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Preoperative Thresholds for Pulmonary Valve Replacement in Patients With Corrected Tetralogy of Fallot Using Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance

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Background—To facilitate the optimal timing of pulmonary valve replacement, we analyzed preoperative thresholds of right ventricular (RV) volumes above which no decrease or normalization of RV size takes place after surgery.

Methods and Results—Between 1993 and 2006, 71 adult patients with corrected tetralogy of Fallot underwent pulmonary valve replacement in a nationwide, prospective follow-up study. Patients were evaluated with cardiovascular magnetic resonance both preoperatively and postoperatively. Changes in RV volumes were expressed as relative change from baseline. RV volumes decreased with a mean of 28%. RV ejection fraction did not change significantly after surgery (from 42±10% to 43±10%; P=0.34). Concomitant RV outflow tract reduction resulted in a 25% larger decrease of RV volumes. After correction for surgical RV outflow tract reduction, higher preoperative RV volumes (mL/m²) were independently associated with a larger decrease of RV volumes (RV end-diastolic volume: β=0.41; P<0.001). Receiver operating characteristic analysis revealed a cutoff value of 160 mL/m² for normalization of RV end-diastolic volume or 82 mL/m² for RV end-systolic volume.

Conclusions—Overall, we could not find a threshold above which RV volumes did not decrease after surgery. Preoperative RV volumes were independently associated with RV remodeling and also when corrected for a surgical reduction of the RV outflow tract. However, normalization could be achieved when preoperative RV end-diastolic volume was <160 mL/m² or RV end-systolic volume was <82 mL/m². (Circulation. 2007;116:545-551.)

Key Words: magnetic resonance imaging ▪ surgery ▪ tetralogy of Fallot ▪ pulmonary valve

In patients with corrected tetralogy of Fallot and residual longstanding pulmonary regurgitation, timing of pulmonary valve replacement (PVR) remains controversial.¹,² Beneficial effects of PVR have to be weighed against the risk for repeat PVR.³,⁴ Beneficial effects of PVR include improvement in functional class and exercise capacity, reduction of right ventricular (RV) size,² and decrease in QRS duration.⁵ Because data on long-term morbidity and mortality are lacking on this subject, cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) can be used to accurately assess the effect of PVR on RV volumes and function. Although PVR may result in a decrease in RV volumes,²,⁶ it remains unknown whether a threshold can be found above which no RV remodeling occurs after PVR. Furthermore, it remains a subject of debate whether RV remodeling is the result of the intrinsic capacity of the RV or is largely dependent on surgically reducing the RV outflow tract (RVOT). Some reports have assessed the effects of PVR by examining normalization of RV volumes after surgery but only with a limited number of patients.⁵,⁶ Therefore, in a prospective, multicenter study we analyzed whether a threshold exists above which the RV does not improve further after surgery and whether preoperative thresholds can be identified for normalization of RV volumes after surgery.

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Methods

Patient Population

In a nationwide, prospective study, 71 patients with a previous correction for tetralogy of Fallot were followed up after PVR. Patient characteristics are listed in Table 1. Data on the first 25 patients, who were operated on between 1993 and 2002, were reported previously.²
The remaining patients were operated on between 2002 and 2006 in 5 tertiary referral centers. CMR was performed preoperatively and 6 to 12 months postoperatively following clinical protocol. After the first year, patients were routinely followed up at the outpatient clinics of the participating centers, according to their local protocols. The medical records for all patients were reviewed. Data collected included patient characteristics, operations and concomitant procedures, echocardiographies, and ECGs. The international research boards approved the study, and informed consent was obtained in all patients.

Guidelines for replacing the pulmonary valve in patients with severe pulmonary regurgitation included progressive RV enlargement, progressive tricuspid regurgitation, arrhythmias, or symptoms such as deteriorating exercise performance. The exact interpretation of these guidelines was left to the participating centers.

