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1 Full Title: Multiscale Modeling of Superior Cavopulmonary Circulation: Hemi-Fontan
2 And Bidirectional Glenn Are Equivalent

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Glossary

44		
45	Abbreviations	
46	$art_{sat-pre}$	preoperative arterial oxygen saturation
47	$art_{sat-post}$	post-operative arterial oxygen saturation
48	bG	bi-directional Glenn
49	BSA	body surface area
50	CFD	computational fluid dynamics
51	CI	cardiac index
52	CMR	cardiac magnetic resonance imaging
53	CS	central shunt
54	GA	general anaesthetic
55	Hb	hemoglobin
56	hF	hemi-Fontan
57	HLHS	hypoplastic left heart syndrome
58	IVC	inferior vena cava
59	LPA	left pulmonary artery
60	LPN	lumped parameter network
61	$maxO_2cap$	maximum oxygen capacity
62	mBTS	modified Blalock-Taussig shunt
63	O_2del	systemic oxygen delivery
64	O_2cons	oxygen consumption
65	PA	pulmonary arteries
66	PAP	pulmonary artery pressure
67	PVR	pulmonary vascular resistance
68	$PV_{sat-pre}$	pre-operative pulmonary venous oxygen saturation
69	Q_p	pulmonary blood flow rate
70	Q_{p-pre}	pre-operative pulmonary blood flow rate
71	Q_s	systemic blood flow rate
72	SVC	superior vena cava
73	SCPC	superior cavopulmonary connection/circulation
74	TPG	transpulmonary gradient

76

Abstract

77 **Objective:** Superior cavopulmonary circulation (SCPC) can be achieved by either the
78 Hemi-Fontan (hF) or Bidirectional Glenn (bG) connection. Debate remains as to which
79 results in best hemodynamic results. Adopting patient-specific multiscale computational
80 modeling, we examined both the local dynamics and global physiology to determine if
81 surgical choice can lead to different hemodynamic outcomes.

82 **Methods:** Six patients (age: 3-6 months) underwent cardiac magnetic resonance imaging
83 and catheterization prior to SCPC surgery. For each patient: 1) a finite 3-dimensional (3D)
84 volume model of the *preoperative* anatomy were constructed to include detailed definition
85 of the distal branch pulmonary arteries, 2) virtual hF and bG operations were performed
86 to create *two* SCPC 3D models, and 3) a specific lumped network representing each
87 patient's entire cardiovascular circulation was developed from clinical data. Using a
88 previously validated multiscale algorithm that couples the 3D models with lumped
89 network, both local flow dynamics, i.e. power loss, and global systemic physiology can be
90 quantified. In two patients whose preoperative imaging demonstrated significant left
91 pulmonary artery (LPA) stenosis, we performed virtual pulmonary arterioplasty to assess
92 its effect.

93 **Results:** In one patient, the hF model showed higher power loss (107%) than the bG,
94 while in 3 the power losses were higher in the bG models (18 to 35%). In the remaining
95 two patients, the power loss differences were minor. Despite these variations, for all
96 patients, there were no significant differences between the hF and bG models in
97 hemodynamic or physiologic outcomes, including cardiac output, superior vena cava
98 pressure, right-left pulmonary flow distribution, and systemic oxygen delivery. In the two
99 patients with LPA stenosis, arterioplasty led to better LPA flow (5-8%) while halving the
100 power loss, but without important improvements in SVC pressure or cardiac output.

101 **Conclusion:** Despite power loss differences, both hF and bG result in similar SCPC
102 hemodynamics and physiology outcome. This suggests that for SCPC, the pre-existing
103 patient-specific physiology and condition, such as pulmonary vascular resistance, are

104 more deterministic in the hemodynamic performance than the type of surgical palliation.
105 Multiscale modeling can be a decision assist tool to assess whether an extensive LPA
106 reconstruction is needed at the time of SCPC for LPA stenosis.

107 (Word count = 359)

108

109

Perspective Statement

110

111 Whether hemi-Fontan or bidirectional Glenn achieves a better superior cavopulmonary
112 circulation remains debatable. Mathematical modelling incorporating both the 3D
113 anatomic detail and systemic physiology can elucidated effects of surgery in a patient
114 specific manner. We applied state of the art computational methods to demonstrate that
115 either palliation led to equivalent hemodynamic outcomes, despite differences in local
116 power loss.

117 Word count: 58 (379 characters)

118

119

Central Message

120

121 Advanced modeling simulation showed that the hemi-Fontan and bidirectional Glenn
122 achieves early equivalent superior cavopulmonary circulation hemodynamics and
123 physiology.

124

125 Word-count: 18 (163 characters)

126

127

128

129

130

Introduction

131

132 Superior cavopulmonary connection (SCPC) is a transitional circulation that allows for
133 volume off-loading of the single ventricle while providing a stable source of pulmonary
134 blood flow that can grow with the patient prior to completing single ventricle palliation with
135 a Fontan procedure. Pioneered by William Glenn at Yale in the 1960's, the classic
136 unidirectional Glenn anastomosis has been replaced by either the bidirectional Glenn (bG)
137 or the hemi-Fontan (hF) procedures. While a hF facilitates Fontan completion with a
138 lateral tunnel total cavopulmonary connection (TCPC), bG permits creation of an
139 extracardiac TCPC without the need for cardioplegic cardiac arrest. Nonetheless, the
140 choice between the adaptation of either the bG or hF to achieve SCPC remains primarily
141 based on surgeon or institutional preferences. Whereas no direct, randomized
142 comparative study has been performed to demonstrate outcome differences between the
143 two SCPC procedures, the question regarding whether one is superior than the other
144 remains unanswered with two opposing modeling studies highlighting superiority of one
145 versus the other.^{1,2}

146

147 While methodologically accurate, both of the previous computational modeling
148 investigations focused solely on the *local* flow dynamics, i.e. the flow and pressures *at* the
149 bG or hF connection. And in so doing, both studies relied on local flow dynamic variables,
150 such as power loss and flow split between the branch pulmonary arteries, to assess
151 performance differences between the bG and hF circulations. However, because the
152 SCPC is just one segment of the global cardiovascular system that is composed of a
153 closed circulatory loop, isolated SCPC modeling with open ended boundary conditions
154 cannot reveal the influence of either the bG or hF on the overall systemic physiology such
155 as SVC pressure, cardiac output, and systemic oxygen delivery.

