

TRI-SCORE and benefit of intervention in patients with severe tricuspid regurgitation

Julien Dreyfus, Xavier Galloo, Maurizio Taramasso, Gregor Heitzinger, Giovanni Benfari, Karl-Patrick Kresoja, Fernando Juarez-Casso, Hazem Omran, Yohann Bohbot, Christos Iliadis, et al.

▶ To cite this version:

Julien Dreyfus, Xavier Galloo, Maurizio Taramasso, Gregor Heitzinger, Giovanni Benfari, et al.. TRI-SCORE and benefit of intervention in patients with severe tricuspid regurgitation. European Heart Journal, 2023, pp.ehad585. 10.1093/eurheartj/ehad585. hal-04192875

HAL Id: hal-04192875 https://u-picardie.hal.science/hal-04192875v1

Submitted on 15 Sep 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



TRI-SCORE and benefit of intervention in patients with severe tricuspid regurgitation

- 3 Julien Dreyfus, MD, PhD1; Xavier Galloo, MD2,3; Maurizio Taramasso, MD, PhD4; Gregor
- 4 Heitzinger, MD⁵; Giovanni Benfari, MD, PhD^{6,7}; Karl-Patrick Kresoja, MD⁸; Fernando Juarez-
- 5 Casso, MD⁹; Hazem Omran, MD¹⁰; Yohann Bohbot, MD, PhD^{11,12}; Christos Iliadis, MD¹³; Giulio
- 6 Russo, MD¹⁴; Yan Topilsky, MD, PhD¹⁵; Marcel Weber, MD¹⁶; Luis Nombela-Franco, MD,
- 7 PhD¹⁷; Alessandra Sala, MD¹⁸; Andrea Eixerés-Esteve, MD¹⁹; Bernard Iung, MD²⁰; Jean-François
- 8 Obadia, MD²¹; Rodrigo Estevez Loureiro, MD, PhD²²; Elisabeth Riant, MD¹; Erwan Donal, MD,
- 9 PhD²³; Jörg Hausleiter, MD²⁴; Luigi Badano, MD, PhD^{25,26}; Thierry Le Tourneau, MD, PhD²⁷;
- Augustin Coisne, MD, PhD^{28,29}; Thomas Modine, MD, PhD³⁰; Azeem Latib, MD³¹; Fabien Praz,
- 11 MD³²; Stephan Windecker, MD³²; Jose Luis Zamorano, MD³³; Ralph Stephan von Bardeleben,
- 12 MD³⁴; Gilbert H. L. Tang, MD, MSc, MBA³⁵; Rebecca Hahn, MD³⁶; John Webb, MD³⁷; Denisa
- Muraru, MD, PhD^{25,26}; Mohammed Nejjari, MD¹; Vincent Chan, MD³⁸; Michele De Bonis, MD¹⁸;
- Manuel Carnero-Alcazar, MD³⁹; Georg Nickenig, MD¹⁶; Roman Pfister, MD¹³; Christophe
- 15 Tribouilloy, MD, PhD^{11,12}; Volker Rudolph, MD¹⁰; Juan Crestanello, MD⁹; Philipp Lurz, MD,
- 16 PhD⁸; Philipp Bartko, MD, PhD⁵; Francesco Maisano, MD⁴⁰; Jeroen Bax, MD, PhD²; Maurice
- 17 Enriquez-Sarano, MD, PhD⁴¹; David Messika-Zeitoun, MD, PhD⁴² for the TRIGISTRY
- 18 investigators.

19

1

2

- 20 ¹: Department of Cardiology, Centre Cardiologique du Nord, Saint-Denis, France.
- 21 ² Department of Cardiology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.
- ³: Department of Cardiology, Free University Brussels (VUB), University Hospital Brussels (UZ
- 23 Brussel), Brussels, Belgium.

- ⁴: HerzZentrum Hirslanden Zürich, Switzerland.
- ⁵: Department for Internal Medicine II, Cardiology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.
- ⁶: Cardiovascular disease Department, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MM, USA.
- ⁷: Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, University of Verona, Italy.
- 5 8: Department of Internal Medicine/Cardiology, Heart Center Leipzig at University of Leipzig,
- 6 Leipzig, Germany.
- ⁹: Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MM, USA.
- 8 10: General and Interventional Cardiology, Heart & Diabetes Center NRW, University Hospital of
- 9 the Ruhr University Bochum, Bad Oeynhausen, Germany.
- 10 11: Department of Cardiology, Amiens University Hospital, Amiens, France.
- 11 12: UR UPJV 7517, Jules Verne University of Picardie, Amiens, France.
- 12 13: Department for Internal Medicine III, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Cologne,
- 13 Cologne, Germany.
- 14 14: Policlinico Tor Vergata, University of Rome, Rome, Italy.
- 15 Department of Cardiology, Tel Aviv Medical Center, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv,
- 16 Israel.
- 17 ¹⁶: Heart Center University Hospital, Bonn, Germany.
- 18 ¹⁷: Interventional Cardiology, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain.
- 19 18: Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Department of Cardiac Surgery, IRCCS San Raffaele
- 20 Hospital, Milan, Italy.
- 21 ¹⁹: Cardiac Surgery Department, Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain.
- 22 ²⁰: Cardiology Department, Bichat Hospital, APHP, and INSERM LVTS U1148, Université de
- 23 Paris, Paris, France.
- 24 21: Department of Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantation, Louis Pradel Cardiovascular

- 1 Hospital, Claude Bernard University, Bron, France.
- 2 ²²: Interventional Cardiology Clinic, University Hospital Alvaro Cunqueiro, Vigo, Spain.
- 3 ²³: Cardiology Department, LTSI UMR1099, INSERM, Université de Rennes-1, CHU de
- 4 RENNES, Rennes, France.
- 5 ²⁴: Medical Clinic and Polyclinic I, University Hospital of Munich, Munich, Germany
- 6 ²⁵: Department of Cardiology, Istituto Auxologico Italiano, IRCCS, Milan, Italy.
- 7 ²⁶: Department of Medicine and Surgery, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy.
- 8 ²⁷: CNRS, INSERM, l'institut du thorax, Université de Nantes, CHU de Nantes, Nantes, France.
- 9 ²⁸: Department of Clinical Physiology and Echocardiography Heart Valve Clinic, CHU Lille,
- 10 Lille, France.
- 11 ²⁹: Institut Pasteur de Lille, U1011- EGID, Univ. Lille, Inserm, CHU Lille, Lille, France.
- 12 31: Division of Cardiology, Montefiore Medical Center 30: Department of Cardiology and Cardio-
- 13 Vascular Surgery, Hôpital Cardiologique de Haut-Leveque, Bordeaux University Hospital,
- 14 Bordeaux, France.
- 15 , New York, New York, USA.
- 16 ³²: Department of Cardiology, Inselspital, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland.
- 17 ³³: Department of Cardiology, Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain.
- 18 ³⁴: Division of Cardiology, University Medical Center, Mainz, Germany.
- 19 ³⁵: Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Mount Sinai Health System, New York, NY, USA.
- 20 ³⁶: Cardiology Department, New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, New
- 21 York, NY, USA.
- 22 ³⁷: St. Paul Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- 23 ³⁸: Department of Cardiac surgery, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- 24 ³⁹: Department of Cardiac Surgery, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain.

