

CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Summary: International Consensus Statement on Nomenclature and Classification of the Congenital Bicuspid Aortic Valve and Its Aortopathy, for Clinical, Surgical, Interventional and Research Purposes



Hector I. Michelena, MD, Alessandro Della Corte, MD, PhD, Arturo Evangelista, MD, Joseph J. Maleszewski, MD, William D. Edwards, MD, Mary J. Roman, MD, Richard B. Devereux, MD, Borja Fernández, PhD, Federico M. Asch, MD, Alex J. Barker, PhD, Lilia M. Sierra-Galan, MD, Laurent De Kerchove, MD, Susan M. Fernandes, LPD, PA-C, Paul W. M. Fedak, MD, PhD, Evaldas Girdauskas, MD, Victoria Delgado, MD, Suhny Abbara, MD, Emmanuel Lansac, MD, Siddharth K. Prakash, MD, PhD, Malenka M. Bissell, MD, Bogdan A. Popescu, MD, PhD, Michael D. Hope, MD, Marta Sitges, MD, PhD, Vinod H. Thourani, MD, Phillippe Pibarot, DVM, PhD, Krishnaswamy Chandrasekaran, MD, Patrizio Lancellotti, MD, Michael A. Borger, MD, John K. Forrest, MD, John Webb, MD, Dianna M. Milewicz, MD, PhD, Raj Makkar, MD, Martin B. Leon, MD, Stephen P. Sanders, MD, Michael Markl, PhD, Victor A. Ferrari, MD, William C. Roberts, MD, Jae-Kwan Song, MD, PhD, Philipp Blanke, MD, Charles S. White, MD, Samuel Siu, MD, SM, Lars G. Svensson, MD, PhD, Alan C. Braverman, MD, Joseph Bavaria, MD, Thoralf M. Sundt, MD, Gebrine El Khoury, MD, Ruggero De Paulis, MD, Maurice Enriquez-Sarano, MD, Jeroen J. Bax, MD, Catherine M. Otto, MD, and Hans-Joachim Schäfers, MD

Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota; Department of Translational Medical Sciences, University of Campania "L. Vanvitelli", Naples, Italy; Department of Cardiology, Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR) Ciber-CV, Barcelona, Spain; Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota; Division of Cardiology, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, New York; Departamento de Biología Animal, Facultad de Ciencias, Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga, Universidad de Málaga, Ciber-CV, Málaga, Spain; MedStar Health Research Institute, Washington, DC; Department of Radiology, Children's Hospital Colorado, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado; Cardiovascular Division, American British Cowdray Medical Center, Mexico City, Mexico; Division of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium; Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California; Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California; Department of Cardiac Sciences, Libin Cardiovascular Institute, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany; Department of Cardiology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands; Cardiothoracic Imaging Division, Department of Radiology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas; Department of Cardiac Surgery, Institute Mutualiste Montsouris, Paris, France; Department of Internal Medicine, McGovern Medical School, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Texas; Department of Biomedical Imaging Science, Leeds Institute to Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom; Department of Cardiology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila"—Eurocolab, Emergency Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases "Prof. Dr. C. C. Iliescu", Bucharest, Romania; Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California; Cardiovascular Institute, Hospital Clínic, Universitat de Barcelona, IDIBAPS, CIBERCV, ISCIII (CB16/11/00354), CERCA Programme, Barcelona, Spain; Department of Cardiovascular

The STS Executive Committee approved this document.

Endorsed by the Heart Valve Society (HVS), European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI), The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR), Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT), North American Society for Cardiovascular Imaging (NASCI), and the International Bicuspid Aortic Valve Consortium (BAVCon).

This article has been co-published with permission in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, the *European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery*, and *Radiology: Cardiothoracic Imaging*.

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons requests that this article be cited as: Michelena HI, Della Corte A, Evangelista A, Maleszewski JJ, Edwards WD, Roman MJ, et al. Summary: international consensus statement on nomenclature and classification of the congenital bicuspid aortic valve and its aortopathy, for clinical, surgical, interventional and research purposes. *Ann Thorac Surg*. 2021;112:1005-1022.

Address correspondence to Dr Michelena, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Mayo Clinic, 200 First St SW, Rochester, MN 55905; e-mail: michelena.hector@mayo.edu.

