for adverse aortic events.

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Keywords: aneurysm, aorta, great vessels, hybrid

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	Conventional elephant trunk	FET
Number of patients	36	21
In-hospital mortality	5	1 (p=0.272)
Potential candidates for stage-two operation	31/31	3/20
Underwent staged operation	<p>similar satisfactory early and mid-term outcomes. The FET approach leads to single-stage treatment of all aortic disease in most patients, and facilitates endovascular second-stage treatment in patients with residual DTA disease. The elephant trunk staged-approach appears to leave a considerable percentage of patients at risk for adverse aortic events.</p>	
Endovascular stage-two operation	2/11	3/3
Mean interval in months	24.2±11.2	2.9±1.1
Interval mortality	2	0

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# Is the frozen elephant trunk procedure superior to the conventional elephant trunk procedure for completion of the second stage?†

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## Abstract

**OBJECTIVES:** Our goal was to compare the results and outcomes of second-stage completion in patients who had previously undergone the elephant trunk (ET) or the frozen elephant trunk (FET) procedure for the treatment of complex aortic arch and descending aortic disease.

**METHODS:** Between August 2001 and December 2014, 53 patients [mean age  $61 \pm 13$  years, 64% ( $n = 34$ ) male] underwent a second-stage completion procedure. Of these patients, 32% ( $n = 17$ ) had a previous ET procedure and 68% ( $n = 36$ ) a previous FET procedure as a first-stage procedure.

**RESULTS:** The median times to the second-stage procedure were 7 (0–78) months in the ET group and 8 (0–66) months in the FET group. The second-stage procedure included thoracic endovascular aortic repair in 53% ( $n = 28$ ) of patients and open surgical repair in 47% ( $n = 25$ ). More endovascular interventions were performed in FET patients (61%,  $n = 22$ ) than in the ET group (35%,  $n = 6$ ,  $P = 0.117$ ). The in-hospital mortality rate was significantly lower in the FET (8%,  $n = 3$ ) group compared with the ET group (29%,  $n = 5$ ,  $P = 0.045$ ). The median follow-up time after the second-stage operation for the entire cohort was 4.6 (0.4–10.4) years. The 5-year survival rate was 76% in the ET patients versus 89% in the FET patients (log-rank:  $P = 0.11$ ).

**CONCLUSIONS:** We observed a significantly lower in-hospital mortality rate in the FET group compared to the ET group. This result might be explained by the higher rate of endovascular completion in the FET group. We assume that the FET procedure offers the benefit of a more ideal landing zone, thus facilitating endovascular completion.

**Keywords:** Frozen elephant trunk • Aortic arch replacement • Second-stage aortic repair



Cite this article as: Shrestha M, Martens A, Kaufeld T, Beckmann E, Bertele S, Krueger H *et al.* Single-centre experience with the frozen elephant trunk technique in 251 patients over 15 years. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* 2017; doi:10.1093/ejcts/ezx218.

## Single-centre experience with the frozen elephant trunk technique in 251 patients over 15 years<sup>†</sup>

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### Abstract

**OBJECTIVES:** Our goal was to present our 15-year experience (2001–2015) with the frozen elephant trunk (FET) technique.

**METHODS:** A total of 251 patients (82 with aortic aneurysms, 96 with acute aortic dissection type A, 4 with acute type B dissections, 52 with chronic aortic dissection type A, 17 with chronic type B dissection and 67 redo cases) underwent FET implantation with either the custom-made Chavan–Haverich ( $n = 66$ ), the Jotec E-vita ( $n = 31$ ) or the Vascutek Thoraflex hybrid ( $n = 154$ ) prosthesis. The cases were assigned to an early period (2001–2011) and a contemporary period (2012–present).

**RESULTS:** Mean cardiopulmonary bypass time, aortic cross-clamp time, circulatory arrest time and selective antegrade cerebral perfusion time were  $241 \pm 72$ ,  $125 \pm 59$ ,  $56 \pm 30$  and  $81 \pm 34$  min, respectively. Incidence of rethoracotomy for bleeding, stroke, spinal cord injury, prolonged ventilatory support ( $>96$  h) and long-term dialysis were 18, 14, 2, 24 and 2%, respectively. The in-hospital mortality rate was 11% (in acute aortic dissection type A, 12%). Of the 2 patients with graft infections, 1 died and the other had a protracted hospital stay. There were 49 second-stage procedures in the downstream aorta: either open surgical [ $n = 25$  (thoraco-abdominal,  $n = 15$ ; descending,  $n = 6$ ; infrarenal,  $n = 4$ )] or transfemoral endovascular ( $n = 23$ ). Elective thoracic endovascular aneurysm repair R implantation was successful in all 23 cases.