### Pulmonary Valve Replacement

All homografts were allocated by Bio Implant Services, Leiden, the Netherlands, from whom the data on homograft and donor characteristics were obtained. Additional procedures performed at the time of PVR are listed in Table 1. All patients were operated on with normothermic or moderately hypothermic cardiopulmonary bypass. The outflow tract patch material was resected as much as possible. Although the patch resection itself may decrease RVOT size, this procedure was performed in all patients, and information on the size of the resected material was not available to us. Therefore, we considered the RVOT surgically reduced when the RVOT proximal to the graft was reduced to overcome the size discrepancy with the pulmonary homograft. We expected that the reduction in RV size would be greatest in this situation. The indication for this procedure was left to the cardiac surgeon during the procedure.

### Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance

CMR data were acquired on local available magnetic resonance systems. Imaging sequences of the first 25 patients were previously reported. For the remaining patients, CMR studies were performed with the use of local imaging protocols. CMR was performed at a median of 5 (3.4 to 7.6) months before and a median of 9 (6.2 to 15) months after PVR. Scout images were obtained in 3 orthogonal planes, and standard 2- and 4-chamber views were acquired. From these views, a stack of 12 to 14 slices was acquired in the short-axis orientation (steady state free precession). Images were analyzed at the Leiden University Medical Center with standardized analysis techniques. The short-axis orientation was used to calculate both RV and left ventricular (LV) volumes from endocardial contours with the use of MASS software (Medis, Leiden, the Netherlands). Stroke volume (SV) was calculated by deducting the end-systolic volume (ESV) from the end-diastolic volume (EDV), and ejection fraction (EF) was defined as (SV×100)/EDV. All volumes were indexed for body surface area.

Velocity mapping was performed with the use of velocity-encoded phase contrast sequence. For velocity mapping of the pulmonary artery, sagittal and coronal scout images were used to construct a double oblique plane perpendicular to the vessel. FLOW software (Medis) was used to calculate regurgitant flow and systolic forward flow. Pulmonary regurgitation was calculated as regurgitant flow×100/systolic forward flow.

### Statistical Analysis

Data are described as frequency, mean with SD, or median with interquartile range. Differences between parameters before and after surgery were analyzed with paired Student t test, Wilcoxon signed rank test, or McNemar test. Changes in CMR-derived ventricular volumes after surgery were expressed as percent change from baseline. One patient had 2 PVRs included in the analysis. Univariate predictors for change in hemodynamic parameters after surgery (patient characteristics [sex, age at repair, previous palliation, time from repair to PVR], surgical characteristics [age at PVR, homograft diameter, concomitant procedures], and CMR parameters at baseline) were analyzed with independent Student t test, ANOVA, or Pearson correlation coefficient, when appropriate. Independent predictors for change in hemodynamic parameters were analyzed with multivariable linear regression analysis. All significant predictors in univariate analysis entered the multivariable regression model with the use of forward stepwise analysis. The identification of a preoperative threshold in RV EDV index (EDVI) for normalization of RV EDV (<108 mL/m2) and RV ESV index (ESVI) (<47 mL/m2) was analyzed with the use of receiver operating characteristic curves. We considered situations in which surgery was performed “too early” (performing surgery when preoperative RV volumes were low and did normalize after surgery; low specificity) or “too late” (performing surgery when preoperative RV volumes were high and did not normalize after surgery; low sensitivity) equally adverse. Therefore, we selected the point at which sensitivity and specificity were equal. A probability value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

The authors had full access to and take full responsibility for the integrity of the data. All authors have read and agree to the manuscript as written.
Clinical Events After Surgery
Clinical characteristics of all patients are listed in Table 1. Median follow-up time after surgery was 1.6 (0.9 to 5.2) years. Of the 71 patients prospectively followed up, 1 patient died suddenly 18 months after PVR (age 33 years, no preoperative arrhythmias, latest QRS duration 156 ms). Ten months before his death, the patient underwent CMR with RV EDVI of 133 mL/m² and RV EF 30%. In 1 patient, implantable cardioverter-defibrillator implantation was planned 1 month before surgery and QRS duration of 192 ms (age 37 years, NYHA class I or II). Of the 71 patients, 11 patients left before PVR: 10 patients (age 38 years, NYHA class II, % 53 11*, NYHA class ≥II, % 53 11*) underwent redo surgery /H11021

