

Review

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# Predictors for procedural success and all-cause mortality in patients undergoing transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair for mitral regurgitation

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## Abstract

A growing body of evidence shows that transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair (TMVr) for mitral regurgitation (MR) improves symptoms and prognosis of patients with heart failure. Still, as recently shown by two large randomized controlled trials (COAPT and MITRA-FR), there is differing information on which patients have the largest benefit. We aimed to summarize the current knowledge of clinical and anatomic predictors for acute procedural failure and long-term all-cause mortality after TMVr. TMVr is an effective treatment option for patients with symptomatic MR fulfilling certain echocardiographic and clinical criteria or being ineligible for surgery despite optimal medical therapy. Acute procedural failure is influenced by anatomic features of the mitral valve, among those are increased tenting and mitral valve leaflet configuration, leaflet-to-annulus index, as well as the mitral valve opening area. In contrast, anatomy of the mitral valve plays a minor role in predicting all-cause mortality after TMVr. This endpoint is associated with patient comorbidities (e.g., renal failure and chronic lung disease), severe heart failure as expressed by New York Heart Association functional class (NYHA) IV, left and right heart dysfunction, laboratory parameters (NT-proBNP), clinical scoring systems (STS and EuroScore), and procedural MR reduction. In patients undergoing TMVr for severe MR, careful preprocedural evaluation of relevant



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comorbidities, mitral valve anatomy, as well as left and right heart function can provide detailed prognostic value regarding acute procedural success and long-term survival.

**Keywords:** MitraClip, transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair, predictors for mortality, secondary mitral regurgitation, primary mitral regurgitation, heart failure, percutaneous mitral valve repair

## INTRODUCTION

Mitral regurgitation (MR) is a major contributor to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in patients with heart failure<sup>[1-3]</sup>. With more than ten years of clinical experience and continuous technical development, transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair (TMVr) is a well-established treatment option for patients suffering from primary (PMR) or secondary (SMR) mitral regurgitation. In PMR patients, structural damage of different parts of the valvular apparatus itself can lead to development of MR, while SMR is caused by atrial and ventricular pathologies<sup>[4]</sup>. Accordingly, PMR and SMR themselves form heterogeneous groups and can occur in combination, a fact which must be taken into account for therapeutic decisions and device selection<sup>[5]</sup>. In PMR, TMVr is recommended in case of prohibitive surgical risk and absence of adverse anatomic features, based on the results of the EVEREST (Endovascular Valve Edge-to-Edge Repair Study) trials<sup>[6-8]</sup>. For SMR, the 2020 Focused Update of the 2017 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway on the Management of Mitral Regurgitation does not include surgical ineligibility as a primary criterium for TMVr usage. TMVr can be the therapy of choice for severe SMR with left ventricular ejection fraction (LV-EF) between 20% to 50%, left ventricular end diastolic diameter (LV-EDD) < 7.0 cm, and persistence of clinical signs and symptoms of heart failure despite of optimal guideline-recommended medical treatment (GDMT) and, if applicable, cardiac resynchronization therapy<sup>[8-11]</sup>. These recommendations are based on two large randomized-controlled trials (Cardiovascular Outcomes Assessment of the MitraClip Percutaneous Therapy for Heart Failure Patients with Functional Mitral Regurgitation - COAPT and Multicentre Study of Percutaneous Mitral Valve Repair MitraClip Device in Patients With Severe Secondary Mitral Regurgitation - MITRA-FR), which revealed different findings regarding the prognostic benefit of TMVr treatment on top of GDMT in SMR patients<sup>[12,13]</sup>. Recently, several theories have been proposed to deliver potential explanations for these varying results<sup>[14-19]</sup>. Undoubtedly, patient selection for TMVr could be a crucial factor influencing not only clinical outcome but also procedural success. The influence of cardiac anatomic parameters on outcome after TMVr is less understood, but has gained recent attention to optimize procedural and clinical results<sup>[20]</sup>. In this review, we evaluate the current data on the impact of anatomical and functional left and right heart features, as well as clinical parameters and comorbidities on acute procedural success/failure and mortality after TMVr.

## ENDPOINTS AND PATIENT COHORT

The two common endpoints in outcome analysis after TMVr that this article focuses on are acute procedural failure (APF) and all-cause and/or cardiac mortality<sup>[21-24]</sup>. The Mitral Valve Academic Research Consortium (MVARC) differentiates between technical, device, procedural, and patient success<sup>[24]</sup>. In other words, APF is the absence of procedural success, which consists of technical success at exit from the catheterization laboratory, absence of procedural mortality or stroke, and reduction to MR 2+ or lower<sup>[24]</sup>. Clearly, reasons for APF could be inability of device implantation due to individual anatomical features or generation of significant mitral valve stenosis represented by increasing mean mitral valve pressure gradients (MV mean PG). MVARC recommends postprocedural MV mean PG not to exceed 5 mmHg<sup>[24]</sup>. Secondly, APF can be caused by insufficient MR reduction despite successful implantation of the device. According to MVARC criteria, procedural results are defined as optimal in case of absent or trace postprocedural MR<sup>[24]</sup>.

