

Tetralogy of Fallot: A Clinical Review

Tetralogy of Fallot is a congenital heart disease that is associated with structural abnormalities during fetal development ¹. The incidence of Tetralogy of Fallot in the United States is approximately 3-5 cases per 10,000 live births and is considered one of the most common cyanotic congenital heart diseases ². The exact etiology of Tetralogy of Fallot is unknown, however it is thought to be associated with untreated maternal diabetes, maternal use of retinoids, as well as chromosomal abnormalities ². The main components of this disease state include a right ventricular outflow obstruction, interventricular communication in the form of a ventricular septal defect, displacement of the aorta to the right side of the heart and right ventricular hypertrophy ¹. Clinical manifestations often depend on severity of the disease, but can include cyanotic episodes, dyspnea, fatigability, syncope, and abnormal heart sounds ^{3,4}. Treatment is based on the severity of the cyanotic episodes and management of symptoms ^{3,4,5}. Surgical intervention is the definitive treatment, and the procedures conducted will vary based on each patient ^{4,5}.

Key Words: Cardiology, Pediatrics, Surgery, Tetralogy of Fallot, Congenital heart disease, Structural abnormality, Cyanosis, Obstruction.

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