



Making Exposition For Minimally Invasive Tricuspid Surgery Easy

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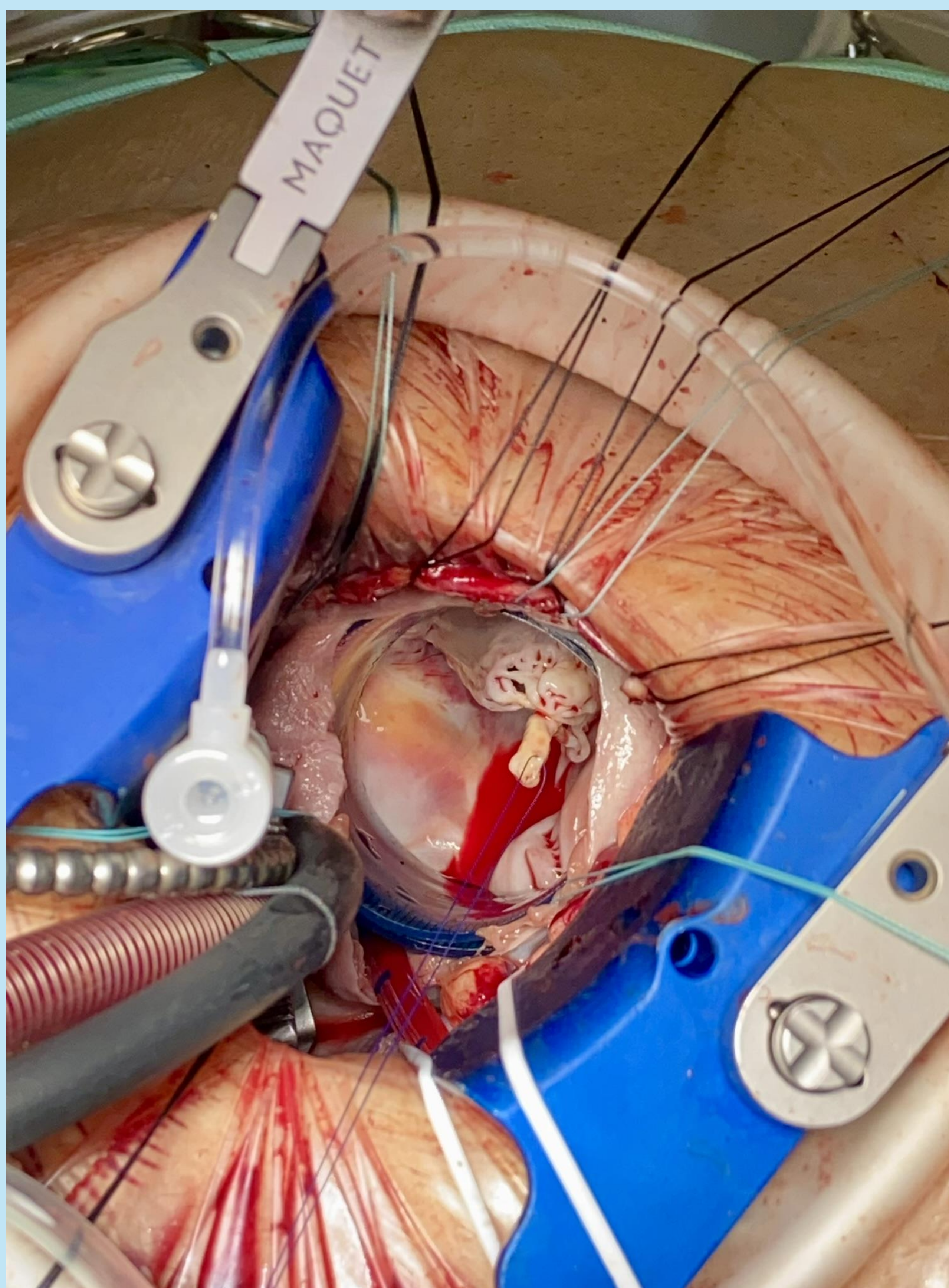


BACKGROUND

Tricuspid valve exposure in minimally invasive surgery, endoscopic or direct vision, is always challenging and usually resembles a string of puppet. Our approach makes the exposition easier, time saving and without the need for surgical visualization compromises.

METHODS

Our study was conducted in all isolated tricuspid surgery with a minimally invasive approach, between July and December of 2023. A total of 5 patients were enrolled. This approach for minimally invasive tricuspid valve surgery exposure consists in using a bendable plastic ruler. The rolled ruler is placed inside the right atrium, without placement of a single exposition suture, the rolled ruler is set free and radial force opens up the right atrium wide and the tricuspid valve anatomy can be appreciated.



RESULTS

One patient received a tricuspid repair, and four patients received valve replacement due to severe endocarditis. A great exposure of the tricuspid valve was achieved in all patients. No conversion to sternotomy. No need for the placement of extra exposure sutures.

CONCLUSIONS

The use of a bendable ruler for tricuspid and right atrium exposure is feasible. This simple technique could be time saving and be used worldwide, especially in endoscopic surgery. This approach could also be extended for use in other pathologies that need right atrium exposure, like atrial septal defects. Future comparative studies are needed.