Hemodynamic Changes After PVR
Changes in hemodynamics after PVR are listed in Table 2. In Table 2, a reduction in RV volumes and QRS duration can be observed as well as an increase in LV EDVI, net forward flow, and validity class. No improvement in RV volumes was observed in 4 patients. In 3 of these patients, residual pulmonary regurgitation (>20%) was observed, in 1 patient as a result of low-grade endocarditis. None of the 4 patients underwent a reduction of the RVOT. Individual lines for absolute change in RV EDVI are depicted for patients who did and did not undergo surgical RVOT reduction in Figure 2. Relative decrease in RV EDVI was higher in patients undergoing surgical RVOT reduction compared with those who did not (35±8% versus 27±20%; P=0.02). However, in patients not undergoing surgical RV reduction, RV EDVI could still decrease substantially when no residual pulmonary regurgitation was present (Figure 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2. Hemodynamic Changes After Surgery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV EDVI, mL/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV ESVI, mL/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV SV index, mL/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV EF, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV corrected EF, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV EDVI, mL/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV EF, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary regurgitant fraction, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net forward flow, mL/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricuspid regurgitation grade ≥2, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QRS duration, ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYHA class ≥II, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values are expressed as mean±SD unless otherwise noted. NYHA indicates New York Heart Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Statistically significant difference compared with baseline (P&lt;0.05).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Predictors for Hemodynamic Improvement After PVR
Decrease in RV volumes (RV EDVI and RV ESVI) was related to preoperative values, and a threshold above which RV did not decrease after PVR could not be observed (Figure 3). When the change in RV volumes was expressed as a relative change from baseline, average decrease in both RV EDVI and RV ESVI was 28% (Table 2). Although RV volumes changed substantially, RV EF did not change significantly. However, net SV and LV EDV improved after surgery. Table 3 depicts preoperative predictors that were multivariably associated with relative change in RV volumes after surgery. Patients with a surgical reduction of the RVOT had higher preoperative RV EDVI than patients without surgical reduction (198±53 versus 165±39 mL/m²; P=0.01). After correction for a surgical reduction of the RVOT in a multivariable model, relative change in RV EDVI and RV ESVI remained independently associated with preoperative RV EDVI (β=0.39, P=0.001; β=0.43, P<0.001, respectively). Interestingly, we observed that lower preoperative RV EF resulted in a greater increase in RV EF after surgery (Table 3) and a smaller LV EDVI resulted in a greater increase in LV EDVI after surgery.

When postoperative predictors for change in RV EDVI (%) are taken into account, postoperative pulmonary regurgitation (%) entered the model as well (β=−0.50 [SE 0.09], P<0.001). Decrease in RV EDVI (%) was related to both increase in RV EF (R=0.42, P<0.001) and increase in LV EDVI (R=0.30, P=0.012) and LV EF (R=0.35, P<0.001).

Cutoff Values for Normalization of RV EDVI and RV ESVI
In 37% of the patients RV EDVI returned to normal values (<108 mL/m²), and in 17% RV ESVI returned to normal values (<47 mL/m²). Sensitivity and specificity for normalization of RV EDVI were 55% and 92%, with a preoperative RV EDVI cutoff value of 160 mL/m² (Figure 4A). At <120 mL/m², all patients normalized, and at >190 mL/m², none of the patients normalized after surgery. For normalization of RV ESVI, a preoperative cutoff value of 82 mL/m² was observed, with a sensitivity of 74% and a specificity of 82% (Figure 4B). Patients with normalization of RV EDVI and RV ESVI after surgery had a lower postoperative QRS duration (133±30 versus 152±26 ms; P=0.02) and a higher postoperative RV EF (48±9.9% versus 40±8.8%; P=0.001) than patients with no normalization, respectively. No significant difference in New York Heart Association class after surgery was observed between patients with or without normalization (1.3±0.36 versus 1.2±0.33, respectively; P=0.31).