156

157 Multi-scale modeling combines the strengths of 3D computational fluid dynamics (CFD)
158 with 0-D lumped parameter network to allow comprehensive assessment of hemodynamic
159 effects of the local surgical domain and the global impact on the systemic physiology.
160 Over the last decade, we have used these validated multi-scale models to evaluate a

161 variety of clinically significant issues and concepts in patients with single ventricle
162 physiology, such as the hybrid procedure for HLHS, branch pulmonary artery stenosis,
163 residual coarctation, systemic-to-pulmonary shunts, exercise physiology, cardiac
164 biomechanics, and alternative initial palliation, and virtual surgery.³⁻⁶

165

166 In this study, we conducted an intensive mathematical modeling investigation using
167 clinical data obtained from a cohort of six patients with single ventricle hearts undergoing
168 SCPC procedure to uncover whether the choice between bG and hF procedures leads to
169 hemodynamic and physiological differences. In addition to the employment of the multi-
170 scale modeling scheme with a closed-loop cardiovascular circulation, other novel
171 concepts in this study include: 1) adaptation of *patient-specific* anatomy (with detailed
172 distal branch pulmonary arteries) and physiologic parameters into the models, 2)
173 performing virtual bG and hF procedures based on preoperative magnetic resonance
174 imaging, 3) examining the effects of relieving *patient-specific* discrete left pulmonary artery
175 (LPA) stenosis at the time of SCPC procedure, and 4) quantifying both hemodynamic and
176 physiologic variables in the context of SCPC.

177

Methods

178 Patient Selection and Clinical Data

179 Six patients (age: 3-6 month, BSA: 0.26-0.34 m²) with single ventricle cardiac defects
180 were enrolled prior to their pre-operative clinical investigations prior to their SCPC
181 procedure. Patients A, E, and F were recruited at the University of Michigan, B and D at
182 the Medical University of South Carolina, and patient C at Great Ormond Street Hospital
183 for Children (GOSH). Institutional review board study approval was obtained for each
184 clinical site and informed consent for the use of clinical data was gained from the
185 participants' legal guardians. The pre-operative clinical details of the six patients are
186 reported in Table 1. Four patients had hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS) and two
187 had a hypoplastic right ventricle. At the stage 1 surgery, patient A received a 3.5mm right
188 modified Blalock-Taussig shunt (mBTS), patients B,C,E,F underwent Norwood procedure
189 with 3.5mm right mBTS, and patient D had a 4mm mBTS with left pulmonary arterioplasty.

190 All patient underwent pre-operative cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR), cardiac
191 catheterization and echocardiography prior to surgery. Depending on institutional
192 preferences, CMR was either performed immediately prior to surgery under the same
193 general anesthesia (GA), on the day of cardiac catheterization under the same GA with
194 transfer between imaging suites, or in a hybrid CMR catheterization imaging suite. CMR
195 was performed on 1.5T scanners (Philips Intera Achieva, Best, Netherlands; Siemens
196 Avanto, Siemens Medical Solutions, Erlangen, Germany). Contrast enhanced CMR
197 angiography was performed to obtain three-dimensional (3D) anatomical imaging with a
198 routine clinical sequence using 0.2mmol/kg of intravenous gadoteridol (Prohance; Bracco
199 Diagnostics, Princeton, NJ). Free-breathing, electrocardiogram-gated velocity-encoded
200 phase contrast imaging sequences were used to acquire flow measurements in the
201 ascending and descending aorta, pulmonary arteries and veins, and inferior (IVC) and
202 superior vena cavae (SVC).

203

204 Cardiac catheterization followed a routine clinical protocol under GA or sedation in a bi-
205 plane fluoroscopy suite (Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. Pennsylvania). A fluid-
206 filled catheter system was used to acquire pressure traces and hemodynamic
207 measurements in the ascending and descending aorta, systemic atrium, and single
208 ventricle. Pulmonary artery pressure (PAP) was either a direct measurement or an
209 estimate from pulmonary venous wedge pressure. In patients C, E, and F, PAP was
210 acquired on the left side, with no clinical evidence suggestive of a stenosis or cause for
211 discrepancy between the two pulmonary arteries (PA). In patients A, B, and D, PAPs were
212 acquired on the left and right sides. Patient B also had left pulmonary artery stenosis
213 (PAS), and patient D had left PAS with a 3mmHg pressure difference between the two
214 pulmonary arteries. Only in patient D did the clinical team felt a left pulmonary
215 arterioplasty was indicated. Pre-operative echocardiography was performed under GA or
216 sedation. Pulsed wave Doppler traces were acquired in the aorta, SVC, IVC and branch
217 PAs.

218 All clinical data processing occurred at one core laboratory (GOSH). A representation of
219 the patients' pre-operative physiology was constructed from CMR flows and invasive
220 mean pressure measurements. The resulting parameters presented in Table 2 were used
221 to tune the multiscale models as described below. Flow measurements were calculated
222 using an in-house plug-in for OsiriX open-source software (OsiriX Foundation, Geneva,
223 Switzerland). These are reported indexed to BSA to aid comparison between patients.

