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Cover Photograph

*Upper left:* Intraoperative view of a bicuspid aortic valve with 1 completely developed non-coronary cusp, 2 completely developed commissures (small arrows), and 1 raphe extending to the corresponding malformed commissure (large arrow) between the malformed left and right coronary cusps. This bicuspid aortic valve is classified in the main category as TYPE 1 (1 raphe).

*Upper right:* Intraoperative view of a bicuspid aortic valve with 2 raphes, developmental anlagen of 3 cusps, and 1 completely developed and 2 underdeveloped commissures. This bicuspid aortic valve is classified in the main category as TYPE 2 (2 raphes).

*Bottom:* Intraoperative view of a “purely” bicuspid aortic valve with only 2 equal-sized cusps, sinuses, and 2 commissures (arrows) and no raphe (Left: before and Right: after excision of the valve). This bicuspid aortic valve is classified in the main category as TYPE 0 (no raphe).

Hans-Hinrich Sievers, MD

Reference