PMR and SMR are two pathophysiologically different entities of mitral valve disease which both lead to similar clinical signs and symptoms. We believe that based on vast differences in baseline clinical characteristics, cardiac anatomy and function, baseline procedural risk before TMVr, and outcome after TMVr, patients with SMR and PMR should be analyzed separately<sup>[25]</sup>. This viewpoint is supported by an increasing body of evidence. Nevertheless, the majority of registries have reported on cohorts of both PMR and SMR without dedicated analysis of separate entities. Therefore, this review divides each section by MR sub-collectives (composed PMR and SMR, PMR only, and SMR only collectives).

## PREDICTING PROCEDURAL SUCCESS AND FAILURE IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING TMVR FOR MR

Comprehensive, unambiguous analysis of procedural success and failure is hindered by varying definitions in studies on TMVr. Albeit effective MR reduction is feasible in both PMR and SMR, some TMVr studies suggest more profound MR reduction in patients with PMR<sup>[26]</sup>, while some report higher rates of APF in PMR<sup>[27]</sup> and some did not find any differences<sup>[28]</sup>. Comparisons between procedural MR reduction in patients with PMR and patients with SMR are further complicated by different definitions of MR severity and challenging assessment of quantitative MR parameters after device placement.

### Composed PMR and SMR patient collective

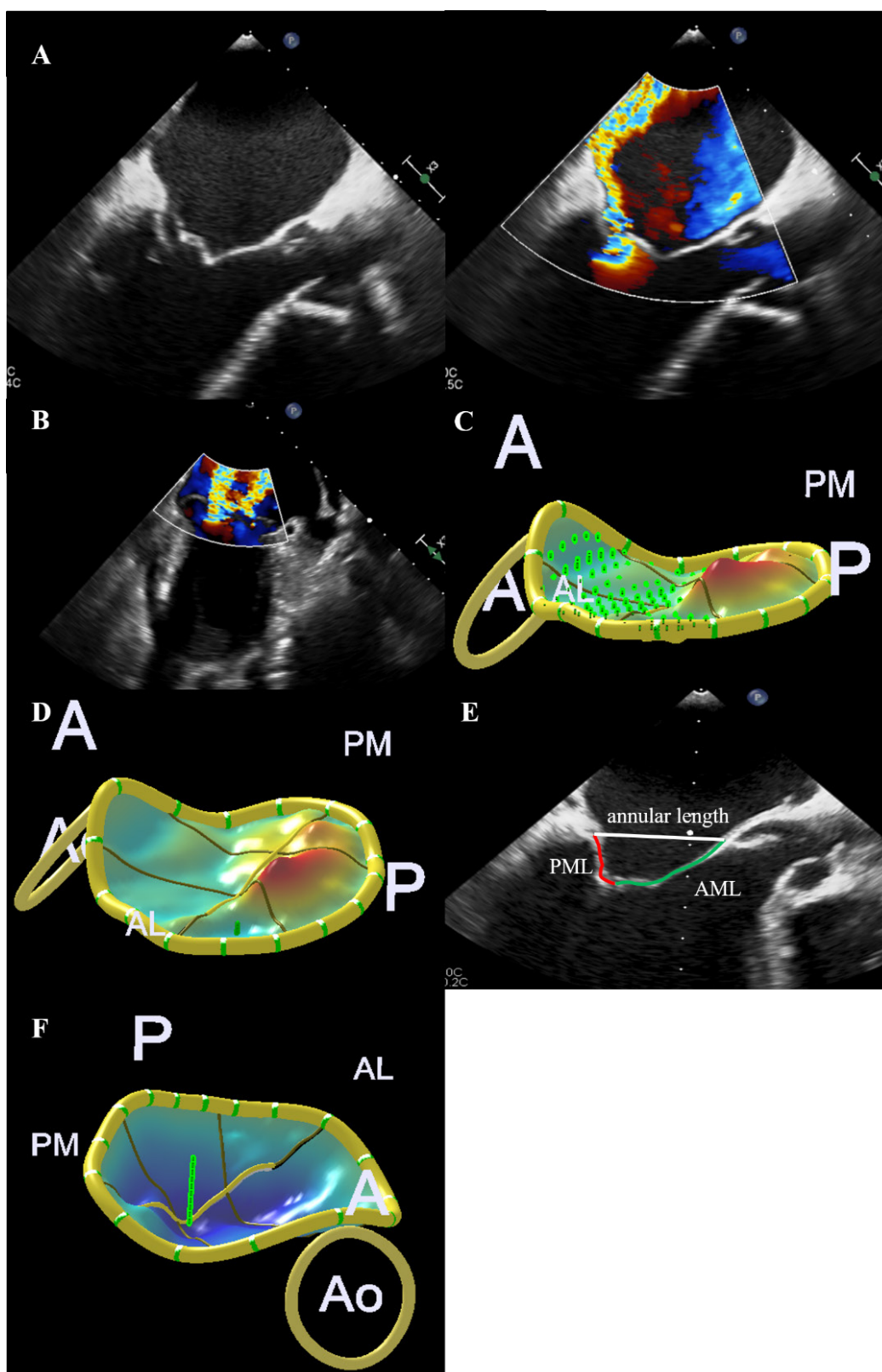
Dörr *et al.*<sup>[29]</sup> identified BNP levels and two biomarkers of cardiac fibrotic alterations, galectin-3 (Gal-3) and suppression of tumorigenicity 2 (ST2), as predictors for successful MR reduction by  $\geq 2$  grades. It can be assumed that patients with higher levels of Gal-3 and ST2 are in a more advanced state of heart failure with ongoing fibrotic damage. This may alter the cardiac response to TMVr treatment, hinder reverse remodeling, and result in worse procedural outcomes.