224 Three-dimensional (3D) models and virtual surgery

225 3D models of each patients' stage 1 anatomy were reconstructed from the CMR
226 angiographic sequences using commercially available software (Mimics, Materialise NV,
227 Leuven, Belgium). In Figure 1, we illustrate the reconstruction process using Patient B as
228 an example, while Figure 2 depicts the stage 1 and stage 2 reconstructions for the six
229 patients studied. Referring to Figure 1, a region of interest was selected within the relevant
230 area of surgical anatomy. A 3D geometrical model was constructed through a process of
231 region-growing and segmentation.^{7,8} The pre-operative 3D model for each patient
232 included the mBTS and PAs extended to the furthest branch level visible for reconstruction

233 (Figure 1, stage 1). The location of the SVC and atrium was noted for construction of the
234 stage 2 virtual surgery. To this end, the stage 1 geometry was manipulated virtually,
235 removing the mBTS and inserting the reconstructed SVC in its stead, merging the volumes
236 with a Boolean operation (Figure 1, stage 2). In the case of hF, a portion of the atrium was
237 reconstructed from the original CMR dataset and similarly merged in the 3D domain, again
238 after removal of the mBTS. In both cases, where appropriate, a pulmonary arterioplasty
239 model was generated by virtually enlarging the caliber of the narrowed PA. Prior to use
240 for stage 2 simulations, the realistic nature of all virtual surgery models shown in Figure 2
241 was verified by the surgeons (EB, TYH) involved in the study.

242

243 Multiscale Simulation and Analysis

244 Multi-scale models were developed and tuned for each patient based on the patient-
245 specific anatomical and clinical data (Table 2). According to our previous work,^{3,4} we
246 constructed a 0D LPN to model the circulatory system outside of the surgical region, which
247 was coupled directly to the inflow and outflow passages of the 3D model of the surgical
248 site. Briefly, the closed-loop LPN includes sections that describe the heart, upper and
249 lower body vasculatures, pulmonary vasculature, and vascular beds in several abdominal
250 organs. The contraction and filling of each heart chamber is described via a passive and
251 active pressure-volume curve and an activation function.^{3,4} This allows the simulation to
252 capture effects of preload on cardiac output due to the Frank-Starling mechanism. The
253 influence of respiration was neglected for this study.

254

255 Each patient was modeled at the age and body surface area (BSA) at the time of their
256 CMR scan since both 3D and flow information is acquired at this time-point. As described
257 in our prior work, most elements of the LPN were tuned initially using reference values
258 (that were scaled by allometric equations based on each patient's particular BSA and then
259 further adjusted for each patient based on available clinical data.⁹⁻¹² The LPN parameters
260 in the pulmonary vasculature were automatically estimated based on multiscale
261 preoperative simulations to match the relevant clinical measurements.¹³ We divided the
262 pulmonary vasculature into several parts to be represented as lumped components.

263 These parts include the large arteries, smaller arteries, capillaries, and veins; Next,
264 empirical laws determined the distribution of the equivalent resistance and capacitance
265 over the arterial or venous sides.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Windkessel models were generated from the
266 Womersley-based impedance of each pulmonary branch,^{17,18} therefore the proximal to
267 distal pulmonary artery resistance ratio is different for each branch. Combining all of these
268 relations provided a unique set of LPN parameters for each pulmonary branch based on
269 its total resistance.

270 Multi-scale simulations of the post-operative scenarios were conducted according to
271 previously validated techniques.^{7, 12, 19, 20} Briefly, this involves discretizing the 3D virtual
272 surgery geometries into isotropic finite-element meshes with maximum edge size of 0.03
273 cm (MESHSIM, Simmetrix Inc., New York) and coupling the 3D Navier-Stokes equations
274 to the 0D LPN using Neumann boundary conditions, implicit coupling, and outflow
275 stabilization.²¹ Flow and pressure in the 3D and LPN domain were solved using a custom
276 incompressible finite element Navier-Stokes solver (Simvascular, www.simtk.org), and a
277 4th order Runge-Kutta algorithm, respectively. Simulation time step size was 1 ms and 1
278 μ s for the 3D and LPN domain, respectively. Flow and pressure coupling between
279 domains occurs at every 3D time step. Each simulation included 12 cardiac cycles where
280 the last cycle data, by which periodicity had been achieved, was used in the final results
281 analysis.

282 Power loss was calculated from the simulation results according to our previous
283 publication.⁴ To summarize, the surgical junction power loss was obtained from the 3D
284 data by integrating the sum of inlet and outlet face energy fluxes, which accounts for both
285 the potential and kinetic energy. The power loss across a vascular bed was obtained from
286 the 0D data by multiplying the pressure drop and the total flow across the vascular bed.

287 Post-operative predictions of systemic oxygen delivery, and arterial and venous
288 saturations were calculated using a combination of pre-operative clinical measurements
289 and post-operative predictions of flow. We assumed: 1) the pre-operative estimates of
290 maximum oxygen capacity and oxygen consumption remained the same immediately

291 following surgery; 2) pulmonary venous saturations remain the same immediately post-
 292 operatively; and 3) the relative upper and lower body oxygen consumption after surgery
 293 is directly proportional to flow. The maximum oxygen carrying capacity of blood $maxO_2cap$
 294 (mlO₂/100ml) was estimated as

$$295 \quad \max O_2cap = Hb_{pre} \cdot 1.34 \quad (1)$$

296 where Hb_{pre} is pre-operative hemoglobin in g/dL and 1.34 represents Hüfner's constant (a
 297 directly measured estimate of the maximum oxygen carrying capacity of blood equal to
 298 1.34ml O₂/g of hemoglobin). The oxygen consumption O_2cons (mlO₂/min/m²) was
 299 estimated as

$$300 \quad O_2cons = Q_{p-pre} \cdot \frac{PV_{sat-pre} - art_{sat-pre}}{100} \cdot \max O_2cap \cdot 10 / BSA \quad (2)$$

