*Cardiology in the Young* (2015), **25**, 627
doi:10.1017/S1047951114002649



*Reply*

# The significance of aortic overriding and pulmonary stenosis in tetralogy of Fallot

Received: 5 December 2014; Accepted: 5 December 2014; First published online: 16 January 2015

We are indebted to Dr Yurekli and his colleagues for their kind comments[1] regarding our review[2] of the problems produced by hearts with overriding aortic valves. We agree totally with the sentiments that they have expressed. We endorse in particular their comment that techniques such as MRI or CT angiography are now able to demonstrate the anatomy as well, or even better, than the morphologist who holds the heart itself in his or her hands. We hope that this fact was well demonstrated in our review itself. We also support the suggestions made by Dr Yurekli and his colleagues regarding the potential pitfalls awaiting those who might be tempted to achieve transcatheter closure in the setting of overriding arterial valves. The very presence of the malalignment between the muscular ventricular septal components, which underscores the overriding, points to the difficulties of achieving complete closure when inserting a planar device within the curved surface that we believe should be considered as representing the "ventricular septal defect". This potential problem is perhaps even greater than the chance of the device impinging on the leaflets of the aortic valve, and is present when the malaligned outlet septum is muscular rather than fibrous.

Robert H. Anderson (on behalf of his co-authors).

*Robert H. Anderson*
*Institute of Genetic Medicine, Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom*

*Diane E. Spicer*
*Department of Pediatric Cardiology, University of Florida, Gainesville; Congenital Heart Institute of Florida, St Petersburg, Florida*

*G. William Henry*
*Emeritus Founding Editor, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

*Cynthia Rigsby*
*Department of Medical Imaging, Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois*

*Anthony M. Hlavacek*
*Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America*

*Timothy J. Mohun*
*Division of Developmental Biology, MRC National Institute for Medical Research, London, United Kingdom*

## References

1. Yurekli I, Kestelli M, Cakir H, Sahin İ. Letter to the Editor: The significance of aortic overriding and pulmonary stenosis in tetralogy of Fallot. Cardiol Young 2014, doi10.1017/S1047951114002662.
2 Anderson RH, Spicer DE, Henry GW, Rigsby C, Hlavacek AM, Mohun TJ. What is aortic overriding? Cardiol Young 2014; 1–14.

Correspondence to: Prof R. H. Anderson, 60 Earlsfield Road, London, SW18 3DN, United Kingdom. Tel: + 0044 208 870 4368; E-mail: sejjran@ucl.ac.uk