Furthermore, Thaden *et al.*<sup>[30]</sup> sought to determine predictors of hemodynamic success, which was defined as at least 40% reduction of left atrial V wave compared to baseline. Multivariable analysis revealed flail scallop [Figure 1A], single jet or multiple jets originating from a single scallop [Figure 1B], and good or excellent three-dimensional image quality as independent predictors for hemodynamic success. Besides that, preprocedural MV mean PG, mitral annular calcification, and deployment of more than one clip predicted development of mitral stenosis with a mean gradient greater than 5 mmHg.

### PMR only collective

Detailed three-dimensional (3D) analysis of the MV can help to identify predictors for optimal MR reduction after TMVr. In PMR, low MV leaflet tenting volume [Figure 1C] and height [Figure 1D] were predictive of optimal MR reduction<sup>[31]</sup>. Even in the case of Carpentier classification type II PMR with prolapse of leaflet, concomitant regional tenting patterns may complicate optimal MR reduction<sup>[31]</sup>. Another 3D analysis found a novel predictive parameter called MV leaflet-to-annulus index (LAI), defined as the ratio of the sum of the anterior and posterior MV leaflet and the anteroposterior mitral annular length [Figure 1E]. Low LAI indicates a leaflet-to-annulus disproportionality and significantly predicts residual MR after TMVr<sup>[32]</sup>. Identifying patients with inadequate MR reduction is important as relevant residual MR is associated with worse survival rates in several studies<sup>[33-37]</sup>.

Besides these predictors for residual MR, development of postprocedural mitral stenosis can lead to APF. Two predictors of a MV mean PG  $\leq 4$  mmHg after clip deployment in PMR were preprocedural mitral valve opening area of (MVOA)  $\geq 3.94$  cm<sup>2</sup> and medial-lateral diameter of left ventricle (LV) inflow orifice  $\geq 3.23$  cm for patients receiving one implanted clip. In case of two clips, cut-offs were 4.82 cm<sup>2</sup> and 3.29 cm, respectively<sup>[38]</sup>.



**Figure 1.** Anatomic predictors for procedural success and failure after TMVr. A: flail scallop is associated with worse hemodynamic success after TMVr in primary mitral regurgitation patients; B: A single or multiple jets originating from one flail scallop are associated with hemodynamic success after TMVr; lower tenting volume (C) and tenting height (D) are associated with optimal MR reduction; E: low mitral valve leaflet-to-annulus index predicts residual MR; F: increasing annular height predicts optimal MR reduction. A: anterior; P: posterior; AL: anterolateral; PM: posteromedial; Ao: aortic valve; PML: posterior mitral valve leaflet; AML: anterior mitral valve leaflet; TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation

**Table 1. Left heart: predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr for MR**

Parameter	Cut-off	MR etiology	Ref.
LV-EF	≤ 25%	SMR	[48]
	< 27%	SMR	[46]
	< 30%	SMR	[43]
	< 30%	SMR/PMR	[35,42,57,76]
	*	SMR/PMR	[25,28]
Stroke volume	*	PMR	[45]
LV dysfunction with and without CAD	**	PMR	[45]
LV-EDV	> 216 mL	SMR	[48]
LV-EDD	*	SMR	[49]
	*	SMR/PMR***	[44]
Afib	**	SMR	[47,48]
	**	SMR/PMR	[51]
LA-EF change	*	SMR/PMR	[53]
LA diameter	≥ 55 mm	SMR/PMR	[52]