Surgery, Marcus Valve Center, Piedmont Heart Institute, Atlanta, Georgia; Department of Cardiology, Québec Heart & Lung Institute, Laval University Québec, Québec, Canada; Department of Cardiology, University of Liège Hospital, GIGA Cardiovascular Sciences, CHU Sart Tilman, Liège, Belgium; Gruppo Villa Maria Care and Research, Maria Cecilia Hospital, Cotignola, and Anthea Hospital, Bari, Italy; University Clinic of Cardiac Surgery, Leipzig Heart Center, Leipzig, Germany; Yale University School of Medicine & Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut; St Paul's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Cedars Sinai Heart Institute, Los Angeles, California; Division of Cardiology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NY Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York; Cardiac Registry, Departments of Cardiology, Pathology and Cardiac Surgery, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts; Department of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts; Department of Radiology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois; Cardiovascular Medicine Division, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and Penn Cardiovascular Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baylor Heart and Vascular Institute, Baylor University Medical Center, Texas A & M School of Medicine, Dallas Campus, Dallas, Texas; University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Asan Medical Center, Seoul, South Korea; Department of Radiology, St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Department of Radiology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland; Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, London, Ontario, Canada; Heart, Vascular and Thoracic Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio; Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri; Division of Cardiac Surgery, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Division of Cardiac Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts; Department of Cardiac Surgery, European Hospital and Unicamillus University Rome, Rome, Italy; Division of Cardiology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; and Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Saarland University Medical Center, Homburg/Saar, Germany

This International evidence-based nomenclature and classification consensus on the congenital bicuspid aortic valve and its aortopathy recognizes 3 types of bicuspid aortic valve: 1. Fused type, with 3 phenotypes: right-left cusp fusion, right-non cusp fusion and left-non cusp fusion; 2. 2-sinus type with 2 phenotypes: Latero-lateral and antero-posterior; and 3. Partial-fusion or forme fruste. This consensus recognizes 3 bicuspid-aortopathy types: 1. Ascending phenotype; root phenotype; and 3. extended phenotypes.

(Ann Thorac Surg 2021;112:1005-22)

© 2021 Jointly between The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, and the Radiological Society of North America. Published by Elsevier Inc.

INTENDED AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

This international evidence-based nomenclature and classification consensus on the congenital bicuspid aortic valve (BAV) and its aortopathy is intended to be universally used by clinicians (both pediatric and adult), echocardiography sonographers and physicians, cardiovascular advanced-imaging specialists, interventional cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, pathologists, geneticists and researchers encompassing these clinical and basic research areas. In addition, if and when new landmark research is available, this international consensus may be subject to change in accordance with evidence-based data.¹

GENERAL NOSOLOGY OF THE CONGENITAL BAV CONDITION

The congenital BAV condition is a valvulo-aortopathy characterized by significant heterogeneity of its valvular and aortic phenotypic expressions, of its associated disorders, of its complications and of its prognosis.²⁻⁶ To reconcile this clinical and prognostic heterogeneity,

the BAV condition is broadly categorized into 3 clinical-prognostic subgroups (Figure 1): (i) Complex valvulo-aortopathy^{1,5,6} is characterized by concomitant or associated disorders that may be clinically and prognostically worse than the BAV condition *per se* (ie, Turner syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome, Shone complex and severe aortic coarctation) and/or by early/accelerated valve dysfunction and/or aortopathy, more commonly diagnosed earlier in the pediatric, adolescent and young adult population.^{7,8} This presentation frequently requires early surgical/invasive treatment and close surveillance. (ii) Typical valvulo-aortopathy^{1,2,6} is the most common type, with progressive BAV dysfunction and/or aortic dilatation without other major associated disorders, is more commonly diagnosed in the young adult and adult, requires long-term surveillance and commonly requires subsequent surgical/invasive treatment. Patients with complex-presentation and typical-presentation valvulo-aortopathies are at risk of developing infective endocarditis and aortic dissection (Figure 1), although aortic dissection is extremely rare in young children with BAV and rare in adults without aortic dilatation.^{2,9} (iii) The undiagnosed or uncomplicated BAV subgroup² exhibits a lifelong silent condition with mild or non-progressing valvulo-aortopathy

Abbreviations and Acronyms

BAV = bicuspid aortic valve
CT = computed tomography
ECG = electrocardiographic
MR = magnetic resonance
STJ = sinotubular junction
TTE = transthoracic echocardiography

that does not manifest clinically but may come to light at autopsy or incidentally by imaging (Figure 1); therefore, it represents a retrospective definition. A critical difference between the typical and complex valvulo-aortopathies is the preserved long-term overall life expectancy that is similar to that of the age- and sex-matched general population in patients with the typical valvulo-aortopathy¹⁰, whereas the life expectancy of the patient with complex valvulo-aortopathy may be reduced.¹