⁴⁰: Cardiac Surgery and Heart Valve Center, Ospedale San Raffaele, University Vita Salute, 1 2 Milano, Italy. ⁴¹: Minneapolis Heart Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. 3 ⁴²: Department of Cardiology, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, Canada. 4 5 6 Running Title: Timing of Tricuspid Valve Intervention 7 8 9 Word Count: Text (Introduction to conclusion) 3701 words 10 11 Number of figures 3 12 Number of tables 2 Abstract 255 words 13 14 15 Addresses for correspondence: - Julien Dreyfus, Department of Cardiology, Centre Cardiologique du Nord, Saint-Denis, France. 16 Tel: +33149334803, Fax: +33149334143, E-mail: dreyfusjulien@yahoo.fr 17 - David Messika-Zeitoun, Department of Cardiology, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, 18

Canada. Tel: +613.696-7337, Fax: +613.696-7127, E-mail: DMessika-zeitoun@ottawaheart.ca

19

20

1 ABSTRACT

- 2 Background and Aims. Benefit of tricuspid regurgitation (TR) correction and timing of
- 3 intervention are unclear. This study aimed to compare survival rates after surgical or transcatheter
- 4 intervention to conservative management according to TR clinical stage as assessed using the TRI-
- 5 SCORE.
- 6 Methods. 2,413 patients with severe isolated functional TR were enrolled in TRIGISTRY (1217
- 7 conservatively managed, 551 isolated tricuspid valve surgery and 645 transcatheter valve repair).
- 8 The primary endpoint was survival at 2 years.
- 9 **Results.** The TRI-SCORE was low (\leq 3) in 32%, intermediate (4-5) in 33% and high (\geq 6) in 35%.
- A successful correction was achieved in 97% and 65% of patients in the surgical and transcatheter
- groups, respectively. Survival rates decreased with the TRI-SCORE in the three treatment groups
- 12 (all P<0.0001). In the low TRI-SCORE category, survival rates were higher in the surgical and
- transcatheter groups than in the conservative management group (93%, 87% and 79%, respectively;
- 14 P=0.0002). In the intermediate category, no significant difference between groups was observed
- overall (80%, 71% and 71%, respectively; P=0.13) but benefit of the intervention became
- significant when the analysis was restricted to patients with successful correction (80%, 81% and
- 17 71%, respectively; P=0.009). In the high TRI-SCORE category, survival was similar between
- 18 groups even when restricted to patients with successful correction (61%, 68% and 58%
- 19 respectively, P=0.08).
- 20 **Conclusion.** Survival progressively decreased with the TRI-SCORE irrespective of treatment
- 21 modality. Compared to conservative management, an early and successful surgical or transcatheter
- 22 intervention improved 2-year survival in patients at low and, to a lower extent, intermediate TRI-
- 23 SCORE, while no benefit was observed in the high TRI-SCORE category.
- 24 **Keywords**: tricuspid regurgitation, surgery, transcatheter intervention, management, outcome.

1 STRUCTURED GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

2 (1) Text element:

3 Key Question

- 4 In patients with isolated severe tricuspid regurgitation (TR), does benefit of intervention vary
- 5 according to disease stage as assessed by the TRI-SCORE?

6 Key Findings

- 7 In TRIGISTRY, gathering 2,413 patients, a surgical or transcatheter intervention provided a better
- 8 survival than conservative management at 2 years in the low and, to a lower extent, intermediate
- 9 TRI-SCORE category, while survival was similar irrespective of the treatment group in the high
- 10 TRI-SCORE category.

11 Take-Home Message

- 12 These results suggest that a curative intervention should be performed at an early disease stage in
- patients with severe TR.

14

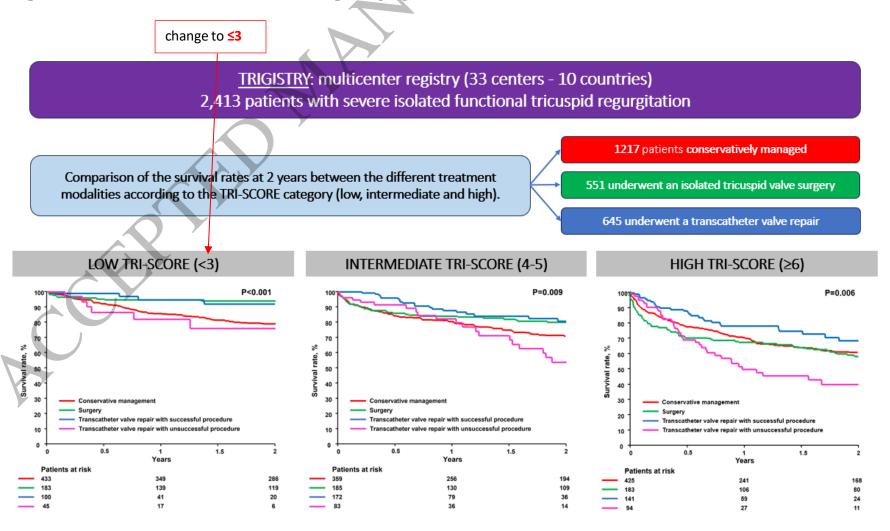
15

16

17

(2) Graphic element.

Comparison of the survival rates at 2 years between the different treatment modalities according to the TRI-SCORE category in patients with severe isolated functional tricuspid regurgitation.