301 where Q_{p-pre} is the pre-operative measured pulmonary flow (L/min), $PV_{sat-pre}$ is the
 302 measured pre-operative pulmonary venous oxygen saturations (%), $art_{sat-pre}$ is the
 303 measured arterial oxygen saturations (%), and BSA is body surface area (m²). The post-
 304 operative estimated systemic oxygen delivery O_2del (mlO₂/min/m²) was calculated as

$$305 \quad O_2del = \frac{(Q_s \cdot \frac{PV_{sat-pre}}{100} \cdot \max O_2cap \cdot 10) - (\alpha_{LB} \cdot O_2cons \cdot BSA)}{Q_p} \cdot BSA \quad (3)$$

306 where Q_s is systemic flow (L/min) calculated from the post-operative simulation, α_{LB} is the
 307 proportion of Q_s to the lower body based on post-operative simulation results, and Q_p is
 308 the post-operative pulmonary flow (L/min) from simulation results. The post-operative
 309 arterial oxygen saturation $art_{sat-post}$ (%) was estimated as

$$310 \quad art_{sat-post} = \frac{O_2del}{Q_s} \cdot \frac{BSA}{\max O_2cap \cdot 10} \quad (4)$$

311
312

Results

313 There were significant differences in local flow patterns and pressure distributions
314 between the two surgical options. Using the results for patient B as an example (Figure
315 3), the bG geometry typically reveals a flow jet of blood from the SVC that impinges on
316 the bottom of the PA wall at the anastomosis where it divides to the branches (Figure 3,
317 A and C). However, in the hF geometry there is slight vortex of blood as the incoming SVC
318 flow glides along the atrial wall (Figure 3, B and D). In the cases where an LPA stenosis
319 is present (Figure 3, A and B), there is also a flow jet following and a nominal 1mmHg
320 pressure loss across the stenosis. The pressure and flow patterns predicted here were
321 consistent with those of a previous study on patients at the same stage but right before
322 the Fontan surgery.¹⁸

323 The local power loss in the surgical SCPC junction (Table 3, 3D power loss) varied
324 considerably between bG and hF models. In four patients, hF showed a notably higher
325 power loss (18 to 107%) than bG, which was consistent with the differences in flow fields
326 and pressures between these differing surgical options. In two patients, power losses
327 were essentially equivalent (< 7% difference) between options. In comparing the 3D power
328 loss with the total power loss across the entire pulmonary vascular bed (Table 3), the
329 amount of power loss occurring within the SCPC junction is only 1 to 16% of that across
330 the entire pulmonary circulation. The magnitudes of these power losses are compared
331 directly in Figure 4. Much larger differences in the total pulmonary power loss exist
332 between patients with different pulmonary vascular resistances (PVR) than between the
333 different surgical options of the same patient.

334 As a consequence, the post-operative SCPC simulation results revealed similar
335 physiologic outcomes between the various surgical options for each patient (Table 3). The
336 bG and hF surgical models had small differences in transpulmonary gradient (TPG) and
337 SVC pressure (P_{SVC}) (up to 5% and 2%, respectively), and negligible differences in cardiac
338 index (CI) (<1%) with nearly identical pulmonary to systemic flow splits. Oxygen delivery
339 (Table 3) closely followed cardiac index for each patient, and both oxygen delivery and

340 oxygen saturations were insensitive to the surgical option for a specific patient.

341 The power losses in models with left PAS were found to be more than two times higher
342 (217-248%) than that in models where the left PAS was relieved by virtual arterioplasty.

343 While the relief of PAS led to slightly better LPA flow (5-8%) in both patients, there was
344 no important improvement in SVC pressure or cardiac output compared to models where
345 the left PAS was left intact.

346

347

Discussion

348 In 1996, Marc de Leval and his collaborators in Milan, Italy reported the first instance
349 where computational fluid dynamics (CFD), a relatively new engineering field, was applied
350 to the evaluation of a reconstructive cardiac procedure.²⁴ While the mathematics were
351 sophisticated and investigation revealed interesting flow dynamic insights in the TCPC,
352 the problem facing the investigators was how to translate the mathematical information to
353 the surgical community. They needed a parameter or variable that a congenital cardiac
354 surgeon can appreciate its value and correlate with clinical significance. Since the ability
355 of CFD at that time only allowed for modeling an isolated surgical domain, i.e. the
356 cavopulmonary connections, their models required compulsory open-ended inlets and
357 outlets with rigid, prescribed boundary conditions. And in such an open-loop circulatory
358 model, only the local pressure and flow conditions can be quantified, leaving any
359 interaction with the rest of the global, systemic circulation unanswered. Therefore, as a
360 way to quantify the 'performance' of a cavopulmonary connection, the concept of power
361 loss was introduced to describe the *extraction* of fluid dynamic power, or energy, as blood
362 traversed from the inlets (vena cava) to the outlets (branch pulmonary arteries). Less
363 power loss in a cavopulmonary circulation, the better. And power loss became the goal
364 post for which future modeling investigations of the cavopulmonary circulation would be
365 based on. ^{1,2,18,22}

366 In this study, where a closed loop circulatory model allowed for interaction between the
367 SCPC and the rest of the cardiovascular system, our *patient-specific* multi-scale
368 simulations showed that differences in power loss between a hF and bG SCPC, even
369 when greater than two-fold, resulted in negligible effect on clinically relevant parameters
370 such as cardiac index, SVC pressure, and systemic oxygen delivery. Therefore, either hF
371 or bG, as the procedure of choice for SCPC, would achieve similar hemodynamic and
372 physiologic results. This is unlikely to be a controversial finding, as most surgeons would
373 agree that outcomes after either procedure have been viewed to be similar. Nonetheless,
374 by employing the state of art multi-scale modeling with patient-specific anatomy and
375 physiology information, this study should settle the hF versus bG debate while highlighting
376 the importance of evaluating the hemodynamic performance of a cardiac surgical

377 procedure, not in isolation, but in context of the global systemic circulation.