COMMON COMPLICATIONS AND FUNDAMENTALS OF IMAGING ASSESSMENT OF THE CONGENITAL BAV CONDITION

In order of frequency, the most common major complications of the typical valvulo-aortopathy are (i) the need for aortic valve surgery due to aortic stenosis; (ii) ascending thoracic aortic dilatation that may require surgical repair; (iii) the need for aortic valve surgery due to aortic regurgitation; (iv) mitral valve prolapse including the anterior leaflet that may require surgery¹; (v) infective endocarditis; and (vi) aortic dissection.^{1,11}

At the center of the BAV condition is echocardiography, which serves as the first-line imaging modality in 6 major capacities¹¹: (i) BAV diagnosis, (ii) valvular phenotyping, (iii) assessment of valvular function¹¹, (iv) measurement of the thoracic aorta (the expression of

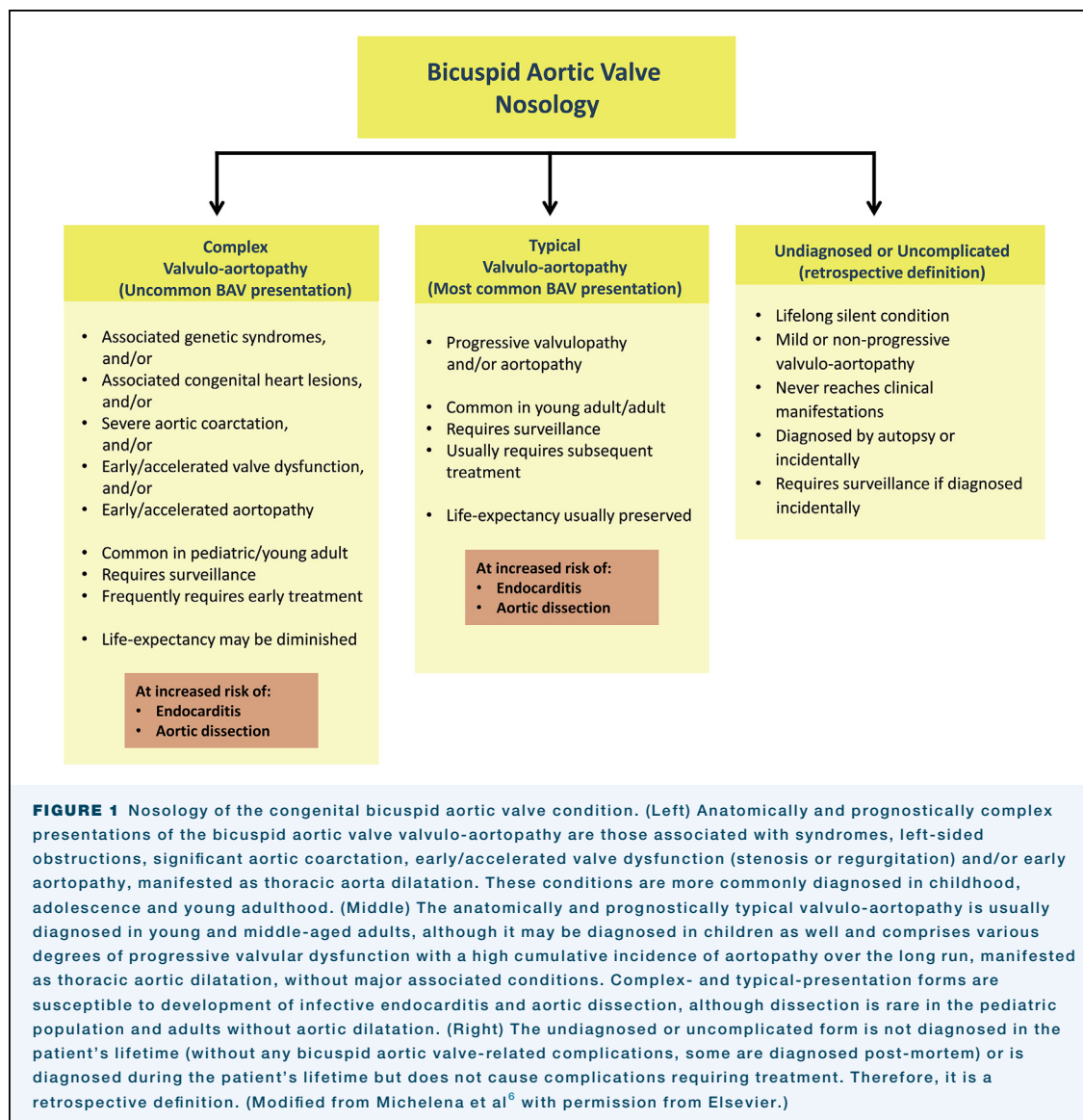


TABLE 1 Critical Limitations of the Sievers Classification Compared to the New International Consensus