**CONCLUSIONS:** FET results are comparable with those of the published results of the conventional elephant trunk technique. FET is an ideal landing zone for subsequent transfemoral endovascular completion. Patients with graft infections may have dismal results.

**Keywords:** Frozen elephant trunk • Aortic surgery • Aneurysm • Aortic dissection

# Which Frozen Elephant Trunk Offers the Optimal Solution? Reflections From Essen Group.

Tsagakis K<sup>1</sup>, Jakob H<sup>2</sup>.

## ⊕ Author information

### Abstract

Frozen Elephant Trunk (FET) combines the advantages of open and endovascular surgery for the treatment of complex aortic arch pathologies extending into the descending aorta. At University Hospital Essen, operative skills were developed to make FET surgery safer including guidance and control of FET deployment into the descending aorta by angioscopy and facilitation of arch repair by moving the distal anastomosis to Zone 2 and more proximally. Selective whole body perfusion during the arch repair was used to improve organ protection under moderate hypothermia. Our results demonstrate acceptable mortality in this high risk patient population and reduction of postoperative morbidity in the last years. With regard to the rate of exclusion of aneurysms in the distal arch and the false lumen in acute aortic dissection, FET should be the treatment of choice in both. In chronic aortic dissection and extensive descending aortic aneurysms, FET represents a safe first stage procedure and provides an ideal docking place in the mid-descending aorta for a second endovascular or open thoracoabdominal aortic repair, if required.

Type I

Type III



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PRACTICE GUIDELINE: FULL TEXT

## 2010 ACCF/AHA/AATS/ACR/ASA/SCA/SCAI/SIR/STS/SVM Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Patients With Thoracic Aortic Disease

Elephant  
trunk, 2010

### 9.2.2.2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AORTIC ARCH ANEURYSMS

**CLASS IIa**

1. For thoracic aortic aneurysms also involving the proximal descending aorta, open arch replacement together with ascending aorta replacement and coronary artery inflow and

### The elephant trunk is freezing: The Hannover experience

2010 ACCF/AHA/AATS/ACR/ASA/SCA/SCAI/SIR/STS/SVM  
Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of  
Patients With Thoracic Aortic Disease

Prakash Shrestha, MBBS, Erik Beckmann, MD, Heike Krueger, RN, Felix Fleissner, MD, Nurbol Koigeldiyev, MD, Julia Umminger, MD, Fabio Ius, MD, Axel Haverich, MD

6.1 Open aortic arch replacement  
**Evidence**

3. Replacement of the aortic arch with the elephant trunk technique is not recommended for aneurysms involving the proximal descending aorta. Open aortic arch replacement involving all 3 supra-aortic branches without the adjunct of either elephant trunk (ET) repair or in combination with the FET technique has become rare [147, 148] (Figs 4 and 5). The ET technique should be applied when the FET technique remains debatable. For instance, in large aneurysmal formations involving several TA segments and in very small true lumina with the risk of inducing pseudocoarctation, a FET procedure is not recommended.



**Table 3:** Early outcomes

	Total cohort (n = 168)			Propensity-matched cohort (n = 52)		
	FET (n = 132)	Arch debranching (n = 36)	P-value	FET (n = 26)	Arch debranching (n = 26)	P-value
30-day mortality (%)	19 (14.4)	2 (5.6)	0.254	6 (23.1)	2 (7.7)	0.248
Stroke (%)	7 (5.3)	2 (5.6)	>0.999	1 (3.8)	2 (7.7)	>0.999
TND (%)	47 (35.6)	10 (27.8)	0.379	7 (26.9)	7 (26.9)	>0.999
ARD (%)	20 (15.2)	3 (8.3)	0.414	3 (11.5)	2 (7.7)	>0.999
Pulmonary infection (%)	44 (33.3)	8 (22.2)	0.201	6 (23.1)	5 (19.2)	0.734
Tracheotomy (%)	26 (19.7)	5 (13.9)	0.426	-	-	-
Reoperation (%)	9 (6.8)	3 (8.3)	0.754	-	-	-
ICU time (days)						
Mean ± SD	7.6 ± 4.4	6.1 ± 5.6	0.079	7.2 ± 4.1	6.5 ± 6.2	0.375
Median (IQR)	7.1 (4.8–9.6)	4.8 (2.6–8.4)		7.0 (4.6–9.7)	5.3 (2.7–8.0)	
Ventilation time (h)						
Mean ± SD	126.1 ± 90.5	96.2 ± 91.5	0.033	124.4 ± 84.0	100.5 ± 89.0	0.140
Median (IQR)	112 (49.3–159.5)	62.5 (16.8–148.3)		115 (49.8–180.0)	69.0 (23.5–148.3)	
Total drainage (l)						
Mean ± SD	4.2 ± 2.3	3.6 ± 2.7	0.080	3.8 ± 2.0	3.4 ± 2.6	0.132
Median (IQR)	4.2 (2.5–5.3)	2.9 (1.5–5.3)		4.1 (2.4–4.2)	2.7 (1.0–5.6)	
Time in hospital (days)						
Mean ± SD	23.4 ± 13.7	28.5 ± 19.8	0.076	20.4 ± 10.8	25.1 ± 14.9	0.693
Median (IQR)	23 (14–30)	24.5 (17.3–35.3)		21.5 (11.2–29.3)	21.5 (14.3–31.8)	