378 So, why is power loss differences between hF and bG not important? This can be
379 explained by examining the SCPC junction power loss in the context of the systemic
380 circuit. An advantage of multi-scale computational modeling is this inclusion of the patient-
381 specific systems-level physiology on the predicted hemodynamic outcomes. Due to the
382 fact that only a small fraction of the power loss in the pulmonary circulation actually occurs
383 over the SCPC junction, change in the junction power loss by several folds can still only
384 have limited effects on the overall circulation. As noted, Figure 4 illustrates the
385 contribution of the SCPC junction power loss to the *total* pulmonary power loss in each
386 patient. It is clear that much of the power loss via the pulmonary circulation occurs outside
387 of the surgical junction, meaning that the patient PVR has a much larger impact on the
388 overall physiology than the hemodynamic differences between hF and bG. We observed
389 the same relative significance between the SCPC and total pulmonary power loss in all 6
390 patients. There is a caveat, however: this does not mean power loss does not matter at
391 all. In situations or conditions where there is important lesion that impacts on blood flow,
392 such as severe LPA stenosis or SCPC anastomotic obstruction, the power loss through a
393 cavopulmonary connection can become high enough to be on similar order as PVR and
394 there will be adverse hemodynamic consequences. Also, under higher metabolic states,
395 such as exercise, as flow increases and PVR drops, the ratio between the SCPC and the
396 total pulmonary power loss is expected to rise. Further studies will be needed to
397 determine whether this would result in more noticeable differences in physiology between
398 different surgical geometries.

399 The multi-scale simulations also revealed that in two patients with discrete left PA
400 stenosis, virtual augmentation with arterioplasty did not lead to important benefits in the
401 overall performance and hemodynamics of the SCPC. This suggests that, in these two
402 patients, a more extensive and potentially risky operation (i.e. division of the Damus-Kay-
403 Stansel anastomosis to get to the left PA) to relieve LPA stenosis would not have led to
404 additional hemodynamic and physiologic benefits. Again, this discovery cannot be applied
405 to all instances of left PA stenosis, as surely relief of severe left PA stenosis is important

406 at the time of a cavopulmonary connection procedure. Nonetheless, these simulation
407 results suggests that not all left PA stenosis requires extensive arterioplasty, and a
408 combination of virtual surgery with multi-scale modeling can provide valuable support and
409 guidance to a surgeon's decision on whether a patient-specific left PA stenosis can be left
410 untouched at the time of SCPC.

411 Closed loop modeling of stage 1 physiology represents a challenge due to the complexity
412 of the physiology and time-varying nature of the hemodynamic measurements. Clinical
413 data is acquired at different time points and used to build a representation of the patient's
414 pre-operative physiology. The aim of this study was to compare the effect of different
415 surgical anatomies, without additional adaptation from the global physiology.
416 Consequently, responses such as post-operative stress response, effects of medication,
417 chronic adaption to new ventricular loading conditions, post-operative complications, and
418 the effects of growth on the clinical data are not modeled. In light of this, validation of the
419 predicted results against existing clinical data remains limited. The simulations represent
420 a prediction of the *immediate* post-operative physiology based on the physiological
421 impacts of loading changes induced by the surgical procedures only. A direct comparison
422 between the surgical options is essential for gaining a mechanistic understanding of the
423 hemodynamics in the relevant clinical scenarios. One step towards assessing the
424 robustness of the predicted results would be to incorporate approaches that also contain
425 sensitivity analysis¹⁸ or uncertainty quantification²³, including both the clinical data and
426 physiological model parameters. This might be especially important when preoperative
427 clinical data are not coherent.¹³ Currently, such methods are computationally expensive
428 and in need of further development.²³ It is also important to point out that while variation
429 in the bi-directional Glenn procedure is limited, the construction of a hemi-Fontan can be
430 quite variable from one institution and one surgeon to another. As only one institution
431 (Michigan) in our collaboration routinely applied the hemi-Fontan, we have adopted virtual
432 hemi-Fontan models without additional patch enlargement of the left pulmonary artery was
433 described by William Norwood. Therefore, it is possible that an left PA stenosis will
434 routinely be addressed by this manner of hemi-Fontan construction. Finally, any virtual
435 surgery and computational modeling investigation, even using patient specific information,

436 cannot account for all the biological and clinical processes that impacts on ultimate
437 outcome. Therefore, the findings from this study should be applied in the context of clinical
438 decision-making support.

439
440 **Conclusion**

441 In this first case series of patient-specific multiscale modeling of superior cavopulmonary
442 connection palliation for single ventricle hearts, virtual hemi-Fontan and bidirectional
443 Glenn procedures were simulated based on each patient's *preoperative* anatomy and
444 physiologic conditions derived from clinically indicated investigations. Despite what
445 appeared to be significant local power loss differences, both the hemi-Fontan and
446 bidirectional Glenn procedures resulted in similar early postoperative superior
447 cavopulmonary hemodynamics and physiology. Moreover, simulations suggest that multi-
448 scale modeling may be helpful to support patient-specific decision on whether an
449 aggressive left pulmonary artery reconstruction at the time of SCPC procedure could be
450 beneficial.