Discussion
In our study on optimal timing of PVR in patients with corrected tetralogy of Fallot, we could not find a threshold above which RV volumes did not decrease after surgery. Preoperative RV volumes were independently associated with RV remodeling and also when corrected for a surgical reduction of the RVOT. Despite the substantial decrease in patients with very high preoperative RV volumes, normalization could be achieved when preoperative RV EDV was <160 mL/m² or RV ESV was <82 mL/m².

Improvement of RV Size and Function After PVR
After the disappointing results of PVR reported by Therrien et al in 2001,1 several reports have shown beneficial effects of PVR,2,6 including a report by Therrien et al as well,5 all using CMR to quantify RV dimensions. In this report, we confirm the decrease in RV volumes of ~30% and an increase in values (<47 mL/m²). Sensitivity and specificity for normalization of RV EDVI were 55% and 92%, with a preoperative RV EDVI cutoff value of 160 mL/m² (Figure 4A). At <120 mL/m², all patients normalized, and at >190 mL/m², none of the patients normalized after surgery. For normalization of RV ESVI, a preoperative cutoff value of 82 mL/m² was observed, with a sensitivity of 74% and a specificity of 82% (Figure 4B). Patients with normalization of RV EDVI and RV ESVI after surgery had a lower postoperative QRS duration (133±30 versus 152±26 ms; P=0.02) and a higher postoperative RV EF (48±9.9% versus 40±8.8%; P=0.001) than patients with no normalization, respectively. No significant difference in New York Heart Association class after surgery was observed between patients with or without normalization (1.3±0.36 versus 1.2±0.33, respectively; P=0.31).

Figure 2. The actual decrease in RV EDV is depicted for patients in the present study. Left, Patients who did not undergo a surgical RVOT reduction (n=58); right, patients with a surgical RVOT reduction (n=13). In 4 patients without surgical RVOT reduction, RV size did not decrease after surgery. Three of these patients developed postoperative pulmonary regurgitation >20%. Note that in patients without surgical RVOT reduction and high RV EDV, RV size could decrease substantially. Furthermore, 2 patients were operated on with normal preoperative RV EDVI. Both patients became symptomatic with severe pulmonary regurgitation and a RV that was larger than the LV.

Figure 3. The association with preoperative RV EDVI (A) or RV ESVI (B) and the absolute decrease in RV volumes after surgery is depicted (dashed line is the regression line). Note that a threshold for reduction in RV volumes after surgery could not be identified. Individuals on the left side of the solid line are patients in whom ventricular volume returned to normal after surgery. The vertical dashed line represents the preoperative cutoff value for normalization after surgery.
effective SV of both ventricles.\textsuperscript{2,5,6} Besides these beneficial effects of PVR on RV size and effective SV, we confirm an overall improvement in functional New York Heart Association class.\textsuperscript{10} RV function did not change after surgery, but it remains unknown whether RV function stabilizes after surgery or declines steadily over time, as is the case before PVR.

After the report by Vliegen et al,\textsuperscript{2} an important issue was the question of whether the reported decrease in RV dilatation after surgery was only the result of the surgical reduction of the RV. In this report, we have shown that in patients with no surgical reduction of the RV during PVR, reduction of RV volumes may take place as well. Although most patients underwent resection of the transannular patch, it seems unlikely that placing a homograft over the defect without additionally tailoring the RVOT results in a large additional reduction in RV size. Furthermore, in the multivariable model for decrease in RV volumes, only preoperative dilatation remained significant in the model. We think that it is important to perform a surgical reduction of the RVOT in severely dilated RVOTs to prevent postoperative pulmonary regurgitation.