INTRODUCTION

Tricuspid regurgitation (TR) is highly prevalent in the general population and is associated with an increased mortality and morbidity(1-4). In patients with isolated severe TR, North American and European Societies of Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery guidelines recommend tricuspid valve surgery when patients are symptomatic or present with right ventricular dilatation in the absence of severe right ventricular dysfunction(5, 6). However, level of evidence is limited, and most patients are conservatively managed, left with diuretics to relieve symptoms, while a surgical correction for isolated severe TR is seldom performed even in the recent era(7-9). Reluctance to refer patients for isolated tricuspid valve surgery is due on the one hand to the belief that TR is benign and on the other hand to the high post-operative mortality and to the uncertainties regarding the benefit of TR correction(10, 11). Transcatheter intervention has emerged as a less invasive alternative to surgery and is nowadays the dominant mode of TR correction in several countries(12, 13). However, the recent TRILUMINATE trial comparing transcatheter tricuspid edge-to-edge therapy to medical management failed to show any impact on mortality or heart failure admissions in patients with isolated TR at one year(14).

A key element, often overlooked, is the progressive nature of the disease and its long-term effects on cardiac and extra-cardiac function. Clinical presentation is the main driver of the post-operative outcome(15-17) and a late intervention after the development of right ventricular remodeling, or renal and hepatic dysfunction, contributes to the 10% in-hospital mortality rate reported after isolated tricuspid valve surgery. We recently developed the TRI-SCORE, based on eight clinical, biological, and echocardiographic parameters (age, New York Heart Association functional class, right-sided heart failure signs, daily dose of furosemide, glomerular filtration rate, total bilirubin level, left ventricular ejection fraction and right ventricular function), to predict in-

hospital mortality after isolated tricuspid valve surgery(18, 19) (Figure S1). The TRI-SCORE is ideally suited to stage TR populations and to evaluate whether the benefit of an intervention and its modality vary according to TR disease stage. To answer this question, we developed TRIGISTRY, a large multicenter international registry of patients with severe isolated functional TR and we aimed to compare mortality rates after isolated tricuspid valve surgery and transcatheter correction to conservative management according to TR clinical stage as assessed using the TRI-SCORE.

METHODS

Study Design

The TRIGISTRY is a multinational registry across 10 countries (Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the USA) and 33 centers aiming to compare outcomes of adult patients with severe isolated functional TR on native valve either conservatively managed, who underwent an isolated tricuspid valve surgery or a transcatheter tricuspid valve intervention. The list of participating centers and investigators is provided in the Supplementary Appendix. Clinical, laboratory, echocardiographic and outcomes information were collected locally by each center and centralized in a unique depository anonymized database at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

The first and last authors designed the study protocol and were responsible for the study coordination. All the investigators were responsible for data collection and vouched for the completeness and accuracy of the data. All the authors reviewed and approved the manuscript written by the first and last authors. Data analyzes were performed by the Cardiovascular Research Methods Center at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. The study was conducted in accordance

with local institutional policies and was approved by each local institutional review board. There was no dedicated funding for this study.

Study population

TRIGISTRY retrospectively enrolled patients with severe isolated functional TR on native valve. Functional TR was defined by structurally normal tricuspid valve. TR severity was assessed using an integrative multiparametric approach (20, 21). Patients with prior tricuspid valve intervention or patients with moderate or greater concomitant left-sided valvular heart disease were excluded. Patients who underwent an aortic or mitral valve intervention (either surgical or transcatheter) within 3 months prior to the tricuspid valve intervention were also excluded. Patients with congenital heart disease were excluded. The study population was divided based on treatment modality (conservative management, surgery and transcatheter intervention). In the surgical group, only patients who underwent an isolated tricuspid valve surgery (repair or replacement) were included (i.e. no concomitant intervention such as mitral or aortic valve surgery, or coronary artery bypass graft). We included all transcatheter tricuspid valve repair techniques and excluded transcatheter valve replacements. For patients under loop diuretics treatments other than furosemide, 10 mg of torasemide or 1 mg of bumetamide were considered equivalent to 40 mg of furosemide. Patients for whom the eight mandatory parameters to calculate the TRI-SCORE could not be collected were excluded. The TRI-SCORE ranges from 0 to 12 points and the population was divided into three subsets based on previously validated TRI-SCORE risk categories and predicted post-operative mortality (low risk: ≤3 points, intermediate risk: 4-5 points, and high risk: \geq 6 points)(18).

Follow-up and primary endpoint

All-cause death (in-hospital or during follow-up) at 2 years after the initial evaluation in the conservative management group and after the intervention in patients who underwent a surgical or transcatheter intervention was collected. Length of stay after surgical or transcatheter interventions was calculated as the time duration between the admission and hospital discharge. TR grade at discharge after surgery or transcatheter intervention was semi-quantitatively assessed by transthoracic echocardiography and a successful correction was defined as a mild to moderate (2+) or lower TR degree based on a four grades scale.

Statistical analysis

Variables were expressed as mean ± standard-deviation or median [25th-75th percentile] for continuous variables and number of patients (percentage) for categorical variables. Comparisons of baseline characteristics between the treatment groups were performed using ANOVA, Chisquare, Student's *t*-test or non-parametric Wilcoxon test as appropriate in the overall population and in each TRI-SCORE risk category. Survival rates were presented using the Kaplan-Meier method and compared using log-rank test up to 2 years including in-hospital mortality (follow-up censored at 2 years). A Cox proportional hazards regression model was performed to compare mortality according to treatment modality at 2 years after adjustment for age (as a continuous variable), sex, atrial fibrillation and comorbidities (diabetes, chronic lung disease, coronary artery disease, and prior left heart valve intervention). Comparisons were performed between the different groups overall and for the surgical and transcatheter groups using conservative management as reference with adjusted hazard ratios (HR) and 95% confidence intervals. For analyses comparing the treatment groups, a treatment by logtime interaction term was used to assess the proportionality assumption. Analyses were repeated subdividing the transcatheter group based on procedural

results (residual TR at discharge \leq mild to moderate, or \geq moderate). Analyses were performed at the two-tailed P<0.05 level, using SAS statistical software version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC).