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451

452

453

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457

458

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538 **List of Tables**

539 Table 1: Pre-operative demographics of the six patients used for the study.

540 Table 2: Clinical parameters used for pre-operative multiscale modeling.

541 Table 3: Post-operative predictions.

Table 1: Pre-operative demographics of the six patients used for the study

Patient	A	B	C	D	E	F
Age* (months)	6	3	4	3	4	5
BSA (m²)	0.34	0.30	0.27	0.26	0.28	0.34
Diagnosis	PA/IVS	MS, AS	MS, AS	TA, PA left PAS	MA, AA	MA, AA
Stage 1 surgery	3.5mm mBTS	Norwood 3.5mm mBTS	Norwood 3.5mm mBTS	4mm mBTS with LPAPlasty	Norwood 3.5mm mBTS	Norwood 3.5mm mBTS

*Age used for model construction

BSA: body surface area; PA/IVS: pulmonary atresia/intact ventricular septum; mBTS: modified Blalock-Taussig shunt; MS: mitral stenosis; AS: aortic stenosis; TA: tricuspid atresia, PAS: pulmonary artery stenosis; MA: mitral atresia; AA: aortic atresia

Table 2: Clinical parameters used for pre-operative multiscale modeling

Patient	A	B	C	D	E	F
CI (L/min/m ²)	4.31	4.08	6.87	6.23	5.79	5.47
Qp (L/min/m ²)	1.32	1.94	3.69	2.77	2.57	3.53
Qrpa : Qp (%)	64	46	51	67	46	55
Qp : Qs	0.44	0.91	1.16	0.80	0.80	1.81
mP_{atr} (mmHg)	5	6	6	7	5	4
mPAP (mmHg)	13(R), 12(L)	12(R/L)	11(L)	17(R), 14(L)	13 (L)	13.5(L)
TPG (mmHg)	8	6	5	10	8	9.5
mP_{Ao} (mmHg)	43 [#]	52	51	53	53	72
PVR (WU*m ²)	6.0	3.1	1.4	3.6	2.8	2.7
SVR (WU*m ²)	12.7	21.5	14.2	13.3	14.8	35.0

[#]estimated from left upper limb sphygmomanometer

CI: cardiac index; Qp and Qs: pulmonary and systemic flow; Qrpa: right pulmonary artery flow; mP_{atr}: mean systemic atrial pressure; mPAP: mean pulmonary artery pressure; R/L: right/left; TPG: transpulmonary gradient; mP_{Ao}: mean invasive ascending aortic pressure; PVR and SVR: pulmonary and systemic vascular resistance.

Table 3: SCPC simulation results

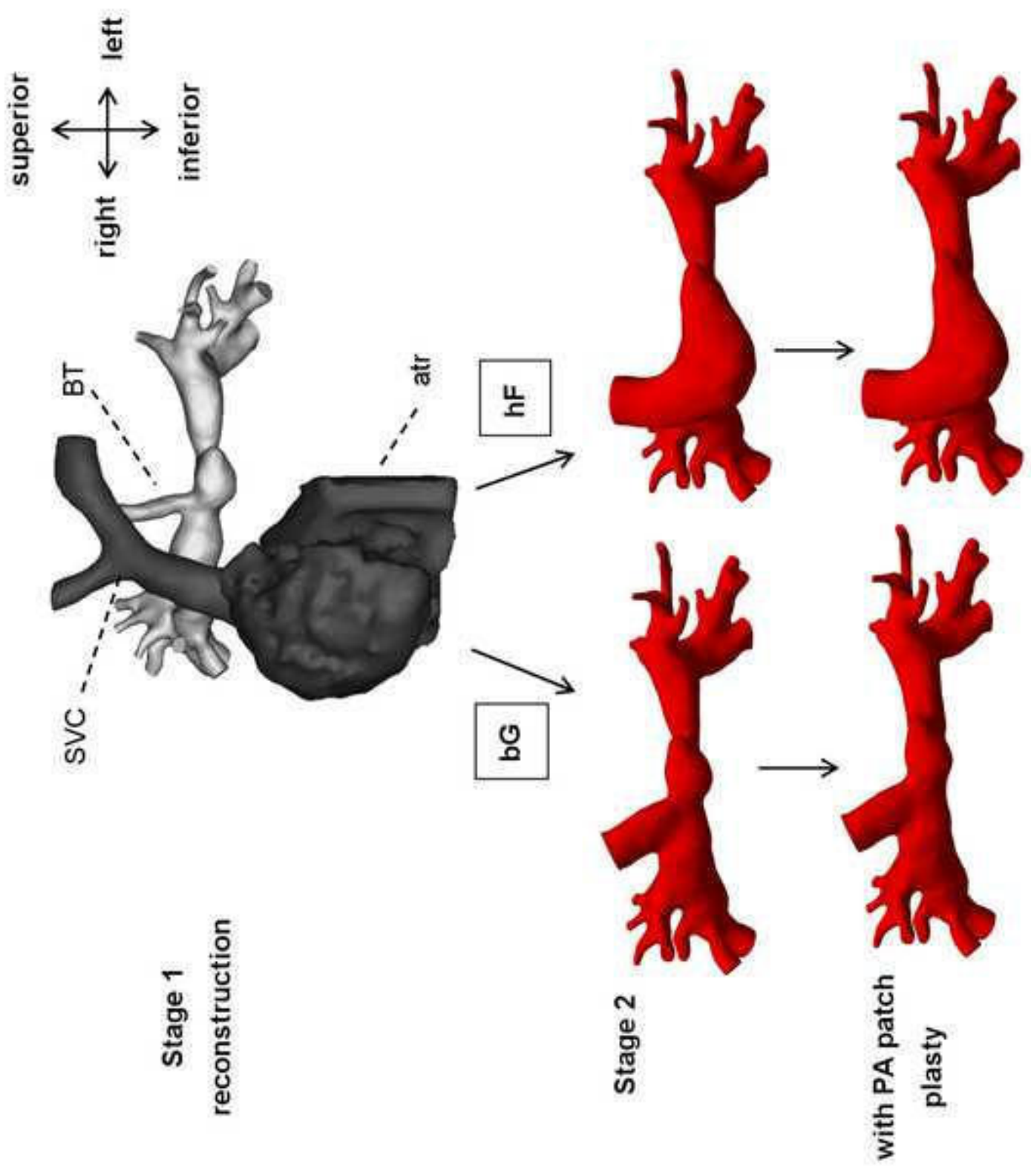
Patient	A		B			C		D			E		F			
	bG	hF*	bG	bG(ns)*	hF	hF(ns)	bG*	hF	bG	bG(ns)*	hF	hF(ns)	bG	hF*	bG	hF*
CI (L/min/m ²)	3.40	3.38	3.34	3.35	3.34	3.35	5.25	5.24	4.29	4.32	4.28	4.32	3.87	3.86	3.64	3.64
Qp (L/min/m ²)	2.01	1.99	1.63	1.64	1.63	1.64	2.88	2.87	2.66	2.70	2.65	2.69	2.74	2.73	2.58	2.58
Qrpa : Qp (%)	63	63	59	54	59	54	51	48	69	61	68	60	45.0	45.0	56	55
Qp : Qs	0.59	0.59	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.55	0.55	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71
P_atri (mmHg)	2.48	2.43	4.59	4.62	4.60	4.63	5.22	5.22	4.67	4.71	4.66	4.71	3.63	3.62	2.46	2.46
Psvc (mmHg)	15.07	15.38	10.49	10.02	10.43	10.02	10.11	10.19	14.67	13.76	14.91	13.84	11.92	12.09	10.30	10.26
TPG (mmHg)	12.18	12.13	5.05	4.70	5.07	4.93	4.25	4.24	8.05	8.34	8.04	8.37	8.19	8.18	7.20	7.20
Ao MAP (mmHg)	53.06	53.10	74.9	74.9	74.9	74.9	80.4	80.42	67.0	66.9	67.1	66.9	65.9	65.9	131.4	131.4
3D Power loss (mW)	0.61	1.26	0.87	0.35	0.82	0.33	1.05	1.24	2.00	0.92	2.51	1.11	0.95	1.28	1.20	1.12
PA-Sa power loss (mW)	18.49	18.18	5.54	5.59	5.57	5.62	15.54	15.61	13.31	13.15	13.14	13.08	13.81	13.74	14.00	13.98
Total pulmonary power loss	19.10	19.44	6.41	5.94	6.39	5.95	16.59	16.85	15.31	14.07	15.65	14.19	14.76	15.02	15.20	15.10
SCPC : Total Pulmonary power loss (%)	3.2	6.5	13.6	5.9	12.8	5.5	6.3	7.4	13.1	6.5	16.0	7.8	6.4	8.5	7.9	7.4
Oxygen delivery (mlO ₂ /min/m ²)	597	593	599	602	602	603	1006	1005	806	812	804	812	746	746	867	867
O ₂ sat Ao	82	82	84	84	84	84	89	89	88	88	88	88	90	90	91	91