In patients with tetralogy of Fallot, RV dysfunction may negatively affect LV function.\textsuperscript{11} Geva et al\textsuperscript{12} emphasized that LV function plays an important role in the patient’s functional class. Interestingly, our study confirms a right-to-left ventricular interaction after surgery. We observed that change in RV volumes after surgery related directly to changes in LV volumes and function. In our opinion, changes in RV volumes are the most important benefit of PVR, and changes in patient’s functional class, LV function, and QRS duration are secondary to changes in RV volumes. Therefore, the main focus of our report is the change in RV volumes after surgery.

**Can We Operate Too Late?**

Our study population consisted of patients from both centers that are considered “conservative” in timing of PVR and centers that advocate “early” PVR.\textsuperscript{2} Of interest is that in our study, factors associated with delaying surgery (age at PVR, time from initial repair to PVR, high RV EDVI) were not associated with less decrease in RV volumes. Moreover, patients with higher RV EDVI before surgery showed a higher relative decrease in RV EDVI and RV ESVI. We could not find a threshold above which RV volumes do not decrease after surgery. Only patients with postoperative pulmonary regurgitation showed no decrease in RV volumes after surgery.\textsuperscript{13} Possibly, the difference between our study and the study from Therrien et al,\textsuperscript{1} in which no change in RV volumes was observed, is the use of CMR in our study versus the use of radionuclide angiography, which is considered less accurate in quantifying RV dimensions. Our results suggest

### TABLE 3. Univariable Predictors for Hemodynamic Change After Surgery in Multivariable Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>β (SE)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RV EDVI decrease (%)</td>
<td>Presurgery RV EDVI (mL/m(^2))</td>
<td>0.41 (0.11)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surgical RV reduction (yes, no)</td>
<td>0.06 (0.12)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV ESVI decrease (%)</td>
<td>Presurgery RV EDVI (mL/m(^2))</td>
<td>0.39 (0.12)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV EF increase (%)</td>
<td>Presurgery RV EF (%)</td>
<td>−0.64 (0.19)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presurgery RV ESVI (mL/m(^2))</td>
<td>−0.23 (0.19)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV EDVI increase (%)</td>
<td>Presurgery LV EDVI (mL/m(^2))</td>
<td>−0.44 (0.11)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV EF increase (%)</td>
<td>Presurgery LV EF (%)</td>
<td>−0.47 (0.12)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presurgery RV EDVI (mL/m(^2))</td>
<td>0.10 (0.12)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age at PVR (y)</td>
<td>−0.14 (0.11)</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graft diameter (mm)</td>
<td>−0.09 (0.11)</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYHA class improvement (%)</td>
<td>Presurgery NYHA class (β–IV)</td>
<td>0.71 (0.09)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NYHA indicates New York Heart Association.

**Figure 4.** Receiver operating characteristic curves are depicted for normalization of RV EDVI (A) and RV ESVI (B) after PVR.
that PVR substantially reduced RV dilatation, even in patients with very high RV volumes and RV dysfunction.

**Delaying PVR**

The risk of “late” PVR includes irreversible RV dysfunction after PVR. The risk of timing of early PVR in asymptomatic patients primarily comprises the need for repeat PVR. In our study, homografts were primarily used for RVOT reconstruction, and we have shown in a previous study that on average a homograft is replaced 10 to 20 years after PVR. As long as an ideal graft is yet to be found, delaying surgery has substantial benefits.

However, despite the ability of the RV to reduce dilatation substantially when preoperative RV volumes are high, not many patients showed normalized RV volumes after surgery (normalized RV EDVI in 37% and normalized RV ESVI in 17%). One might speculate that the RV improves further after the 9 months in the present study. However, in a report by van Straten et al., RV EDVI decreased only 1.8 mL/m² from 7 to 18 months after PVR.

Because it is not yet known whether reducing the size of the RV is enough to improve long-term outcomes after PVR, it is not clear whether delaying PVR is a good approach. Possibly, achieving normalization in RV volumes is important in improving long-term outcomes. When the latter is assumed, patients should be operated on before the RV EDVI reaches 160 mL/m² or RV ESVI reaches 82 mL/m². Our cutoff value of 160 mL/m² for RV EDVI lies slightly below the reported values by Therrien et al. in adults (170 mL/m²) and Buechel et al. in children (200 mL/m²).

