

## RESULTS OF ENDOSCOPIC REDO STERNOTOMY

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**Introduction:** Redo sternotomies are often difficult. There is increased frequency of redo cardiac operations in recent years. We report a technique for redo sternotomy using commonly available equipment.

**Methods:** We studied prospectively 121 consecutive patients who underwent redo sternotomy at a single institution by the same group of surgeons. Substernal lysis of adhesions was performed using thoracoscopic assisted techniques, followed by a standard median sternotomy.

**Results:** Mean age at surgery was 71 years, 81% male, 86% were in NYHA Class III or IV, and the ejection fraction was <50% in 64% of the patients. Sixty-four percent of the patients underwent redo coronary bypass grafting and the remainder underwent valve operation with or without coronary bypass. Ninety-four percent survived. There was one injury during redo sternotomy; an innominate vein laceration which was easily repaired. There were no other complications of sternotomy.

**Conclusion:** Video assisted thoracoscopic lysis of retrosternal adhesions is a safe, simple and reproducible technique. We advocate the use of this technique in all redo cardiac operations.