concordance ($k = 0.724$). In our opinion, the kappa coefficient is not the most appropriate instrument to use for evaluating the changes over time of an ordinal quantitative variable, such as the degree of regurgitation. Probably, a nonparametric test, such as the Wilcoxon test for paired samples, would be a better option. In a recent analysis performed using the data from our study (92 cases by January 2011), we obtained similar results after 1 month (significant improvement in leaks, $P < .001$), and with no changes after 1 year ($P = .09$), thus eliminating the bias introduced by the reduced number of patients. We insist on the self-expandability of the prosthesis as the probable cause of this decrease, as do other authors, basing our conclusions on the echocardiographic observation of this phenomenon within the first days following the procedure. We have not found more cases of periprosthetic thrombosis than in other series, as we have followed the antithrombotic protocols recommended by the manufacturers.

We have also confirmed an early decrease in ventricular hypertrophy ($P < .05$) using our most recent data, which has also been described recently by other authors, and so we reiterate that differences in methodology could be the cause of the differences observed between studies.

In any case, we share the sentiment expressed by Rodríguez-Bailón et al. for the need for larger studies to further elucidate these “discrepancies,” but perhaps our primary objective should be to solidify the criteria used for study methods and for the definition of variables and objectives.

**REFERENCES**


Available online 1 June 2011

**FUNDING**

Article partially subsidized by a research grant from the Cooperative Cardiovascular Disease Research Network, or RECAVA (Red Temática de Investigación Cooperativa en Enfermedades Cardiovasculares), of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain.

Manuel F. Jiménez-Navarro,a,* Antonio J. Muñoz-García,a Nieves Romero-Rodríguez,b and Eduardo de Teresa-Galván,a

[a]Área del Corazón, Hospital Clínico Universitario Virgen de la Victoria, Málaga, Investigadores de RECAVA (Red Temática de Investigación Cooperativa en Enfermedades Cardiovasculares del Instituto de Salud Carlos III), Spain

[b]Área del Corazón, Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío, Sevilla, Spain

* Corresponding author:
E-mail address: jimeneznavarro@secardiologia.es (M.F. Jiménez-Navarro).

Available online 25 May 2011
REFERENCES


doi:10.1016/j.rec.2011.03.006

SEE RELATED ARTICLE:
DOI: 10.1016/j.rec.2010.06.011