**Other Factors Influencing Optimal Timing of PVR**

Associated factors may alter the timing of PVR. Patients with long-standing pulmonary regurgitation with subsequent RV dilatation and severe ventricular arrhythmias should be evaluated for PVR. Risk for these ventricular arrhythmias is higher when QRS duration is >180 ms. It has been observed that QRS duration decreases after PVR, related to the reduction in RV volumes. Ventricular arrhythmias or sudden cardiac death occurred in 3 of 71 (4%) of the patients. In a recent study, we observed that when patients were operated on when QRS was >180 ms, the risk for ventricular arrhythmias remained high (25%). In our opinion, PVR should be performed before the QRS duration reaches 180 ms.

In some of the participating centers, PVR is delayed until the patient becomes symptomatic. We have observed that patients with high preoperative New York Heart Association class showed an improvement in validity class after surgery. However, some patients with severely dilated RVs were not symptomatic in our study, and these patients were at increased risk for increased RV volumes and reduced RV EF after surgery. However, from our report, we cannot conclude that delaying surgery until symptoms occur is unfavorable because the long-term outcomes of increased RV volumes and decreased RV EF after surgery are not known to us.

Other factors influencing timing of PVR include the occurrence of significant hemodynamic abnormalities requiring surgery: tricuspid regurgitation, residual ventricular septal defect, and pulmonary stenosis. When 1 of these lesions is present, PVR can be considered before the RV reaches the preoperative cutoff values.

**Limitations**

Although, in our opinion, the patient population in the present study reflects the wide clinical spectrum normally seen in clinical practice, the present study lacks sufficient statistical power to determine with confidence that there is no ceiling effect, particularly in the range of large RV EDVI (eg, >220 mL/m²). Future studies should incorporate data on hard outcome variables, acquired during a longer follow-up period, and use objective assessment of functional outcome to make definitive conclusions on the effectiveness and indications for PVR.

We used a standard gradient echo imaging technique for the first 25 previously described patients, whereas the subsequent patients were imaged with a steady state free precession technique. These 2 techniques have been shown not to yield equivalent results. However, baseline measurements and measurements after PVR were performed with the same imaging technique in all individual patients. Therefore, differences before and after surgery could be assessed reliably.

**Conclusion**

Even in patients with very high preoperative RV volumes and RV dysfunction, our results suggest that PVR substantially reduced RV dilatation. A threshold could not be observed, and RV size before surgery was independently associated with reduction in RV volumes after surgery. A reduction of RV volumes to normal values could be achieved when PVR was performed before RV EDV reached 160 mL/m² or RV ESV reached 82 mL/m².

**Source of Funding**

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**Disclosures**

None.

**References**

Patients with corrected tetralogy of Fallot and residual long-standing pulmonary regurgitation are at risk for heart failure and sudden cardiac death. With pulmonary valve replacement, pulmonary regurgitation is targeted, and right ventricular volume decreases after surgery. However, once a graft is placed in the pulmonary position, the patient will need to undergo future redo surgery for graft failure. Controversy remains regarding the optimal timing of pulmonary valve replacement. How long can pulmonary valve replacement be delayed, and above which right ventricular dimensions does remodeling not occur after surgery? We analyzed preoperative and postoperative right ventricular volumes and function in 71 adult patients with corrected tetralogy of Fallot using cardiovascular magnetic resonance. We observed that even in patients with very severe preoperative right ventricular dilatation and dysfunction, pulmonary valve replacement substantially reduced right ventricular dilatation. A threshold for remodeling after surgery could not be observed. Although greater right ventricular dilatation was associated with a greater reduction in right ventricular size, “normalization” of the right ventricle occurred in only 37% of the patients. A substantial decrease in right ventricular size can still be obtained when surgery is delayed until the right ventricle becomes severely dilated. However, when normalization in right ventricular size is achieved, surgery should be performed at an earlier stage.