Impact of chylothorax on the post operative outcome after pediatric cardiovascular surgery

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**Background:** Chylothorax is the accumulation of chyle in the pleural cavity, usually develops after disruption of the thoracic duct along its intra-thoracic route. In the majority of cases this rupture is secondary to trauma (including cardiac thoracic surgeries). Chylothorax is a potentially serious complication after cardiovascular surgeries that require early diagnosis and adequate management.

**Methods:** A retrospective study of all cases complicated with chylothorax after pediatric cardiac surgery in King Abdulaziz Cardiac Center between January 2007 and December 2009 was conducted. The study aim to determine the risk factors, and the impact on the post operative course.

**Results:** We have 1135 cases operated during the study period, 57 cases (5%) were complicated with chylothorax in the post operative period. The most common surgeries complicated with chylothorax were the single ventricle repair surgeries (Glenn-Fontan) 15 cases (27%), followed by the arch repair cases 10 cases (18%), the ventricular septal defect cases 10 cases (18%), the...