The dependence of myocardial damage on age and ischemic time in pediatric cardiac surgery
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We evaluated the effects of age and ischemic time on myocardial damage with heart fatty acid-binding protein in 98 consecutive patients undergoing pediatric cardiac surgery in a prospective manner. The younger the age of the patients, the more vulnerable are their myocardia to injury caused by ischemia in pediatric cardiac surgery.

Maintenance of pulmonary vasculature tone by blood derived from the inferior vena cava in a rabbit model of cavopulmonary shunt
Akio Ikai, MD, Mikiyasu Shirai, MD, PhD, Kazunobu Nishimura, MD, PhD, Tadashi Ikeda, MD, PhD, Takayuki Kameyama, MD, Koji Ueyama, MD, and Masashi Komeda, MD, PhD, Kyoto and Osaka, Japan

In a rabbit model of cavopulmonary shunt, hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction was maintained by blood derived from the right ventricle. Without the blood flow, the vasoconstriction disappeared, strongly suggesting that a substance in hepatic venous effluent partially regulates physiologic pulmonary vascular function in the rabbit lung.

Historical Perspectives (HP)
Historical Perspectives of The American Association for Thoracic Surgery: George P. Muller, MD, ScD (1877-1947)
Richard N. Edie, MD, Philadelphia, Pa

Brief Communications
Increased expression of vascular endothelial growth factor messenger RNA in lungs of rats after cavopulmonary anastomosis
Muhammad A. Mumtaz, MD, Charles H. Fraga, MS, Chad M. Nicholls, MD, Shailesh Desai, PhD, Nikolay Vasilyev, MD, Raja Joshi, MD, Roger B. B. Mee, MB, ChB, FRACS, and Brian W. Duncan, MD, Cleveland, Ohio, and Seattle, Wash

A simple surgical technique for interventional transcatheter completion of the total cavopulmonary connection
Igor E. Konstantinov, MD, PhD, Lee N. Benson, MD, FRCPC, Christopher A. Caldarone, MD, Jia Li, MD, PhD, Mikiko Shimizu, MD, John G. Coles, MD, FRCS, Glen S. Van Arsdel, MD, FRCS, and William G. Williams, MD, FRCS, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Transsternal transpericardial approach for acute descending necrotizing mediastinitis
Franco Stella, MD, PhD, and Francesco Petrella, MD, Bologna, Italy

A modified and simplified radiofrequency ablation in patients with mitral valve disease
Roland Fasol, MD, Johann Meinhart, PhD, and Thomas Binder, MD, Vienna, Austria