Values are represented as median (interquartile range) or n (%).

ARD: acute renal dysfunction; FET: frozen elephant trunk; ICU: intensive care unit; IQR: interquartile range; SD: standard deviation; TND: transient neurologic dysfunction.

Perioperative data and mid-term follow-up results were assessed.

**RESULTS:** In the FET and the debranching groups, the 30-day mortality rates were 14.4% and 5.6% ( $P = 0.254$ ) and the incidence of stroke was 5.3% and 5.6% ( $P > 0.999$ ). Cardiopulmonary bypass time was significantly shortened, and the circulatory arrest was exempted in the debranching group. Cardiopulmonary bypass time was identified as a predictor for 30-day mortality ( $P = 0.027$ , odds ratio 1.01). Body mass index  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> was associated with multiorgan dysfunction syndrome ( $P = 0.016$ , odds ratio 3.51). Surgical modality did not significantly affect early outcomes. The 3-year survival rate was 76.1% (95% confidence interval, 63.0–81.9%) in the FET group and 82.5% (95% confidence interval, 65.2–91.8%) in the debranching group ( $P = 0.330$ ).

**CONCLUSIONS:** The hybrid aortic arch procedure without circulatory arrest can be safely performed on patients with acute Type I aortic dissection. Irrespective of cost-effectiveness, arch debranching was a promising alternative for patients who were unfit for the FET procedure.

**Keywords:** Aortic arch • Aortic dissection • Endovascular procedures • Propensity matching

# Hybrid and frozen elephant trunk for total arch replacement in DeBakey type I dissection

TABLE 4. Early outcomes for total and propensity-matched cohorts

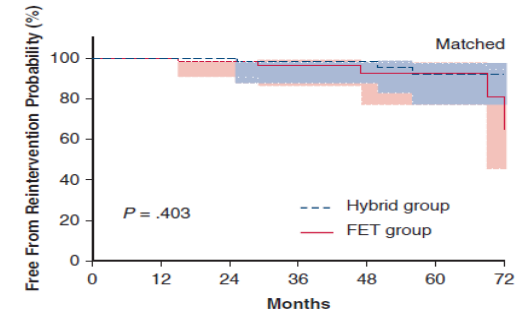
Variable	Total cohort (n = 937)			Propensity-matched cohort (n = 218)		
	FET (n = 815)	Hybrid (n = 122)	P value	FET (n = 109)	Hybrid (n = 109)	P value
Early postoperative death	10.7% (87)	9% (11)	.5767	17.4% (19)	9.2% (10)	.0727
Composite rate of complications	20.2% (165)	15.6% (19)	.2257	25.7% (28)	15.6% (17)	.0657
Infection	27.9% (227)	19.7% (24)	.0571	36.7% (40)	18.3% (20)	.0024
Renal insufficiency	32.3% (263)	23% (28)	.0380	38.5% (42)	22.9% (25)	.0126
Dialysis	9.6% (78)	9.8% (12)	.9260	16.5% (18)	10.1% (11)	.1627
Hepatic insufficiency	31.4% (256)	22.1% (27)	.0373	33.9% (37)	20.2% (22)	.0222
Stroke	4.4% (36)	0% (0)	.0099	2.8% (3)	0% (0)	.2465
Paraplegia	4.4% (36)	0% (0)	.0099	6.4% (7)	0% (0)	.0141
SCI	6.9% (56)	2.5% (3)	.0704	8.3% (9)	2.8% (3)	.1348
Transient mental dysfunction	14.1% (115)	13.1% (16)	.7674	21.1% (23)	12.8% (14)	.1044
Cardiac dysfunction	2.3% (19)	3.3% (4)	.5268	4.6% (5)	3.7% (4)	1.0000
Gastrointestinal dysfunction	12.8% (104)	11.5% (14)	.6898	15.6% (17)	11% (12)	.3187
Reoperation for bleeding	3.7% (30)	5.7% (7)	.2766	2.8% (3)	4.6% (5)	.4712
Blood loss during operation (mL)	947.2 ± 773.02	872.38 ± 543.34	.3818	964.31 ± 516.55	866.79 ± 541.79	.0617
Blood product use						
Red cell (U)	6.83 ± 8.85	6.04 ± 5.44	.4658	8.93 ± 8.74	5.94 ± 5.57	.0201
FFP (mL)	873.97 ± 1024.34	677.87 ± 861.63	.0075	920.56 ± 934.53	672.48 ± 864.51	.0182
Platelet (U)	2.45 ± 2.62	1.87 ± 1.56	.0011	2.73 ± 2.52	1.9 ± 1.61	.0016
ICU stay (h)	69.59 ± 63.08	85.36 ± 63.45	.0047	79.48 ± 65.67	85.89 ± 65.18	.5663
Hospital stay (d)	16.45 ± 11.28	16.7 ± 7.55	.0141	17.7 ± 12.25	17.06 ± 7.69	.2161
Endoleaks (type Ia)	0% (0)	7.4% (9)	<.0001	0% (0)	7.3% (8)	<.0001