RESULTS

Population characteristics

We enrolled 2413 adult patients with severe isolated functional TR on native valve; 1217 (50.4%) patients were conservatively managed, 551 (22.8%) underwent an isolated tricuspid valve surgery and 645 (26.7%) a transcatheter tricuspid valve intervention. Mean age was 72±12 years and 53% were women. A permanent pacemaker was present in 27% and 26% had a prior left-sided valvular heart disease intervention. Most patients were severely symptomatic (65% in New York Heart Association class III-IV, 59% presented with overt heart failure) and 66% had atrial fibrillation. Characteristics of the population overall and according to treatment modality are presented in Table 1.

Patients in the transcatheter group were older, presented more frequently with comorbidities such as diabetes, coronary artery disease or lung disease than their counterpart who underwent a tricuspid valve surgery but presence of overt heart failure signs, dose of diuretics or rate of right ventricular dysfunction were similar between the two intervention groups and distribution according to TRI-SCORE category was only mildly different although statistically significant. Among the patients who underwent a transcatheter or surgical tricuspid valve intervention, only 28% were considered at low surgical risk according to the TRI-SCORE.

Distribution of each TRI-SCORE parameters according to TRI-SCORE category is presented in Table 2. Prevalence of each parameter increased with TRI-SCORE category. In the

low-TRI-SCORE category, few patients presented with overt heart failure, high dose of diuretics, kidney or liver dysfunction and only 26% presented with moderate/severe right ventricular dysfunction.

In-hospital outcome after tricuspid valve intervention

A surgical tricuspid valve repair was performed in 200 patients (36%) and a replacement in 351 patients (64%), of whom 91% received a bioprosthetic valve. A new permanent pacemaker was implanted in 11% of patients. The length of stay was 13 [8-22] days. In-hospital mortality rate was 9.6%. At discharge, residual TR degree was mild to moderate or less in 97% of patients.

In the transcatheter group, 509 patients (79%) were treated with tricuspid edge-to-edge repair (MitraClip® or TriClip® system (Abbott Structural Heart, Santa Clara, CA, USA), or PASCAL system ® (Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA, USA). The remaining were treated with annuloplasty (CardioBand system® (Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA, USA)) or other techniques (Trialign® (Mitralign, Inc., Boston, MA, USA), Trichinch® (4Tech Cardio Ltd., Galway, Ireland)). In-hospital length of stay was 7 [5-10] days. A new permanent pacemaker was implanted in 0.4% of patients. In-hospital mortality rate was 2.5%. At discharge, residual TR was mild to moderate or less in 65% of patients.

Survival according to TRI-SCORE

The TRI-SCORE was low in 32%, intermediate in 33% and high in 35%. Follow-up was available in 98% of patients (median 1.7 years [0.46-2]). Survival rates decreased with TRI-SCORE category overall (83%, 74% and 59% in the low, intermediate, and high categories respectively, P<0.0001) and in each treatment group (79%, 71% and 61%, respectively, P<0.001 in the conservative management group; 93%, 80% and 58% P<0.001 in the surgical group

respectively, and 87%, 71% and 56%, respectively, P<0.001 in the transcatheter group) (Figure 1). Results remained unchanged after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation and comorbidities (all P<0.001).

Survival according to treatment modality and TRI-SCORE category

Overall. There were 556 deaths within 2 years, 327 in the conservative management group, 111 in the surgical group and 118 in the transcatheter valve repair group. At 2 years, survival rates were not different between groups (71%, 77% and 69% in the conservative management, surgical and transcatheter groups respectively, P=0.10) (Figure 2A). The similar mortality rates between treatment modalities persisted after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and comorbidities (P=0.23).

Low TRI-SCORE. In-hospital mortality in the surgical and transcatheter groups were 2.7% and 0.7%, respectively. At 2 years, survival rates were significantly different between groups (79%, 93% and 87% in the conservative management, surgical and transcatheter groups, respectively; p=0.0002) (Figure 2B). After adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and comorbidities, results remained unchanged (P=0.006). Compared to the conservative management group, survival was significantly higher in the surgical group (adjusted HR 0.35[0.18-0.69], p=0.002) but not in the transcatheter valve repair group (adjusted HR 0.65 [0.32-1.31], p=0.23).

Intermediate TRI-SCORE. Compared to the low TRI-SCORE subset, in-hospital mortality rate was significantly higher in the surgical group (9.2% vs 2.7%, P=0.009) but the difference did not reach statistical significance in the transcatheter group (2.0% vs. 0.7%, P=0.27). Survival rates at 2 years were not significantly different between groups (71% in the conservative management group, 80% in the surgical group and 71% in the transcatheter group, P=0.13) (Figure 2C). Similar mortality rates were also observed after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and

comorbidities (P=0.15). Compared to the conservative management group, survival rates in the surgical group (adjusted HR 0.73 [0.47, 1.15], p=0.14) and the transcatheter group (adjusted HR 0.69, [0.44-1.09], p=0.11) were not statistically different.

High TRI-SCORE. Compared to the low and intermediate risk category, in-hospital mortality rates markedly increased in the surgical group (16.9%, P<0.001) and to a lesser extent in the transcatheter group but did not reach statistical significance (4.3%, P=0.06). At 2 years, survival rates were not different between groups (61%, 58% and 56% in the conservative management, surgical and transcatheter groups respectively, p=0.66) (Figure 2D). Results remained unchanged after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and comorbidities (P=0.48). When compared to the conservative management group, survival was similar in the surgical (adjusted HR 1.21 [0.87-1.70], p=0.26) and transcatheter group (adjusted HR 0.98 [0.68-1.43], p=0.90).

Impact of residual TR post intervention

Overall. Impact of residual TR was only assessed in the transcatheter group since a suboptimal correction was only observed in 3% (15 patients) after surgery. At 2 years, survival rates were 71% in the conservative management group, 77% in the surgical group, 79% in transcatheter group with successful correction and 51% in transcatheter group with suboptimal correction (P<0.0001) (Figure 3A).

Low TRI-SCORE. Survival rates at 2 years were significantly different between the four groups (79%, 93%, 92% and 76% in the conservative management, surgical, transcatheter with successful correction and transcatheter with suboptimal correction groups, respectively, P=0.0001) (Figure 3B). Results remained unchanged after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and comorbidities (P=0.004). Compared to the conservative management group, survival almost reached statistical significance in the transcatheter intervention group with successful correction

(adjusted HR 0.36 [0.13-1.02], p=0.055).