\*Continuous parameter; \*\*binary parameter; \*\*\*cardiac death. TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation; SMR: secondary mitral regurgitation; PMR: primary mitral regurgitation; LV-EF: left ventricular ejection fraction; CAD: coronary artery disease; LV-EDV: left ventricular end diastolic volume; LV-EDD: left ventricular end diastolic diameter; Afib: atrial fibrillation; LA-EF: left ventricular ejection fraction; LA: left atrium

### SMR only collective

For SMR, anatomic parameters of the mitral valve that could influence procedural success are mainly determined by atrio-ventricular architecture since leaflets do not have structural damage by definition. Several anatomic configurations of the MV are associated with optimal MR reduction by TMVr: Among those are increasing annular height [Figure 1F]<sup>[31]</sup>, less planar MV anatomy<sup>[31,39-41]</sup> and, alike in PMR, the LAI parameter<sup>[32]</sup>. Stolfo *et al.*<sup>[41]</sup> identified left ventricular end diastolic volume index and anteroposterior mitral annulus diameter as independent predictors for device failure according to MVARC criteria<sup>[24,41]</sup>. More severe dilation of the left ventricle leads to flattening deformation of the MV apparatus complicating TMVr procedure, while larger mitral annulus diameters impair proper leaflet coaptation.

Comparable to PMR, preprocedural MVOA and medial-lateral diameter of LV inflow orifice can also predict postprocedural mitral stenosis. For one and two clips, the cut-off values were 3.77 cm<sup>2</sup>/5.05 cm<sup>2</sup> and 3.03 cm/3.39 cm, respectively<sup>[38]</sup>.

### PREDICTING ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING TMVR FOR MR

Within the last ten years, several reports aimed at identifying predictors for all-cause mortality in patients with MR after TMVr. Most of these studies were based on a composed collective of patients with PMR and SMR, while large, dedicated data sets for SMR and especially PMR alone are rare.

### LEFT VENTRICULAR FUNCTION AND DIMENSIONS

#### Composed PMR and SMR patient collective

One of the main predictors for all-cause mortality in patients with MR undergoing TMVr is impairment of left ventricular function, represented by reduced LV-EF. Several analyses identified impaired LV-EF as highly predictive for five-year<sup>[28,35]</sup> and long-term mortality<sup>[25,42,43]</sup> [Table 1]. Surprisingly, left ventricular size and geometry do not seem to play a major role in predicting TMVr all-cause mortality when including both SMR and PMR patients into multivariable models. Only one study specifically focusing on cardiac mortality reported increased LV-EDD as a significant predictor<sup>[44]</sup> [Table 1].

#### PMR only collective

In patients with PMR, impaired left ventricular stroke volume and LV-EF are predictors for all-cause mortality [Table 1]<sup>[45]</sup>.

### **SMR only collective**

Consistently, impaired LV-EF leads to significantly worsened long-term survival in patients with SMR after TMVr<sup>[25,46-48]</sup>. In contrast to mixed cohort analysis, severe LV dilatation, measured either by LV-EDD<sup>[49]</sup> or left ventricular end diastolic volume<sup>[48]</sup>, was identified as a predictor for all-cause mortality in patients with SMR [Table 1]. After publication of the COAPT and MITRA-FR trials, a discussion about possible reasons for the diverging prognostic results has evolved and several explanations have been proposed. Among them are operator experience, intensity of concomitant medical therapy, progression of heart failure at baseline, and procedural MR reduction. Since mean left ventricular end diastolic volume was very high in MITRA-FR, patients in this trial might have had end-stage heart failure with severe LV dilatation. The proportionality of MR severity to LV dilatation, quantified by ratio of effective regurgitant orifice area to LV end diastolic volume, has recently gained attention<sup>[14,50]</sup>. Latest analyses showed that the proportionality concept as a prognostic framework might be applicable to medically treated SMR patients. Its influence on prognosis in TMVr-treated patients is probably less important, as TMVr effectively reduces MR and thus abolishes one component of the proportionality equation<sup>[17,19]</sup>.

## **LEFT ATRIAL FUNCTION AND DIMENSIONS**

### **Composed PMR and SMR patient collective**

Atrial fibrillation or absence of sinus rhythm, as indicators of impaired LA function in addition to LA dilation, are linked to worse TMVr survival<sup>[42,51,52]</sup>. Severe LA dilatation with a diameter  $\geq 55$  cm seems to be a highly predictive cut-off value<sup>[52]</sup>. In contrast, improvement of LA ejection fraction from baseline to short term follow up (three to six month) is associated with lower all-cause long-term mortality<sup>[53]</sup> [Table 1].

