IVDU patients who underwent cardiac surgery for IE experienced higher risks of perioperative adverse events and inferior mid-term survival compared to non-IVDU, despite being younger and having less comorbidities” Tiako et al (2018).

Abstract:

BACKGROUND: The proportional incidence of intravenous drug use (IVDU) associated infective endocarditis cases requiring surgery has increased significantly, mirroring the national opioid crisis. Recidivism is common but its impact on postoperative outcomes is unclear. We aimed to evaluate short and mid-term postoperative outcomes associated with recidivism in this population.

METHODS: We retrospectively reviewed 180 consecutive patients (54 IVDU and 126 non-IVDU) surgically treated for IE from 2011-2016. The institutional database was linked to the Connecticut Department of Public Health Death Index to capture statewide long-term mortality and causes of death. Regression models were fitted to evaluate the association between IVDU status and perioperative adverse events, mid-term survival, and causes of death.

RESULTS: IVDU patients were younger and had fewer comorbidities. Diabetes, hypertension, peripheral vascular disease and previous CABG were less frequently present in IVDU patients compared to non-IVDU patients (p<0.05 for all). The STS mortality prediction score for IE was
lower in IVDU patients (22.9 vs 33.6, p<0.001). IVDU was associated with a significantly increased risk of perioperative adverse events (OR 2.88, 95%CI 1.02-8.12) and increased risk of mid-term mortality ([HR] 2.2, 95%CI 1.04-4.78, p=0.04). The leading cause of death in IVDU patients were related to recidivism whereas that of non-IVDU patients were related to chronic conditions. CONCLUSIONS: IVDU patients who underwent cardiac surgery for IE experienced higher risks of perioperative adverse events and inferior mid-term survival compared to non-IVDU, despite being younger and having less comorbidities. Deaths in IVDU cohort was were predominantly due to recidivism. Efforts to improve long-term outcome of patients presenting with IVDU IE should include drug addiction intervention and other strategies to reduce recidivism.

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