Intermediate TRI-SCORE. Survival rates at 2 years were also significantly different between the four groups (71%, 80%, 81%, and 54% in the conservative management, surgical, transcatheter with successful correction and transcatheter with suboptimal correction groups respectively (Figure 3C). Results remained unchanged after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and comorbidities (P=0.02). Compared to the conservative management group, survival rates were significantly higher in the transcatheter group with successful correction (adjusted HR 0.46 [0.25-0.85], P=0.01) and not different in the transcatheter group with suboptimal correction (adjusted HR 1.26 [0.70-2.25], p=0.44).

High TRI-SCORE. In univariate analysis, survival rates were significantly different between the four groups (58%, 61%, 68% and 40% in the conservative management, surgical, transcatheter with successful correction and transcatheter with suboptimal correction group,s respectively, P=0.006) (Figure 3D) but not after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and comorbidities (P=0.13). Compared to the conservative management group, survival rate in the transcatheter group with successful correction was not significantly better (adjusted HR 0.71 [0.43-1.19], P=0.18) nor survival was significantly worse in the in transcatheter group with suboptimal correction (adjusted HR 1.35 [0.83-2.20], P=0.22).

DISCUSSION

In this large multicenter international registry of patients with severe isolated functional TR, we evaluated the interaction between treatment modality and clinical presentation as assessed by the TRI-SCORE. First, we confirmed the poor prognosis associated with severe TR in patients with advanced disease stage and extended the predictive value of the TRI-SCORE not only for the

post-operative mortality but also at 2 years irrespective of treatment modality with nearly 40% of the patients deceased within 2 years in the high TRI-SCORE category. Second, we observed a beneficial impact of an intervention, whether surgical or transcatheter, on survival compared to conservative management in the low and, to a lesser extent, in the intermediate TRI-SCORE category, while survival was similar irrespective of the treatment group in the high TRI-SCORE category. Finally, we showed the deleterious effect of suboptimal TR correction on survival (Structured Graphical Abstract).

Tricuspid regurgitation, including in the absence of any other structural abnormalities as in isolated functional atrial TR, is associated with an increased risk of mortality and morbidity increasing with TR severity. The main drivers of the outcome are the severity of the clinical presentation and TR consequences on the right ventricle, kidneys and liver (22). These parameters are captured into the TRI-SCORE, which provides a simple and accurate method to predict post-operative mortality and to guide the management of patients with TR. The predictive value of the TRI-SCORE has been recently externally validated (23, 24) and also extended to patients referred for transcatheter tricuspid valve intervention (25). The present study confirms and extent these findings. Irrespective of the treatment group and modality, post-operative mortality and 2-year mortality gradually increased with the TRI-SCORE. Clinical stage is therefore critical to consider when designing randomized controlled trials and evaluating the potential benefit of interventions.

In contrast to the robust evidence linking TR and outcome, formal proof of the beneficial impact of TR correction has remained so far elusive. Observational studies are suffering from limited sample size, lack of comparator groups, or if present, patients were matched without considering the main determinants of outcomes as those included in the TRI-SCORE. Only one

randomized study, TRILUMINATE, has been reported and shows an improvement of the quality of life in the transcatheter arm compared to the conservative management arm but no benefit on mortality, admission for heart failure or on the 6-minute walk distance at one year. The disease stage of the patients enrolled in TRILUMINATE, as in most observational studies, is unclear as no TRI-SCORE is provided and might explain contradictory results previously reported. It is worth noting that there was no difference in mortality rates between the three treatment modalities overall even after adjustment for age, sex, atrial fibrillation, and comorbidities. Therefore, when analyzing the benefit of a tricuspid valve intervention, it is critical to account for the heterogeneity of the TR population and to carefully phenotype the population. To assess the interaction between clinical presentation and potential benefit of tricuspid valve interventions, we developed TRIGISTRY, a large multicenter international registry across 10 countries and 33 centers. In addition to its unmatched size, TRIGISTRY is constituted exclusively of patients with severe isolated functional TR, fully characterized and staged based on the TRI-SCORE, a multiparametric adjustment parameter specific for the TR population. TRIGISTRY was well powered and uniquely enrolled patients conservatively managed, who underwent an isolated tricuspid valve surgery or an isolated transcatheter tricuspid valve repair, with sizeable populations in all treatment modalities and all TRI-SCORE category subsets followed up to 2 years.

The present study shows that the benefit of TR correction is not uniform but varies according to the disease stage. A significant benefit was observed in patients in the low TRI-SCORE category and, to a lower extent, in the intermediate category, while we did not observe any survival benefit in the high TRI-SCORE category with either surgery or transcatheter therapies. In patients with a low TRI-SCORE, surgery and transcatheter repair provided excellent outcomes at 2 years. It is worth noting that in the low TRI-SCORE category, in-hospital mortality rate for isolated tricuspid valve surgery was low (2.7%) and in line with predicted. Therefore, paradigm

should be shifted, the 10% in-hospital mortality reported in most series (including in TRIGISTRY when all TRI-SCORE categories were combined) is not intrinsically due to the complexity of the tricuspid valve surgery but is due to the late referral of patients and to the "wait and see until too late" attitude that has prevailed for a long time. The current results stress the importance of a careful risk-stratification of TR patients, and to consider an intervention earlier in the course of the disease. At the extreme end of the spectrum, in patients with high TRI-SCORE, survival was similar in the conservative management, transcatheter and surgical groups, suggesting that no benefit on survival is likely to be expected at an advanced disease stage.

TRIGISTRY also highlights the importance of a successful TR correction. In the low and intermediate TRI-SCORE categories, survival curves of the surgical and transcatheter groups with successful correction were superimposable. These results, besides reinforcing the evidence that TR correction improves outcome, show that more than the technique itself, an efficient TR correction is critical to achieve good outcomes. In TRIGISTRY, approximately one third of the transcatheter population presented a significant residual TR likely preventing any benefit on survival. These real-life results are in line with those reported in other real-life registries(11) and might explain at least partially the neutral effect of transcatheter correction in TRILUMINATE(14). Therefore, a decrease of one or two TR grades, especially from torrential or massive to severe, should not be considered as a satisfactory result and transcatheter correction should aim for mild to moderate or even lower TR degree. Our results also highlight the need to improve the results of transcatheter tricuspid valve repair.