Sievers and Schmidtke ¹⁶ , Type of Limitation	Specific Sievers Limitation	International Consensus
Comprehension and retention	Not language-intuitive: types: 0, 1 and 2	Language-intuitive: types: fused, 2-sinus and partial fusion
Unable to define all BAV phenotypes	Type 0 does not differentiate between a fused BAV with no raphe and a 2-sinus BAV	Fused types may have raphe or not; 2-sinus types do not have raphe
Lack of prerepair assessment of symmetry	Nonexistent	Fused types require assessment of symmetry for surgical repair planning
Lack of recognition of BAV phenotypes	Does not recognize the partial-fusion (forme fruste); does not recognize fused BAV with no raphe	Recognizes partial-fusion (forme fruste); recognizes fused BAV with no raphe, which is different from 2-sinus BAV
Lack of recognition of aortopathy phenotypes	Nonexistent	Aorta phenotypes: root, ascending and extended
Includes a non-BAV congenital aortic valve abnormality	Type 2 is not BAV, is unicuspid aortic valve	Does not include unicuspid aortic valves
Evidence based	Anatomical pathology only	Imaging, anatomical surgical pathology, surgical-functional pathology, clinical associations

BAV, bicuspid aortic valve.

BAV aortopathy is dilatation of the thoracic aorta), (v) exclusion of aortic coarctation and other associated congenital lesions^{2,7} and (vi) assessment of uncommon but serious complications such as infective endocarditis¹² and aortic dissection.⁹ Transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) is the best modality for hemodynamic assessment of valvular dysfunction and the initial modality for assessment of thoracic aorta size, presence of aortic coarctation and other congenital lesions. Transesophageal echocardiography may aid in the diagnosis and phenotyping of BAV if it is not well visualized by TTE and has excellent accuracy for the diagnosis of aortic dissection and infective endocarditis.¹

Advanced-imaging modalities are also at the center of the BAV condition: electrocardiographic (ECG)-gated cardiac computed tomography (CT) and ECG-gated cardiac magnetic resonance (MR). These imaging techniques improve the diagnostic accuracy and phenotyping of BAV^{13,14} and represent the gold standard for measuring the thoracic aorta because they accurately assess aortic diameters that are truly perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the aorta. After initial TTE imaging, if any aortic segment cannot be visualized or coarctation cannot be ruled out or any thoracic segment measures ≥ 45 mm by TTE, then ECG-gated CT angiography or MR angiography is recommended.¹⁵

WHY HAVE A STANDARD NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION CONSENSUS FOR THE CONGENITAL BAV CONDITION?

Nomenclature refers to the choice of name that is given to a particular structure, abnormality or phenotype, whereas classification refers to the process of arranging or categorizing something according to shared features. The clinician evaluating the patient with BAV must be able to communicate all specific morphological,

functional and prognostic aspects of the BAV condition to the patient, other clinicians, surgeons, interventionalists and researchers, in a common language.^{1,6} In addition, there are multiple gaps in the knowledge and understanding of the BAV condition.² To advance the clinical, biological and genetic understanding of the BAV condition, a common language must be articulated among researchers in all clinical and laboratory research disciplines. Multiple nomenclatures and classifications exist for the BAV condition, and they are as heterogeneous or more than the BAV condition itself.^{1,6} For example, the Sievers¹⁶, Schaefer¹⁷ and Kang¹⁸ classifications use multiple letters and numbers to describe different aspects of the BAV and its aortopathy that are not intuitive and thus difficult to remember.^{1,6}