### **SMR only collective**

While dedicated data for PMR patients are missing, atrial fibrillation<sup>[47,48]</sup> and increased LA volume<sup>[47]</sup> are associated with impaired long-term survival in SMR patients [Table 1]. Left atrial dysfunction in SMR patients recently gained attention as this condition can lead to MR in absence of severe systolic LV dysfunction. This pathology called atrial secondary mitral regurgitation (ASMR) is caused by either atrial fibrillation or heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF), as both increase LA pressure and volume leading to annular flattening and alteration of left ventricular atrioventricular hemodynamics<sup>[54]</sup>. As HFpEF patients with SMR were excluded from large controlled randomized trials (COAPT or MITRA-FR)<sup>[12,13]</sup>, but undergo TMVr procedure in real-world clinical practice, impact of ASMR on survival and procedural success warrants further investigation.

## **MITRAL VALVE ANATOMY, HEMODYNAMICS, AND PROCEDURAL SUCCESS**

### **Composed PMR and SMR patient collective**

Elevated MV mean PG was identified as highly predictive in terms of all-cause mortality, both for preprocedural and postprocedural measurements. TMVr increases MV mean PG by reduction of mitral valve opening area<sup>[27,36,55]</sup> [Table 2]. Additionally, previous MV surgery has been reported to have negative influence on long-term outcome<sup>[56]</sup>. Success of TMVr procedure itself is crucial for reduction of long-term mortality and reflects the benefit of this interventional approach on MR treatment. Absence of procedural MR reduction and residual MR after procedure lead to severely impaired long-term survival<sup>[25,35,36,56-60]</sup> [Table 2].

### **PMR only collective**

In PMR patients, postprocedural MV mean PG is a significant predictor for survival<sup>[61]</sup> [Table 2].

### **SMR only collective**

Similar to findings in the composed SMR/PMR collective, residual SMR is a major factor contributing to mortality following TMVr procedure<sup>[33,49]</sup>. In particular, postprocedural MR vena contracta area is

**Table 2. Mitral valve: predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr for MR**

Parameter	Cut-off	MR etiology	Ref.
MV mean PG (pre)	> 1.5 mmHg *	SMR/PMR SMR/PMR	[27] [34,36]
MV mean PG (post)	> 5 mmHg (invasive) > 4.4 mmHg (echo)	SMR/PMR SMR/PMR	[55] [55]
Acute procedural failure	****	SMR/PMR	[57,76,87]
Residual MR	≥ 2+	SMR	[33]
	≥ 2+	SMR***	[49]
	≥ 3+	SMR	[33]
	≥ 2+	SMR/PMR	[32,58]
	≥ 3+	SMR/PMR	[59]
	*	SMR/PMR	[25,34,36,56]
MR recurrence < 2 years	≥ 2+	SMR/PMR	[35]
VCA (post)	> 25 mm <sup>2</sup>	SMR	[62]
Previous MV surgery	**	SMR/PMR	[56]

\*Continuous parameter; \*\*binary parameter; \*\*\*cardiac death; \*\*\*\*operator-reported failure, conversion to surgery, abortion of procedure or severe residual mitral regurgitation. TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation; SMR: secondary mitral regurgitation; PMR: primary mitral regurgitation; PG: pressure gradient; VCA: vena contracta area; MV: mitral valve

associated with worse long-term outcome<sup>[62]</sup>. Mitral valve anatomy itself seems to play a minor role in predicting long-term mortality after TMVr [Table 2]. The only MV configuration that impairs outcome in terms of higher MR severity at follow-up examination seems to be restricted posterior mitral valve leaflet motion defined as posterior mitral valve leaflet tethering angle > 45°<sup>[63]</sup>. Whether posterior mitral valve leaflet tethering impacts not only procedural success but also long-term mortality has not been shown so far.

The prognostic role of ischemic origin of SMR has been studied by several groups. Apparently, predictors for all-cause mortality could be different in ischemic versus non-ischemic SMR<sup>[64]</sup>. Tricuspid annular plane excursion, renal failure, diabetes mellitus, previous heart surgery, and coronary artery bypass graft are predictive for all-cause mortality in ischemic, but not in non-ischemic SMR<sup>[64]</sup>. Besides ischemic and non-ischemic subgroups, SMR etiologies can be separated by LV-LA function. Among those is ASMR, as previously mentioned<sup>[54,65,66]</sup>. While our knowledge of anatomy and pathophysiology of ASMR is growing, specific predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr are so far lacking<sup>[66]</sup>.