The present study is not without limitations. First, inherent bias associated to its retrospective design cannot be excluded. However, our population was derived from consecutive collection of TR patients at each center. In addition, comparisons between groups were performed according to TRI-SCORE categories, avoiding complex and often inaccurate adjustment, and

reducing the risk of confounders. Second, prescription and dose of mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists were not collected. Third, the TRI-SCORE was only calculated at one time point and we could not evaluate the prognostic impact of its change over time. Fourth, data collection including echocardiographic parameters were collected locally at the center level with no centralized evaluation. The worse outcome of patients with significant residual TR can be considered as a *post-hoc* validation of the overall quality of TR grading. Fifth, 26% had a previous left-sided intervention. We did not collect the type of intervention and its time interval with the enrollment in registry but a delay of at least 3 months was required and patients with moderate or greater concomitant left-sided valvular heart disease on native or prosthetic valve were excluded. Sixth, both transcatheter (and to a lower extent surgical) technology and operator's expertise improved over time. Importantly, 80% of transcatheter interventions were performed after 2018 and analyses were repeated according to transcatheter procedural success. It is worth noting that such sub-analysis was not performed in the surgical group as a successful TR correction was not achieved in only 3% of the patients. Finally, 2 years may seem a relatively short follow-up duration. However, transcatheter interventions are relatively novel and our follow-up duration in this group is one of the longest to date. Importantly, our follow-up was long enough to overcome the excess immediate mortality intrinsically associated with surgery and to fairly compare the three strategies.

CONCLUSION

TRIGISTRY confirmed and extended the predictive value of the TRI-SCORE and showed that a tricuspid valve intervention, irrespective of the modality as long as enabling a successful TR correction, was associated with significantly better survival rates than conservative management in the low and, to a lower extent, intermediate TRI-SCORE categories while survival was similar

across groups in the high TRI-SCORE category. Our result better defines the optimal timing to treat patients with severe TR promoting a curative intervention at an earlier disease stage as assessed by the TRI-SCORE and will guide the design of future randomized controlled trials.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. George Wells and Jordan Bernick for their help with the statistical analysis.

REFERENCES

- 1. Topilsky Y, Maltais S, Medina Inojosa J, Oguz D, Michelena H, Maalouf J, et al. Burden of Tricuspid Regurgitation in Patients Diagnosed in the Community Setting. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2019;12(3):433-42.
- 2. Nath J, Foster E, Heidenreich PA. Impact of tricuspid regurgitation on long-term survival. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2004;43(3):405-9.
- 3. Wang N, Fulcher J, Abeysuriya N, McGrady M, Wilcox I, Celermajer D, et al. Tricuspid regurgitation is associated with increased mortality independent of pulmonary pressures and right heart failure: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Eur Heart J. 2018;40(5):476-84.
- 4. Messika-Zeitoun D, Verta P, Gregson J, Pocock SJ, Boero I, Feldman TE, et al. Impact of tricuspid regurgitation on survival in patients with heart failure: a large electronic health record patient-level database analysis. Eur J Heart Fail. 2020;22(10):1803-13.
- 5. Otto CM, Nishimura RA, Bonow RO, Carabello BA, Erwin JP, 3rd, Gentile F, et al. 2020 ACC/AHA Guideline for the Management of Patients With Valvular Heart Disease: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines. Circulation. 2021;143(5):e72-e227.
- 6. Vahanian A, Beyersdorf F, Praz F, Milojevic M, Baldus S, Bauersachs J, et al. 2021 ESC/EACTS Guidelines for the management of valvular heart disease. Eur Heart J. 2022;43:561-632.
- 7. Dreyfus J, Ghalem N, Garbarz E, Cimadevilla C, Nataf P, Vahanian A, et al. Timing of Referral of Patients With Severe Isolated Tricuspid Valve Regurgitation to Surgeons (from a French Nationwide Database). Am J Cardiol. 2018;122(2):323-6.
- 8. Messika-Zeitoun D, Candolfi P, Dreyfus J, Burwash IG, lung B, Philippon JF, et al. Management and Outcome of Patients Admitted with Tricuspid Regurgitation in France. Can J Cardiol. 2021;37:1078-1085.
- 9. Zack CJ, Fender EA, Chandrashekar P, Reddy YNV, Bennett CE, Stulak JM, et al. National Trends and Outcomes in Isolated Tricuspid Valve Surgery. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2017;70(24):2953-60.
- 10. Axtell AL, Bhambhani V, Moonsamy P, Healy EW, Picard MH, Sundt TM, 3rd, et al. Surgery Does Not Improve Survival in Patients With Isolated Severe Tricuspid Regurgitation. J Am Coll Cardiol.74(6):715-25.
- 11. Taramasso M, Benfari G, van der Bijl P, Alessandrini H, Attinger-Toller A, Biasco L, et al. Transcatheter Versus Medical Treatment of Patients With Symptomatic Severe Tricuspid Regurgitation. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;74(24):2998-3008.