FET, Frozen elephant trunk; SCI, spinal cord ischemia; FFP, fresh-frozen plasma; ICU, intensive care unit.

**Results:** Early mortality and complication rates were lower in the hybrid group, but the difference was not statistically significant (9.2% vs 17.4%,  $P = .073$ ; 15.6% vs 25.7%,  $P = .066$ ). The rates of postoperative renal insufficiency was significantly lower in the hybrid group than in the frozen elephant trunk group (22.9% vs 38.5%,  $P = .013$ ); liver insufficiency and paraplegia were significantly lower in the hybrid group than in the frozen elephant trunk group (20.2% vs 33.9%,  $P = .022$ ; 0% vs 6.4%,  $P = .014$ ). After matched, the 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year survivals were 87.6%, 86.3%, and 82.2%, respectively, in the hybrid group and 80.7%, 76.5%, and 74.6% ( $P = .071$ ), respectively, in the frozen elephant trunk group.

**Conclusions:** Hybrid aortic arch repair is a viable alternative treatment for patients with DeBakey type I aortic dissection, which improves outcomes and promotes remodeling of the dissected thoracic aorta. (J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2019; ■ :1-8)

Sun, MD,<sup>b</sup> Juntao Qiu, MD,<sup>b</sup>

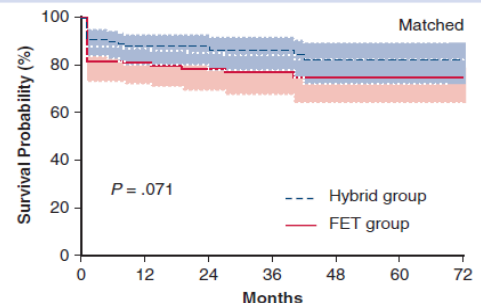


Numbers at risk  
Hybrid: 109 74 55 48 39 24 12  
FET: 109 82 55 39 25 12 8

FIGURE 2. Free from reintervention rates for all patients after propensity matching. Free from reintervention rates at 1 year, 3 years, and 5 years were 100%, 98.1%, and 92.2%, respectively, in the hybrid group and 100%, 96.5%, and 92.6% ( $P = .403$ ), respectively, in the FET group. FET, Frozen elephant trunk.

## Central Message

Hybrid repair of DeBakey type I aortic dissection can reduce postoperative complications and increase aortic remodeling compared with conventional TAR.



Numbers at risk  
Hybrid: 109 74 55 48 39 24 12  
FET: 109 82 55 39 25 12 9

FIGURE 1. Kaplan-Meier survival curves for all patients after propensity matching. The 1-, 3-, and 5-year survivals were 87.6%, 86.3%, and 82.2%, respectively, in the hybrid group and 80.7%, 76.5%, and 74.6% ( $P = .071$ ), respectively, in the FET group. FET, Frozen elephant trunk.