## RIGHT VENTRICULAR FUNCTION AND PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

### Composed PMR and SMR patient collective

Data on right ventricular (RV) dysfunction in composed PMR/SMR collectives are absent. Nevertheless, pulmonary hypertension has been shown to impair prognosis as it is associated with worse long-term survival<sup>[27,67-69]</sup>. Cut-off values for systolic pulmonary artery pressure as a measurement of pulmonary hypertension vary between 37 mmHg and 60 mmHg<sup>[67]</sup> [Table 3].

### SMR only collective

In contrast to the lack of data for PMR patients, there is a growing body of knowledge that RV dysfunction and pulmonary hypertension in SMR patients are crucial factors for the prognosis after TMVr, pulmonary hypertension (as expressed by elevated systolic pulmonary artery pressure) is also associated with long-term mortality in SMR patients [Table 3]<sup>[49]</sup>. Obviously, pulmonary hypertension due to left ventricular and atrial dysfunction and RV function are closely linked. Presence of RV dysfunction, as expressed by impaired tricuspid annular plane excursion or RV peak systolic velocity, leads to biventricular failure [Table 3]<sup>[47,70-72]</sup>. Importantly, TMVr treatment is capable of improving RV function. One study found an improvement of tricuspid annular plane excursion by 4 mm and peak systolic velocity by 4 cm/s at 6 months follow up<sup>[73]</sup>.

**Table 3. Pulmonary system and right heart: predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr for MR**

Parameter	Cut-off	MR etiology	Ref.
CLD	**	SMR/PMR	[83]
sPAP	> 50 mmHg	SMR	[88]
	*	SMR***	[49]
	*	SMR/PMR	[87]
	> 45 mmHg	SMR/PMR	[27]
	> 50 mmHg	SMR/PMR	[67]
	37-50 mmHg	SMR/PMR	[67]
	> 60 mmHg	SMR/PMR	[37]
RVSP	*	SMR	[78]
PSV (DTI)	< 9.5 cm/s	SMR	[72]
TAPSE	< 15 mm	SMR	[71]
	≤ 16 mm	SMR	[70]
	*	SMR (ischemic)	[64]

\*Continuous parameter; \*\*binary parameter; \*\*\*cardiac death. TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation; SMR: secondary mitral regurgitation; PMR: primary mitral regurgitation; CLD: chronic lung disease; sPAP: systolic pulmonary artery pressure; PSV: peak systolic velocity; DTI: doppler tissue imaging; TAPSE: tricuspid annular plane systolic; RVSP: right ventricular systolic pressure

**Table 4. Tricuspid and aortic valve: predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr for MR**

Parameter	Cut-off	MR etiology	Ref.
TR (pre)	*	SMR	[77]
	≥ 3+	SMR/PMR	[37,56,57,74,76,87]
TR (post)	*	SMR	[43]
Previous AoV intervention	**	SMR/PMR	[42,57,76,87]
Moderate AR	**	SMR/PMR	[75]

\*Ordinal parameter; \*\*binary parameter. TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation; SMR: secondary mitral regurgitation; PMR: primary mitral regurgitation; TR: tricuspid regurgitation; AoV: aortic valve; AR: aortic regurgitation

## CONCOMITANT TRICUSPID AND AORTIC VALVE DISEASE

### Composed PMR and SMR patient collective

The relevance of concomitant valve disease in patients treated with TMVr has been shown for tricuspid and aortic valve regurgitation. Severity of pre- and postprocedural moderate or severe tricuspid regurgitation (TR) has repeatedly been shown as an important factor worsening long-term mortality [Table 4]<sup>[37,42,43,56,74]</sup>. Whether TR contributes alone to dismal outcome or only in conjunction with RV dysfunction is controversial and has to be further assessed. In addition, a recent study reported about the negative impact of moderate aortic regurgitation on survival [Table 4]<sup>[75]</sup>. Prior intervention of the aortic valve has repeatedly been reported as a negative prognostic factor for patients treated with TMVr<sup>[42,57,76]</sup>.

### SMR only collective

Data about the role of concomitant TR in SMR patients are ambiguous, while again dedicated data of concomitant valvular pathology for PMR patients undergoing TMVr is unknown. While some authors found preprocedural severe TR as a predictor worsening prognosis after TMVr<sup>[77]</sup> others, including the large COAPT trial with echocardiographic core lab assessment, did not<sup>[25,78]</sup> [Table 4]. We believe that moderate or severe TR in patients with SMR is tightly connected to the prevalent biventricular failure, thus a bystander. Whether isolated TR in the absence of RV dysfunction might yield prognostic value in TMVr-SMR patients has yet to be shown.