- 12. Lurz P, Stephan von Bardeleben R, Weber M, Sitges M, Sorajja P, Hausleiter J, et al. Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair for Treatment of Tricuspid Regurgitation. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2021;77(3):229-39.
- 13. Lurz P, Besler C, Schmitz T, Bekeredjian R, Nickenig G, Mollmann H, et al. Short-term Outcomes of Tricuspid Edge-to-Edge Repair in Clinical Practice. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2023;82:281-291.
- 14. Sorajja P, Whisenant B, Hamid N, Naik H, Makkar R, Tadros P, et al. Transcatheter Repair for Patients with Tricuspid Regurgitation. N Engl J Med. 2023;388:1833-1842.
- 15. Dreyfus J, Flagiello M, Bazire B, Eggenspieler F, Viau F, Riant E, et al. Isolated tricuspid valve surgery: impact of aetiology and clinical presentation on outcomes. Eur Heart J. 2020;41(45):4304-17.
- 16. Sala A, Lorusso R, Zancanaro E, Carino D, Bargagna M, Bisogno A, et al. Mid-term outcomes of isolated tricuspid valve surgery according to preoperative clinical and functional staging. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. 2022;62(2):ezac172.
- 17. Galloo X, Stassen J, Butcher SC, Meucci MC, Dietz MF, Mertens BJA, et al. Staging right heart failure in patients with tricuspid regurgitation undergoing tricuspid surgery. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. 2022;62(2):ezac290.
- 18. Dreyfus J, Audureau E, Bohbot Y, Coisne A, Lavie-Badie Y, Bouchery M, et al. TRI-SCORE: a new risk score for in-hospital mortality prediction after isolated tricuspid valve surgery. Eur Heart J. 2022;43(7):654-62.
- 19. Dreyfus J, Bohbot Y, Coisne A, Lavie-Badie Y, Flagiello M, Bazire B, et al. Predictive value of the TRI-SCORE for in-hospital mortality after redo isolated tricuspid valve surgery. Heart. 2023;109:951-958.
- 20. Zoghbi WA, Adams D, Bonow RO, Enriquez-Sarano M, Foster E, Grayburn PA, et al. Recommendations for Noninvasive Evaluation of Native Valvular Regurgitation: A Report from the American Society of Echocardiography Developed in Collaboration with the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance. J Am Soc Echocardiogr. 2017;30(4):303-71.
- 21. Lancellotti P, Pibarot P, Chambers J, La Canna G, Pepi M, Dulgheru R, et al. Multi-modality imaging assessment of native valvular regurgitation: an EACVI and ESC council of valvular heart disease position paper. Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Imaging. 2022;23(5):e171-e232.
- 22. Wang TKM, Akyuz K, Mentias A, Kirincich J, Duran Crane A, Xu S, et al. Contemporary Etiologies, Outcomes, and Novel Risk Score for Isolated Tricuspid Regurgitation. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2022;15(5):731-44.
- 23. Anguita-Gamez M, Giraldo MA, Nombela-Franco L, Eixeres Esteve A, Cuerpo G, Lopez-Menendez J, et al. Validation of the TRI-SCORE in patients undergoing surgery for isolated tricuspid regurgitation. Heart. 2023. doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2022-322067. Online ahead of print
- 24. Sala A, Carino D, Lorusso R, Zancanaro E, Bargagna M, Del Forno B, et al. TRI-SCORE: a single-Centre validation study. Interdiscip Cardiovasc Thorac Surg. 2023:36:ivad805.
- 25. Omran H, Pfister R, Ehrenfels MA, Korber MI, Baldus S, Friedrichs K, et al. Prognostic Performance of the Surgical TRI-SCORE Risk Score in Patients Undergoing Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Treatment. JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2022;15(19):1996-8.

LEGEND OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1. Survival rate according to the TRI-SCORE

The figure displays Kaplan–Meier curves of the survival of (A) the overall population, (B) the conservative management group, (C) the surgical group and (D) the transcatheter valve repair group according to the TRI-SCORE risk-category (Low: \leq 3 points, Intermediate: 4-5 points, and High: \geq 6 points).

FIGURE 2. Survival rate according to treatment modality and TRI-SCORE category

The figure displays Kaplan–Meier curves of the survival of the conservative management, surgical and transcatheter valve repair groups at 2 years, (A) overall and according to the TRI-SCORE category (B) low TRI-SCORE, (C) intermediate TRI-SCORE and (D) high TRI-SCORE.

FIGURE 3. Survival rate according to treatment modality, procedural success and TRI-SCORE category

The figure displays Kaplan–Meier curves of the survival of the conservative management, surgical, transcatheter valve repair with successful correction of the tricuspid regurgitation and transcatheter valve repair with suboptimal correction of the tricuspid regurgitation groups at 2 years, (A) overall and according to the TRI-SCORE category (B) low TRI-SCORE, (C) intermediate TRI-SCORE and (D) high TRI-SCORE.

TABLE 1: Baseline characteristics of the population overall and according to treatment modality.

Characteristics	Overall (N=2413)	Conservative management (N=1217)	Isolated tricuspid valve surgery (N=551)	Transcatheter tricuspid valve repair (N=645)	P- Value
Clinical					
Age – years	72±12	71±13	68±11	77±8	< 0.001
$Age \ge 70 \text{ years} - \text{no.}(\%) *$	1618 (67)	769 (63)	283 (51)	566 (88)	< 0.001
Female sex – no. (%)	1270 (53)	535 (44)	348 (63)	387 (60)	< 0.001
Diabetes mellitus – no./total no. (%)	619/2410 (26)	339 (28)	118 (21)	162/642 (25)	0.003
Chronic lung disease – no./total no. (%)	466/2412 (19)	241 (20)	90 (16)	135/644 (21)	0.002
Coronary artery disease – no. (%)	917 (38)	529 (43)	132 (24)	256 (40)	< 0.001
Permanent pacemaker – no./total no. (%)	651/2406 (27)	319 (26)	145/544 (27)	187 (29)	0.43
Prior left heart valve intervention – no./total no. (%)	633/2412 (26)	157/1216 (13)	257 (47)	219 (34)	< 0.001
New York Heart Association functional class III-IV - no. (%) *	1562 (65)	637 (52)	366 (66)	559 (87)	< 0.001
Right-sided heart failure signs – no. (%) *	1431 (59)	660 (54)	364 (66)	407 (63)	< 0.001
Daily dose of loop diuretics – mg	50 [40-80]	40 [30-80]	60 [40-120]	60 [40-120]	< 0.001
Daily dose of loop diuretics $\geq 125 \text{mg} - \text{no.}$ (%) *	401 (17)	145 (12)	129 (23)	127 (20)	< 0.001
Atrial fibrillation – no./total no. (%)	1532/2317 (66)	685/1204 (57)	367 (67)	480/562 (85)	< 0.001
Laboratory					
Hemoglobin – g/dl	11.7±2.4	12.1 ± 2.2	12.2 ± 1.9	10.4 ± 2.6	< 0.001
Creatinine – µmol/l	124±78	129±90	112±63	124±59	< 0.001
Glomerular filtration rate – ml/min	62±33	67±39	64±29	51±21	< 0.001
Glomerular filtration rate <30ml/min – no. (%) *	266 (11)	148 (12)	37 (7)	81 (13)	0.009
Elevated total bilirubin – no. (%) *	688 (29)	373 (31)	169 (31)	146 (23)	< 0.001
Echocardiographic					
Left Ventricle ejection fraction – %	51±14	45±15	57±10	54±11	< 0.001
Left Ventricle ejection fraction <60% – no. (%) *	1605 (66)	871 (72)	265 (48)	468 (73)	< 0.001
Moderate/severe RV dilatation – no./total no. (%)	1471/2336 (63)	594/1217 (49)	442 (80)	435/568 (77)	< 0.001
Moderate/severe right ventricular dysfunction - no. (%) *	1001 (41)	657 (54)	173 (31)	171 (27)	< 0.001
Systolic pulmonary artery pressure – mmHg	49±18	54±19	42±11	43±16	< 0.001
TRI-SCORE	5 [3-6]	4 [3-6]	4 [3-6]	5 [4-6]	< 0.001
$\leq 3 - \text{no.}(\%)$	764 (32)	433 (36)	183 (33)	148 (23)	< 0.001
4-5 – no. (%)	800 (33)	359 (29)	185 (34)	256 (40)	< 0.001
$\geq 6 - \text{no.}(\%)$	849 (35)	425 (35)	183 (33)	241 (37)	0.31

Values are number of patients (percentage), mean \pm standard deviation or median [inter-quartiles].