The Sievers classification, based on the presence and number of raphe identified at surgery (ie, direct visualization), has several shortcomings (Table 1): (i) it is not based on imaging, which is the most common method of diagnosing, phenotyping and surveilling the BAV and its aortopathy; (ii) it is unable to define all known BAV phenotypes (ie, partial fusion/forme fruste); (iii) it lacks the recognition of aortopathy phenotypes; (iv) it lacks the assessment of BAV symmetry, which is critical for planning surgical regurgitant-BAV repair^{19,20}; and (v) it is inclusive of the unicuspid aortic valve morphology as a subtype of BAV (Sievers type 2). Although the morphological spectrum of human congenital aortic valve abnormalities includes unicuspid, bicuspid and quadricuspid aortic valves, their embryological origins may not necessarily be closely linked, such that animal models of BAV have displayed all possible BAV phenotypes, quadricuspid valves and pulmonary valve abnormalities but not unicuspid anatomical forms.²¹ In addition, the prevalence, age at presentation and prognosis of unicuspid and BAV are not equivalent.^{22,23} Furthermore, the definition of unicuspid aortic valve (1 cusp with or

without a commissure: unicommissural or acommisural)^{24,25} is very different from that of BAV (2 cusps, 2 commissures); therefore, the Sievers classification includes only 1 (unicommissural) of the 2 types of unicuspid aortic valves as if it were a subtype of BAV, which is confusing.

The use of one or another of the many classifications for research varies according to authors and institutions, and there are specific terminologies that lead to confusion such as the ‘true’ BAV²; does it mean that the others are false BAV? These numerous and heterogeneous classifications cause confusion in clinical practice; failure to identify phenotypes that may predict outcomes; the inability to analyse clinical outcome data in registries, systematic reviews and meta-analysis formats; failure to capture anatomical information critical for surgical aortic valve repair and TAVR; and hamper identification of phenotypic-genetic associations. Herein, we present an imaging-based, descriptive, simple-but-comprehensive nomenclature and classification

system that is based on the English language rather than on numbers or letters and on important available anatomical, clinical, surgical and pathological scientific data.^{1,6} This new nomenclature/classification system represents the combined efforts of international BAV experts including clinicians (both adult and pediatric), surgeons, interventionalists, pathologists, geneticists and imagers (echocardiography, CT and MR experts).¹

DEFINITION OF CONGENITAL BAV AND AORTIC ROOT COMPLEX

CONGENITAL BAV. The congenital BAV is most commonly diagnosed by base-of-the-heart, short-axis aortic valve imaging with TTE and gated cardiac computed tomography or cardiac magnetic resonance, demonstrating the existence of only 2 commissures delimiting only 2 valve cusps (Figure 2).^{2,26} On echocardiographic long-axis imaging, systolic doming of the conjoined cusp may be appreciated particularly