## RENAL FUNCTION

Undoubtedly shown by a multitude of studies, impaired kidney function (defined as either reduced estimated glomerular filtration rate, elevated levels of creatinine or need of dialysis) is one of the strongest predictors for all-cause mortality in TMVr-treated patients<sup>[25,27,28,32,33,42,43,53,79,80]</sup>. Those findings are consistent in PMR,



**Table 5. Renal function: predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr for MR**

Parameter	Cut-off	MR etiology	Ref.
GFR	< 30 mL/min	SMR	[72]
	30-60 mL/min	SMR	[43]
	< 50 mL/min	SMR	[62]
	*	SMR	[53]
	*	SMR/PMR	[25,79]
	< 60 mL/min	SMR/PMR***	[44]
Creatinine	< 60 mL/min	SMR/PMR	[37,58]
	> 1.5 mg/dL	SMR/PMR	[35,42,57,76,87]
	> 2 mg/dL	SMR/PMR	[27]
	*	SMR/PMR	[83]
Renal failure	**	PMR	[45]
Cystatin C	1.7 mg/dL vs. 2.4 mg/dL****	SMR/PMR	[89]
NGAL	132.0 ng/mL vs. 242.0 ng/mL****	SMR/PMR	[89]

\*Continuous parameter; \*\*binary parameter; \*\*\*cardiac death; \*\*\*\*survivors vs. non survivors. TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation; SMR: secondary mitral regurgitation; PMR: primary mitral regurgitation; GFR: glomerular filtration rate; NGAL: neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin

**Table 6. Parameters of heart failure: predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr for MR**

Parameter	Cut-off	MR etiology	Ref.
NYHA	*	SMR	[77]
	≥ III	SMR	[86]
	*	SMR/PMR***	[80]
	IV	SMR/PMR***	[44]
	IV	SMR/PMR	[37,57,58,60,76,85,87,90]
NT-proBNP	≥ 10000 pg/mL	SMR	[48]
	Per 10 <sup>3</sup> increase	SMR (non-ischemic)	[64]
	Log	SMR/PMR***	[80]
	Log	SMR/PMR	[85]
	≥ 5000 µg/L	SMR/PMR	[56]
Prior cardiac decompensation	**	SMR/PMR	[35,42]
Prior cardiac hospitalization	**	SMR	[86]
Length of hospitalization	> 2 days	SMR	[86]

\*Ordinal parameter; \*\*binary parameter; \*\*\*cardiac death. TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation; SMR: secondary mitral regurgitation; PMR: primary mitral regurgitation; NYHA: New York Heart Association

SMR and composed PMR/SMR collectives. Reported cut-off values in terms of all-cause mortality range from < 60 mL/min to < 30 mL/min for GRF and 1.5 mg/dL to 2.0 mg/dL for creatinine levels [Table 5]. In a composed SMR/PMR collective, other laboratory parameters of kidney function including Cystatin C and neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin were also associated with worse outcome after TMVr<sup>[81,82]</sup> [Table 5].

## COMORBIDITIES AND HEART FAILURE-RELATED PARAMETERS

Besides kidney function, a broad variety of clinical conditions and comorbidities are accompanied by worse survival rates. Among those are chronic lung disease<sup>[42,83]</sup>, heart failure as expressed by elevated levels of the natriuretic peptide NTpro-BNP<sup>[80,84]</sup> or worse New York Heart Association functional class (NYHA) functional class<sup>[42,57,58,60,80]</sup> [Table 6], anemia<sup>[28,85]</sup>, elevated mean arterial blood pressure<sup>[85]</sup>, impaired exercise capacity (six minute walk test)<sup>[74]</sup>, and peripheral artery disease<sup>[42]</sup> [Table 7]. Integrating several of the aforementioned conditions and comorbidities, the Society of Thoracic Surgery (STS) score as well as the EuroScore (logistic and EuroScore II) have been shown to predict outcome after TMVr<sup>[35]</sup>. Reported cut-offs are ≥ 20 for logistic EuroScore and ≥ 12 for STS Score [Table 7]. As advanced age comes along with a higher burden of comorbidities<sup>[28,62,64,80,83,86]</sup> and male patients entail a higher number of cardiac risk factors, these demographics diminish prognosis<sup>[53,78]</sup> [Table 7].