^{*} The eight parameters included in the TRI-SCORE

TABLE 2: Distribution of TRI-SCORE parameters according to TRI-SCORE category.

Characteristics	Low TRI-SCORE (N=764)	Intermediate TRI-SCORE (N=800)	High TRI-SCORE (N=849)	P-Value
Age \geq 70 years – no. (%)	441 (58)	549 (69)	628 (74)	< 0.001
New York Heart Association functional class III-IV – no. (%)	258 (34)	567 (71)	737 (87)	< 0.001
Right-sided heart failure signs – no. (%)	114 (15)	547 (68)	770 (91)	< 0.001
Daily dose of loop diuretics ≥125mg – no. (%)	20 (3)	75 (9)	306 (36)	< 0.001
Glomerular filtration rate <30ml/min – no. (%)	10(1)	54 (7)	202 (24)	< 0.001
Elevated total bilirubin – no. (%)	33 (4)	158 (20)	497 (59)	< 0.001
Left Ventricle ejection fraction <60% – no. (%)	407 (53)	526 (66)	672 (79)	< 0.001
Moderate/severe right ventricular dysfunction – no. (%)	195 (26)	300 (38)	506 (60)	< 0.001

Values are number of patients (percentage).

Figure 1.

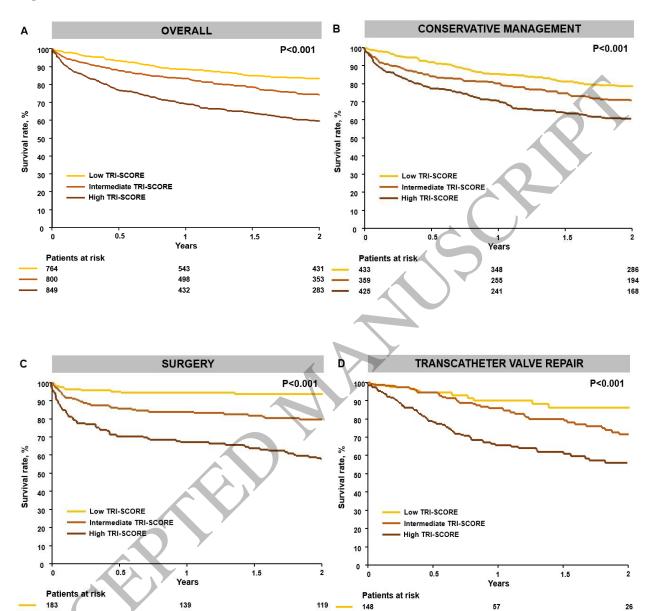


Figure 2.

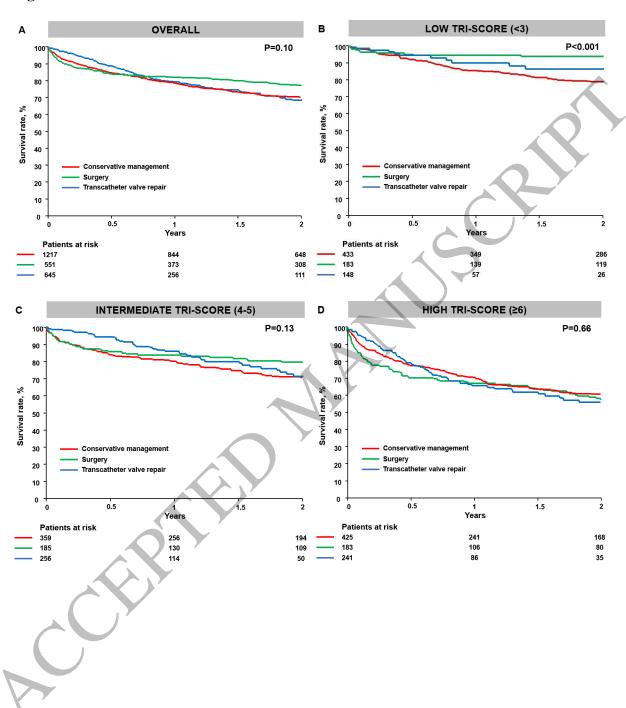
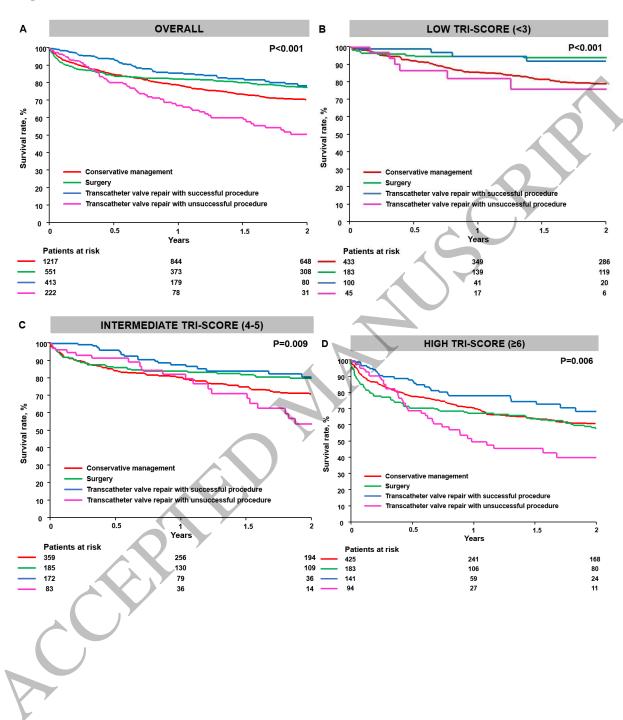


Figure 3.



Permissions Statement

Paris, August 21th, 2023

The authors declare that all illustrations and figures in the manuscript are entirely original and do not require reprint permission

Julien Dreyfus on behalf of the TRIGISTRY investigators