**Table 4**  
Postoperative Early-Term Morbidity

Parameters	Older-Than-60-Years Group						Younger-Than-60-Years Group					
	Total Cohort (n = 142)			Propensity-Matched Cohort (n = 88)			Total Cohort (n = 167)			Propensity-Matched Cohort (n = 60)		
	Debranching (n = 58)	TAR (n = 84)	p Value	Debranching (n = 44)	TAR (n = 44)	p Value	Debranching (n = 39)	TAR (n = 128)	p Value	Debranching (n = 30)	TAR (n = 30)	p Value
Transfusion	6 (10.3)	25 (29.8)	0.006	5 (11.4)	13 (29.5)	0.034	3 (7.7)	22 (17.2)	0.146	2 (6.7)	5 (16.7)	0.421
Renal failure (n)	3 (5.2)	20 (23.8)	0.003	2 (4.5)	10 (22.7)	0.013	1 (2.6)	13 (10.2)	0.243	1 (3.3)	3 (10.0)	0.605
Neurologic dysfunction (n)	3 (5.2)	14 (16.7)	0.038	2 (4.5)	8 (18.2)	0.044	2 (5.1)	6 (4.7)	0.752	2 (6.7)	1 (3.3)	>0.999
Lung infection (n)	2 (3.4)	18 (21.4)	0.002	1 (2.3)	8 (18.2)	0.035	1 (2.6)	11 (8.6)	0.356	1 (3.3)	3 (10.0)	0.605
Pleural effusion (n)	0 (0.0)	3 (3.6)	-	0 (0.0)	1 (2.3)	-	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)	-	0 (0.0)	1 (3.3)	-
Wound infection (n)	0 (0.0)	4 (3.6)	-	0 (0.0)	2 (4.5)	-	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-
Internal leakage (n)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-

**NOTE.** Values are expressed as: *Conclusion:* In the treatment of AAA, patients older than 60 years undergoing hybrid debranching surgery had shorter hospital lengths of stay, lower rates of neurologic events and renal insufficiency, and a higher mid-term survival rate compared with the TAR procedure, whereas there was no statistical difference in hybrid debranching versus TAR in patients younger than age 60. Irrespective of reintervention, hybrid debranching can be a promising surgical option for patients with AAA older than 60 years.

Fig 3. Procedure details of hybrid debranching. The debranching procedure involved the following steps: 1. Left common carotid artery, and left subclavian limbs of the 4-branch artificial vessels. The debranching vessel was anastomosed to the aortic arch and the left common carotid artery, and the proximal end was anastomosed to the junction of the aortic grafts were released through the femoral artery and brachiocephalic trunk.

**Outcomes:** In the hybrid versus TAR procedure, patients older than 60 years had shorter hospital lengths of stay ( $10.3 \pm 1.8$  v  $18.6 \pm 1.8$  days,  $p < 0.001$ ), lower rates of neurologic events (5.2% v 16.7%,  $p = 0.038$ ) and renal insufficiency (10.3% v 23.8%,  $p = 0.003$ ) of those  $\geq 60$  years; and a reintervention rate (5.2% v 16.7%,  $p = 0.038$ ) of those  $\geq 60$  years; and a reintervention rate (5.1% v 4.7%) of those  $< 60$  years; and a reintervention rate (5.1% v 4.7%) of those  $< 60$  years.

*Conclusion:* In the treatment of AAA, patients older than 60 years undergoing hybrid debranching surgery had shorter hospital lengths of stay, lower rates of neurologic events and renal insufficiency, and a higher mid-term survival rate compared with the TAR procedure, whereas there was no statistical difference in hybrid debranching versus TAR in patients younger than age 60. Irrespective of reintervention, hybrid debranching can be a promising surgical option for patients with AAA older than 60 years.

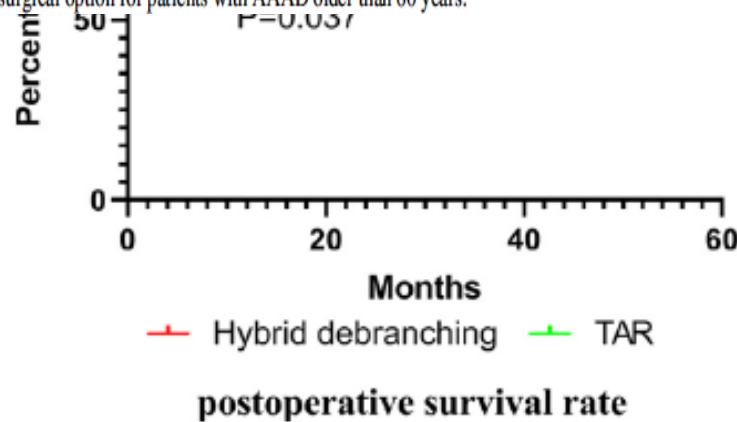
**Key Words:** type A acute aortic dissection, hybrid debranching, total arch replacement

