

Preface

Adult Congenital Heart Disease: A Population that Has Come of Age



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Editor

Over the last several decades, we have witnessed a dramatic shift in the congenital heart disease population from mostly children to now adults by a two-thirds margin. The diverse anatomies and physiologies, surgical procedures, and adult comorbidities, has created the most unique population in cardiovascular medicine - adults with congenital heart disease (ACHD). Patients with ACHD may develop complex arrhythmias, valvular heart disease, heart failure, pulmonary hypertension and require complex advanced imaging, electrophysiologic, transcatheter, and/or surgical interventions to improve their quality of life. As well, many patients with ACHD suffer from emotional distress which can affect their quality of life and place them at increased risk for cardiovascular events.

Both in the US and internationally, there has been a growing demand for a highly specialized ACHD work force, and this has led to governing bodies, professional societies, and patient advocacy organizations recognizing and partnering with providers to improve access and delivery of care. ACHD is developing as a subspecialty with specific training beyond general cardiology, board certification and ACHD program development. All of this has led to

improved research efforts, care guidelines, quality metrics and measures and program criteria and accreditation.

The following issue of *Cardiology Clinics* focuses on the complexities of the ACHD population with a series of articles authored by experts from the United States and around the world. The topics include those most pertinent to understanding and caring for patients with ACHD and provide an updated resource for general cardiology and ACHD fellows, young and seasoned general cardiologists, cardiovascular subspecialists, and advanced practice providers.

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