




LETTER TO EDITOR

Role of a schematic figure of echocardiography in congenital heart diseases surgery: which method of reporting do you prefer?

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Dear Editor

Congenital structural heart diseases are the most commonly reported fatal anomalies in children. These anatomical disorders can often be corrected surgically (1). Today, echocardiography is the best and most important diagnostic technique for anatomical abnormalities in the heart (2). In this method, anatomical details and hemodynamic examination of the heart can be determined using the ultrasound waves (sonography) (2).

Most pediatric cardiologists provide echocardiographic reports in the form of handwriting or typed text. This method of reporting is sometimes unable to understand the structural anomalies precisely and accurately for the final decision.

Nowadays, 2-dimensional echocardiography is acceptable for the accurate diagnosis of some structural heart abnormalities, even when there is no need to angiography for surgical planning (2). However, there is sometimes a dearth of matching echocardiographic finding with surgical reports. It

seems that adding a schematic figure based on echocardiography findings from viewpoint of pediatric cardiologist will help the congenital cardiac surgeon [Figure 1].

This proposed method of reporting will lead to the promotion of surgical treatment in congenital heart diseases.

The history of the use of schematic pictures for the better understanding of the subjects and diseases has been shown previously in the anatomical textbooks by famous painters, such as Leonardo da Vinci (3).

This suggestion shows that mapping can be viewed as a common language for better understanding of echocardiographic reports and more adaptation between comments of a pediatric cardiologist with designing congenital cardiac surgeon for more precise and complete treatment.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

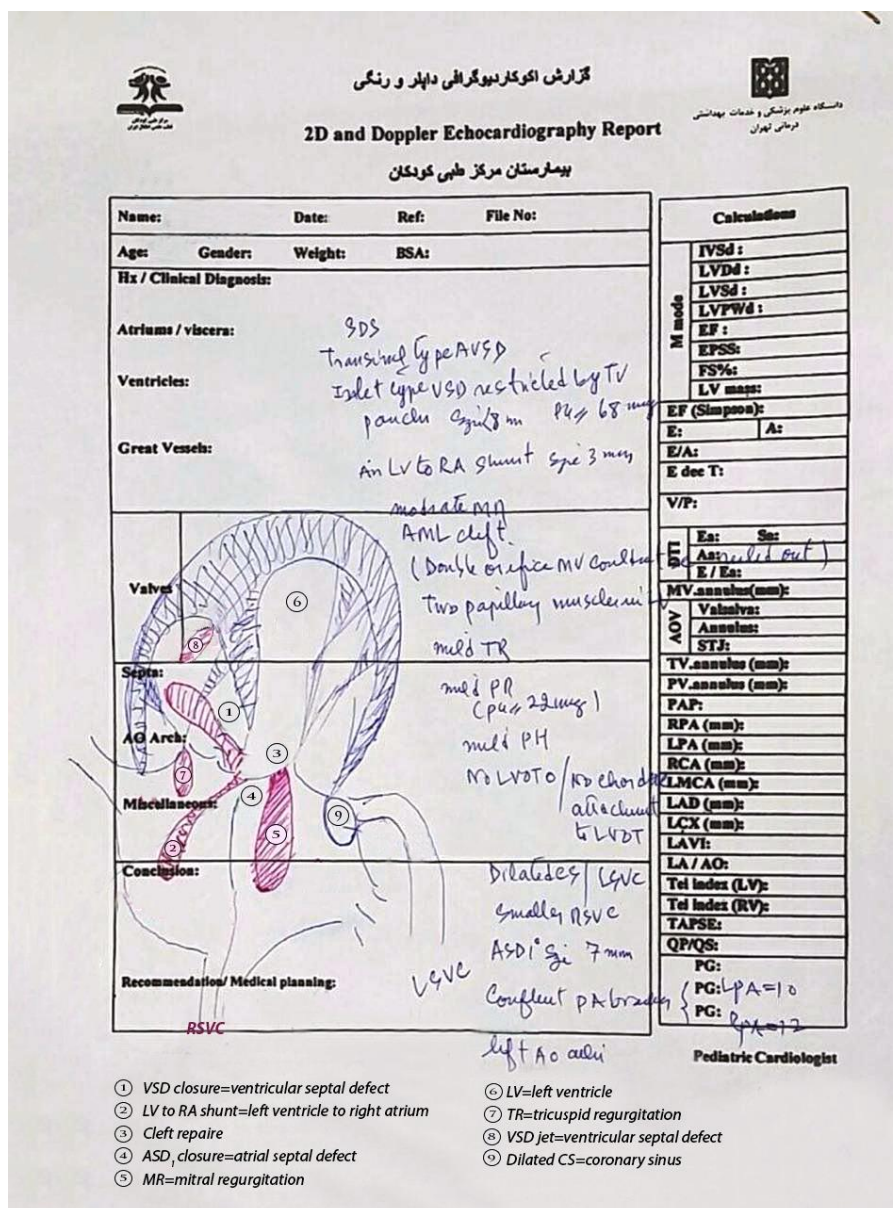


Figure 1: Echocardiographic report handwriting together with a schematic figure

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