Aorta-right atrial tunnel in an adult

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Received 16 April 2013; received in revised form 23 May 2013; accepted 28 May 2013

Keywords: Adult • Aorta/aortic • Atrium • CHD • Great vessel anomalies

Aorta-right atrial tunnel was diagnosed in a non-symptomatic 31-year old female patient. The \( Q_p/Q_s \) ratio was 2.5. Computed tomography and intraoperative views showed a posterior vascular tunnel with left aortic sinus and right atrium openings (Figs 1 and 2). The tunnel had no myocardial branches. We successfully closed both the openings.

Figure 1: (A) A reconstructed computed tomographic view of the aorta-right atrial tunnel, which passed along the posterior aspect of the aorta (arrows indicate the tunnel). (B) The aortic origin of the aorta-right atrial tunnel (arrow indicates the origin of the tunnel where a surgical aspirator is situated). (C) The right atrial opening of the tunnel (arrow indicates the opening of the tunnel).
Figure 2: A surgical dissector passed through the aorta-right atrial tunnel (the vascular tunnel was 2 cm in diameter and 12 cm in length). (A) Intraoperative view and (B) schematic view. Ao-O: aortic origin of the tunnel; T: tunnel; RA-O: right atrial opening.