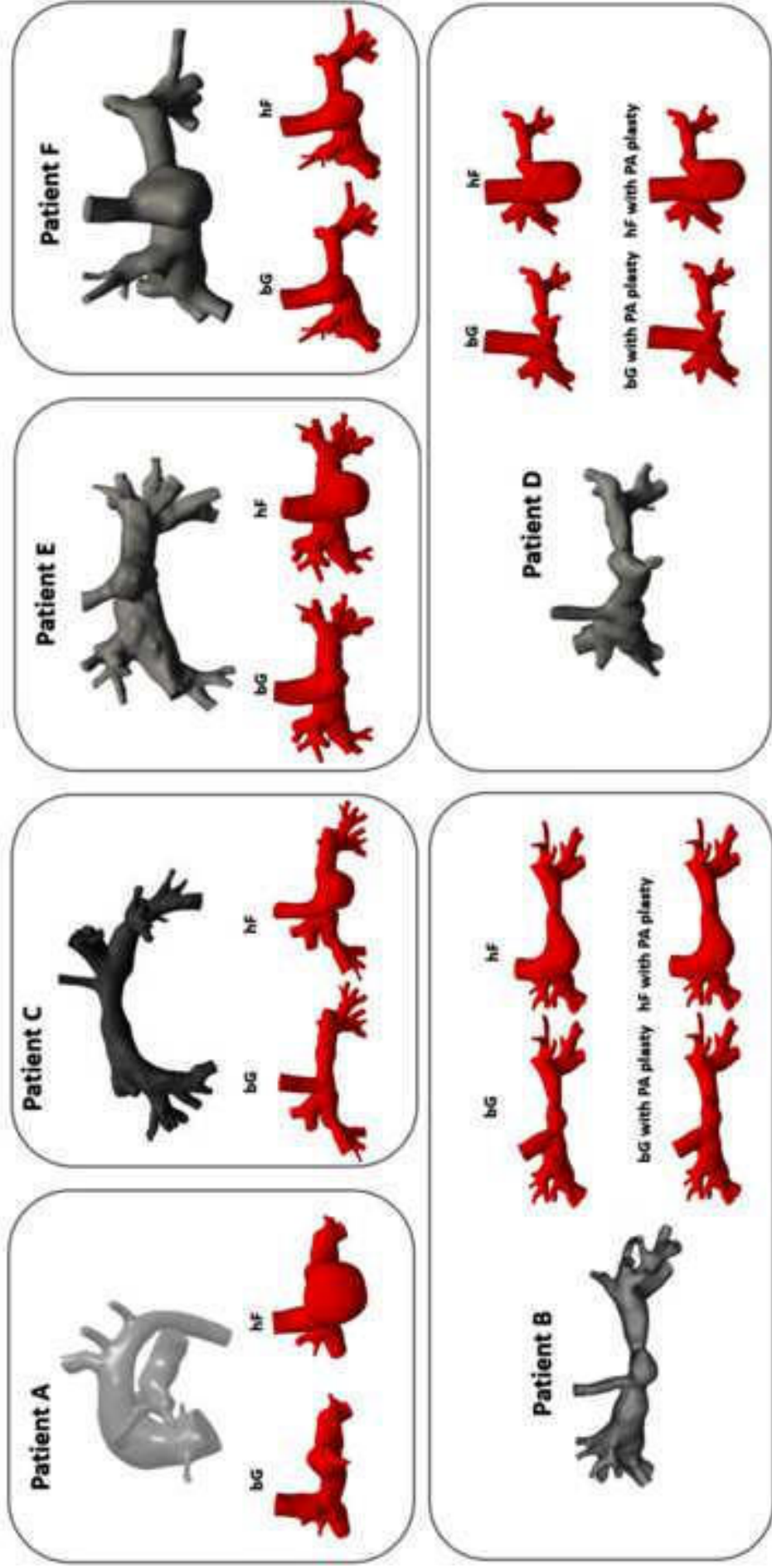
*actual surgical procedure performed

SCPC: superior cavopulmonary connection; bG: bidirectional Glenn; hF: hemi-Fontan; ns: no left PA stenosis; CI: cardiac index; Qp and Qs: pulmonary and systemic flow; Qrpa: right pulmonary artery flow; P_atr: common atrial pressure; Psvc: superior vena cava pressure; TPG: transpulmonary gradient; Ao MAP: aortic mean arterial pressure; PA-Sa: pulmonary artery to systemic atrial; Ao: a

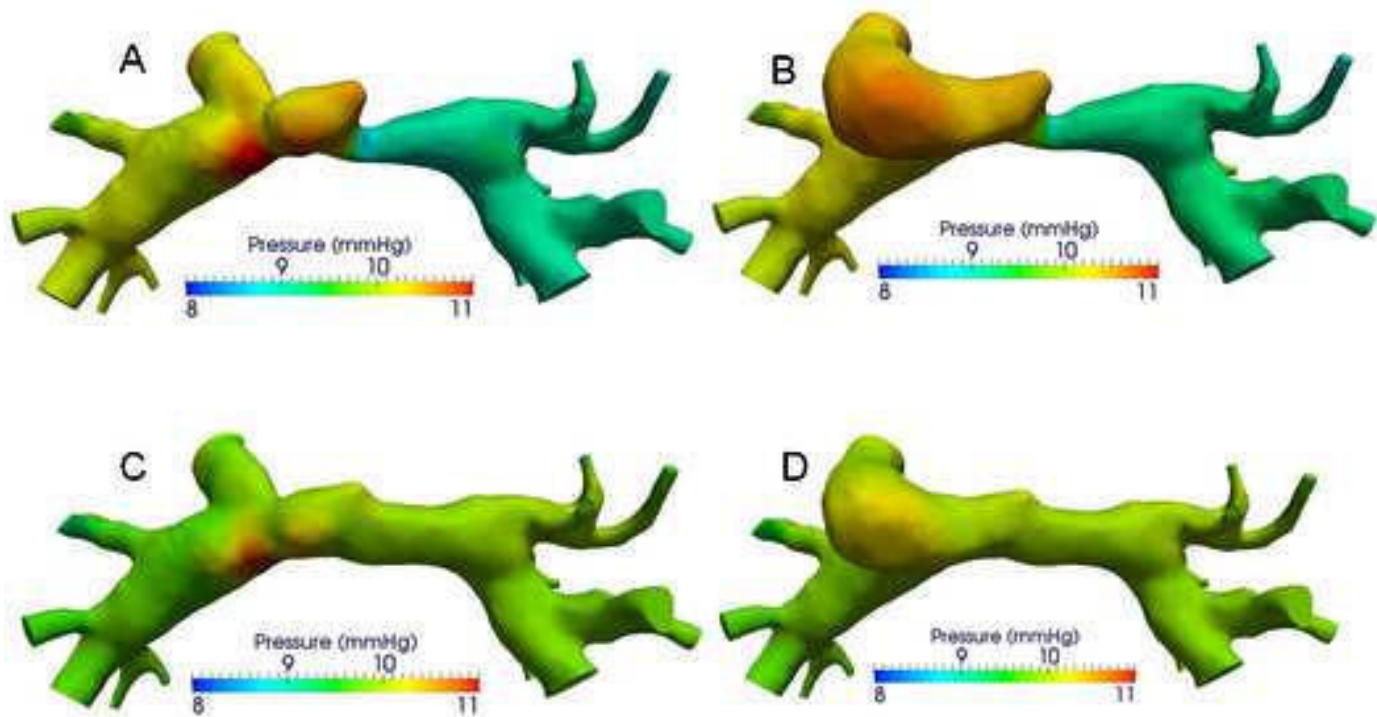
Figure Legends

- Figure 1. An example of the virtual bG and hF superior cavopulmonary surgeries using patient B. Top panel demonstrates the preoperative (Stage 1) anatomy obtained from MRI. Middle panel demonstrates virtual bG and hF surgeries. Bottom panel demonstrates virtual bG and hG procedures with concomitant left pulmonary arterioplasty for relieve of left pulmonary arterial stenosis. SVC: superior vena cava; BTS: Blalock-Taussig shunt; atr: atrium; bG: di-directional Glenn; hF: hemi-Fontan; PA: pulmonary artery
- Figure 2. The preoperative anatomical reconstruction (stage 1) and virtual surgery (stage 2) for all six patients studied. Patients B and D had left pulmonary arterial stenosis preoperatively, and virtual SCPC surgeries were performed with and without concomitant left pulmonary arterioplasty. bG: di-directional Glenn; hF: hemi-Fontan; PA: pulmonary artery
- Figure 3: Mid-systolic pressure and velocity maps for patient B. Panel A: bi-directional Glenn with left pulmonary artery stenosis; panel B: hemi-Fontan with left pulmonary artery stenosis; panel C: bi-directional Glenn with pulmonary arterioplasty; panel D: hemi-Fontan with pulmonary arterioplasty.
- Figure 4. A comparison of the power loss in the SCPC surgical junction and the total power loss through the pulmonary circulation. Power loss through the SCPC surgical junction, whether bG or hF, represents a very small part of the overall power loss in the superior cavopulmonary circulation. bG: di-directional Glenn; hF: hemi-Fontan; PA: pulmonary artery; ns: no pulmonary arterial stenosis; mW: milli-Watts.





Pressure



Velocity

