1996-2017: A HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 3000 CHILDREN WITH CONGENITAL HEART DISEASES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Médecin - Chirurgie Cardiaque (MCC) is a French humanitarian association created in 1996 whose objective is to allow children suffering from cardiac malformations to come to France where they can be operated, which is impossible in their original countries, by lack of financial and technical means.

http://www.mecenat-cardiaque.com

OBJECTIVES:

- Médecin-Chirurgie Cardiaque (MCC) is a humanitarian association whose mission is to enable children suffering from cardiac malformations to come to France to access the care that is not available in their native countries.
- Since its creation in 1996, near 3000 children were managed by MCC.
- The purpose of this study is to analyse the follow-up and survival of this cohort.

POPULATION:

- 2857 different children – 3000 venues from 66 different countries
  - 1 venue: 2728
    - Surgery: 2350
    - Interventional cath.: 173
    - No intervention: 205
  - 2 venues: 119
    - 2 interventions: 97
    - 1 intervention: 22
  - ≥ 3 venues: 11
- Mean age: 7 years (min 1 month – max 29 years 10 months)
- 11 463 patients-years
- Lost-to-follow-up after home return: 401 (13.4 %)

RESULTS:

- Early mortality (< 2 months): 67 / 3000 (2.2 %)
  - Operated: 49/2765 (1.78 %)
  - Non operated: 18/235 (7.6 %)
- Mid-term mortality (2 months – 1 year): 85 / 2418 (3.5 %)
  - Operated: 68
  - Interventional cath.: 1
  - Non operated: 16
- Late mortality (> 1 year): 139 / 2022 (6.9 %)
  - mean rate: 1.2 % / year

CONCLUSIONS:

With low operative mortality for often very severe heart disease, and good long-term follow-up (87%), the management of children from countries without cardiac surgery is justified by survival similar to that of Western cohorts - except for acquired valvulopathies, presumably because of the difficulty of anticoagulant treatment.

Thus our humanitarian action must continue, and improve for an optimal management of the disinheritcd populations.