### Arch replacement

The aorta was opened longitudinally, and the left subclavian artery and the left common carotid artery were anastomosed to the proximal end of the stented graft, and the proximal ends of the stented graft were anastomosed together to a 4-branched artificial vessel. The proximal end of the stented graft and brachiocephalic trunk were anastomosed to the proximal end of the vessel individually.

**Outcomes:** In the hybrid versus TAR procedure, patients older than 60 years had shorter hospital lengths of stay ( $10.3 \pm 1.8$  v  $18.6 \pm 1.8$  days,  $p < 0.001$ ), lower rates of neurologic events (5.2% v 16.7%,  $p = 0.038$ ) and renal insufficiency (10.3% v 23.8%,  $p = 0.003$ ) of those  $\geq 60$  years; and a reintervention rate (5.2% v 16.7%,  $p = 0.038$ ) of those  $\geq 60$  years; and a reintervention rate (5.1% v 4.7%) of those  $< 60$  years.

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**Fig 5.** Kaplan-Meier plots of overall survival by group (TAR versus hybrid debranching) in patients older than 60 years. The 2-year survival rate of the patients older than 60 years in the debranching group was higher than that of patients in the TAR group ( $p < 0.05$ ). TAR, total arch replacement.





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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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## Acute Type I aortic dissection: a propensity-matched comparison of elephant trunk and arch debranching repairs

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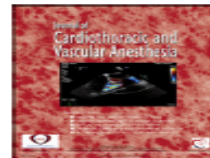
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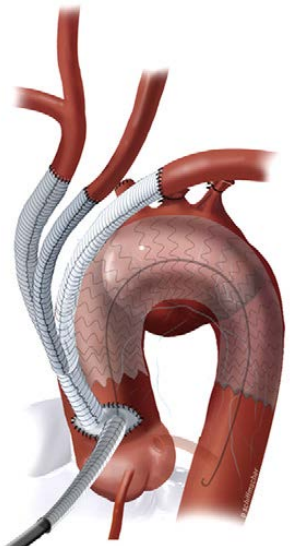
Original Article

## Acute Aortic Dissection Surgery: Hybrid Debranching Versus Total Arch Replacement

Feng Shi, Zhiwei Wang, PhD<sup>1</sup>

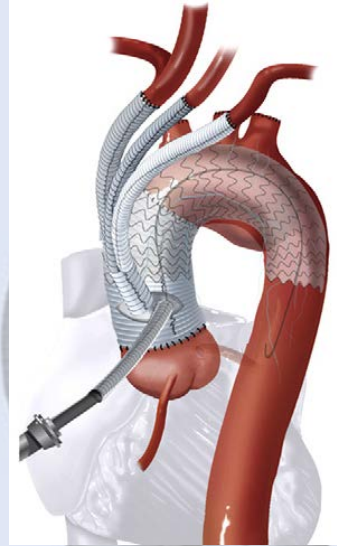
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Type I



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
DRAW  
CONCLUSIONS

Type II



- Υψηλού κινδύνου/ ηλικιωμένοι ασθενείς
- Ακατάλληλοι για ανοιχτή επέμβαση
- Μήκος landing zones > 25 mm & διάμετρος αορτής < 38 mm
- Αποφυγή ασθενών με νόσο συνδετικού ιστού, αορτική βαλβιδοπάθεια, υψηλό κίνδυνο εγκεφαλικού επεισοδίου
- Αποδεκτά βραχυπρόθεσμα και μακροπρόθεσμα αποτελέσματα



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
DRAW  
CONCLUSIONS

- Εκτεταμένη αορτική παθολογία (ανεύρυσμα ή διαχωρισμός)
- Επέμβαση ενός σταδίου
- Διευκολύνει πιθανή επακόλουθη ενδαγγειακή θεραπεία
- Προάγει θρόμβωση ψευδούς αυλού
- Κίνδυνος SCI/ παραπληγίας
- Αποδεκτά βραχυ-, μακροπρόθεσμα αποτελέσματα

Type III











Ask no questions, and  
you'll be told no lies.

Charles Dickens

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*Swans Reflecting Elephants* (1937) - Salvador Dalí