ALLOGRAFT REPLACEMENT OF THE LEFT ATRIUM FOR TUMOR INFILTRATION OF THE PULMONARY VEINS - LEFT ATRIUM JUNCTION

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OBJECTIVES: In case of the left atrial sarcoma the tumor infiltration of the pulmonary veins-left atrium junction is a serious barrier for heart transplantation. We demonstrate the technique of a complete left atrial resection with its allograft replacement for the recurrent primary left atrial sarcoma with the extensive tumor infiltration of the pulmonary veins-left atrial junction area.

METHODS: The left atrial allograft replacement was performed for attaining the maximal surgical purification. The distinctive features of this procedure were a complete excision of all the pulmonary veins from the left atrium and creation of a separate anastomosis with the allograft for each pulmonary vein. The procedure was completed with the allograft connection with the cuff around the mitral valve by means of a running suture. The stages of the operation are demonstrated in the enclosed operative video film.

RESULTS: An easy external and internal (via allograft lumen) approaches to the pulmonary veins facilitate a fast orthotopic allograft implantation of the left atrium despite the numerous suture lines.

CONCLUSIONS: The demonstrated use of the allograft replacement of the left atrium allows performing a radical surgical purification in cases when the cardiac transplantation is difficult or impossible because of the tumor infiltration of the pulmonary veins-left atrial junction area.