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THE CURRENT AND FUTURE ROLE OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

Rui Da Silva Mota

Royal Papworth Hospital, UK

Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) is a condition characterised by increased pulmonary artery pressure. PH can be classified as pre-capillary in the context of primary elevated pressures in the pulmonary arterial circulation or post-capillary related with left heart disease, elevated pressure in the pulmonary venous and capillary circulation or mixed combining pre and post capillary features. PH can be silent and it is one of the causes of right heart failure and eventually left heart failure. Echocardiography is a well established imaging method that allows an efficient non-invasive quantification of the right heart pressures, providing a quick answer about the presence of pulmonary hypertension. Full investigations of this condition have been neglected over the years in many general hospitals and other medical facilities which provide echocardiography services. This can result to delayed diagnosis and subsequently late medical management. Over the last few years, advances in new imaging techniques and training allow a more detailed study of PH patients. The guidelines for PH and for echocardiography assessment of the right heart can be very extensive and many sonographers have not had the opportunity for specialist training or extensive consensus on how to make assessments in daily practice. This presentation aims to cover cases that can be easily detected as well as cases that raise suspicion for PH. It will also focus on parameters related to PH and hopefully this will stimulate further in-depth investigation of patients with confirmed PH or patients fulfilling criteria for screening and appropriate treatment.

BIOGRAPHY

Rui Miguel Da Silva Mota graduated with a BSc honors degree in cardiopneumology (clinical physiology) in 2003 and obtained a post graduate diploma in management and administration of health services in 2004. He is an experienced registered clinical physiologist in cardiology with 16 years of practice and specialist training in clinical echocardiography (pediatric and adult TTE including congenital heart disease, stress echocardiography and TOE). Currently he works at Royal Papworth Hospital, UK. He holds several international accreditations in adult, pediatric and congenital echocardiography (ARDMS, CCI, EACVI and BSE). He has been serving as peer reviewer for an International Cardiology Journal and he has a project to start a PhD in congenital heart diseases.

rui.mota@nhs.net



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