## DOES THE “IDEAL” TMVr PATIENT EXIST?

Taking into account the broad variety of cardiac and extracardiac conditions influencing outcome after TMVr, it seems difficult to identify the “ideal” patient for this procedure. Generally speaking, survival

**Table 7. Comorbidities, demographics and risk scores: predictors for all-cause mortality after TMVr for MR**

Parameter	Cut-off	MR etiology	Ref.
PAD	**	SMR	[77]
	**	SMR/PMR	[57,76,87]
Anemia	**	SMR/PMR	[28,57,76]
Hb	*	SMR/PMR	[85]
Blood transfusion	≥ 2 Units	SMR	[86]
MAP	*	SMR/PMR	[85]
Ischemic MR	**	SMR/PMR	[60]
Peak VO <sub>2</sub>	*	SMR	[47]
Age	*	SMR (non-ischemic)	[64]
	> 70 years	SMR	[86]
	*	SMR/PMR	[62,83]
	**	SMR/PMR***	[28,80]
Sex	**	SMR	[78]
	**	SMR/PMR	[53]
Log ES	*	SMR (ischemic)	[64]
	*	SMR	[45]
	*	SMR/PMR***	[80]
	> 20	SMR/PMR***	[80]
	≥ 20	SMR/PMR	[36]
STS	*	SMR	[78]
	*	SMR/PMR***	[80]
	≥ 12	SMR/PMR***	[80]
	≥ 12	SMR/PMR	[58]

\*Continuous parameter; \*\*binary parameter. TMVr: transcatheter mitral valve edge-to-edge repair; MR: mitral regurgitation; SMR: secondary mitral regurgitation; PMR: primary mitral regurgitation; PAD: peripheral artery disease; Hb: hemoglobin; MAP: mean arterial pressure; Peak VO<sub>2</sub>: maximum oxygen uptake; log ES: logistic euroscore; STS: society of thoracic surgery risk score

prognosis correlates with the patient's overall health status, non-cardiac comorbidities, and most importantly, degree and characteristics of heart failure. This is intricate, as profound surgical risk and comorbidities often are the main reason for considering TMVr as primary therapy.

First and foremost, successful MR reduction by device implantation is the key for any clinical or prognostic improvement. Guided by proper two- and three-dimensional echocardiography, an experienced interventionalist is capable of achieving maximum procedural reduction of MR without generation of MV stenosis. Ideal prerequisites would be a low mean mitral valve pressure gradient, large mitral valve opening area, and wide LV inflow diameter. Furthermore, MV geometry, as influenced by left ventricular and atrial anatomy, should be preserved, without flattening of the MV annulus, lowering of the anterior mitral valve angle, or disproportionate leaflet-to annulus ratio. Furthermore, if there is a concomitant secondary component to PMR, tenting volume and height should be low.

In terms of survival, the ideal patient is believed to present with a minimal spectrum of extracardiac comorbidities, no concomitant aortic, tricuspid, or pulmonic valve pathologies, moderately impaired LV function, and absence of right ventricular failure and pulmonary hypertension. Generally speaking, after successful intervention, the patients' overall health status determines survival prognosis, while anatomic features seem to play a minor role for further prognosis.

## CONCLUSION

With successful MR reduction rates of more than 95% in the majority of studies, the TMVr procedure for severe MR can be performed effectively and safely in a wide variety of mitral valve configurations with different underlying left heart diseases. For acute procedural failure, anatomic and hemodynamic parameters of the MV are important predictors. In contrast, clinical baseline characteristics, comorbidities, atrioventricular echocardiographic parameters, and procedural MR reduction are important for long-term prognosis.

Since patients with PMR have severe structural pathologies of the MV, leaflet configuration seems to be more important compared to SMR patients. Therefore, we recommend stricter separation of SMR and PMR etiology within studies, as well as differentiating “sub-etologies” of SMR (ischemic MR, non-ischemic MR, ASMR, and HFmrEF-SMR), which could be done by multi-center pooling of data. A prerequisite is comprehensive guideline-recommended echocardiographic assessments of cardiac anatomy and function, also including the right heart and pulmonary vasculature. This integrated approach is challenging but would facilitate further understanding of pathophysiology and outcome in a diversity of SMR subtypes undergoing TMVr, thereby improving patient selection and procedural MR reduction to achieve optimal outcome after TMVr.

## DECLARATIONS

### Authors' contributions

Drafting of conceptual and methodologic framework: Stolz L, Orban M, Hausleiter J, Orban M

Manuscript writing: Stolz L, Orban M, Orban M

Manuscript review: Braun D, Nabauer M, Hagl C, Massberg S, Hausleiter J

### Availability of data and materials

Not applicable.

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### Conflicts of interest

Martin Orban has received speaker honoraria from SedanaMedical, AstraZeneca and Bayer Vital. Michael Nabauer, Mathias Orban and Daniel Braun have received speaker honoraria from Abbott Vascular. Jörg Hausleiter has received speaker honoraria from Abbott Vascular and Edwards Lifesciences. The other authors declared that there are no conflicts of interest.

### Ethical approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

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