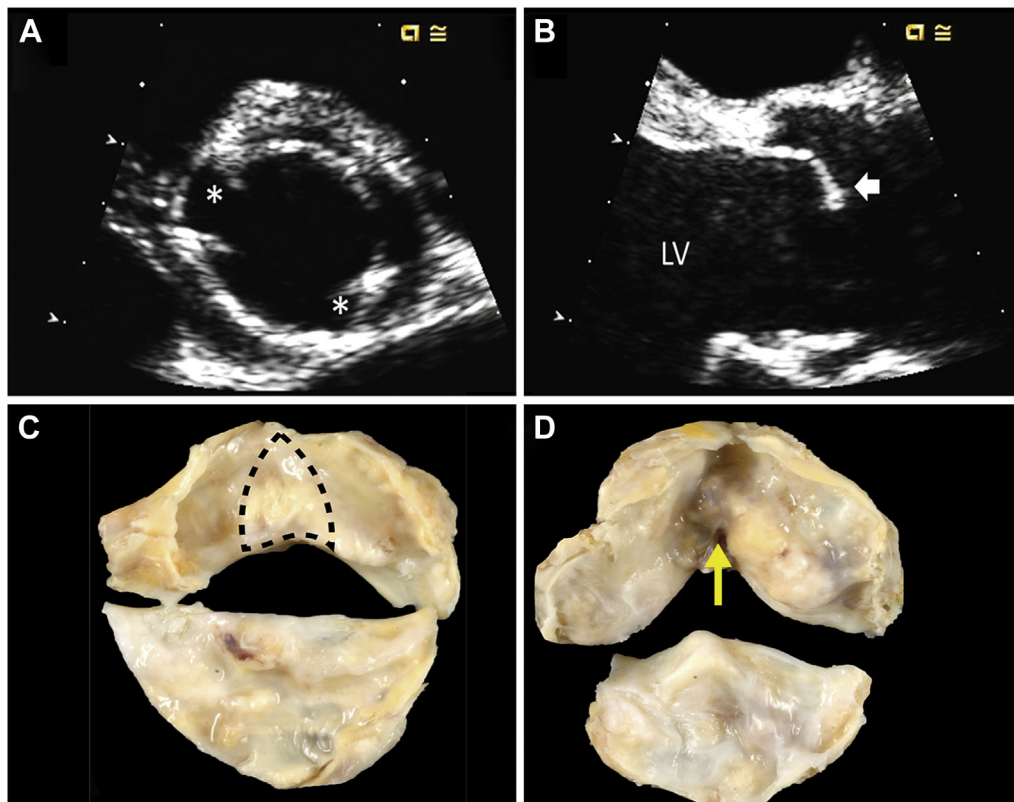


FIGURE 2 Diagnosis of congenital bicuspid aortic valve by transthoracic echocardiography and pathological manifestations. (A) Parasternal short-axis aortic valve systolic still image demonstrating the existence of only 2 commissures (asterisks) delimiting only 2 cusps. (B) Parasternal long-axis systolic still shows systolic doming of the fused (conjoined) cusp (arrow), common for right-left-coronary cusp fusion. (C) Pathological congenital bicuspid aortic valve specimen shows the area of the raphe (dashed line) from the left ventricular perspective, forming an obtuse angle between the fused cusps. (D) Ventricular side of a tricuspid aortic valve with acquired rheumatic fusion shows the cleavage plane with acute angle (yellow arrow). (LV, left ventricle.)

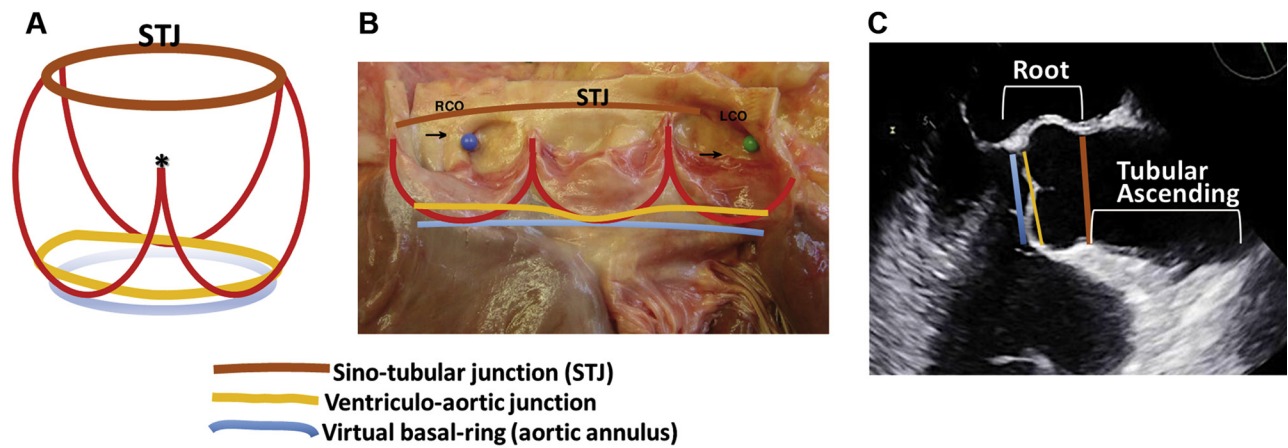


FIGURE 3 The aortic root complex. (A) Schematic drawing of the aortic root: the blue line indicates the virtual basal ring (aortic annulus); the yellow line depicts the ventriculo-aortic junction (whose non-planar nature is emphasized schematically)³⁰; the red lines show the crown-shaped attachments of the cusps to the wall of the aortic sinuses (note the different height of the underdeveloped commissure [asterisk] under the raphe compared to the other 2 true commissures); and the brown line depicts the sinotubular junction. (B) All the above boundaries and structures are shown (same colors as above) in an anatomical specimen of a normal aortic root and tricuspid aortic valve. (C) Echocardiographic view of the aortic root: the levels of the aortic annulus, ventriculo-aortic junction and sinotubular junction are shown (same colors as above). It is important to recognize that it is the measurement of the virtual annulus, sinuses and sinotubular junction that have clinical and practical implications for the patient with bicuspid aortic valve. (LCO, left-coronary orifice [green pin and arrow]; RCO, right coronary orifice [blue pin and arrow]; STJ, sinotubular junction.)

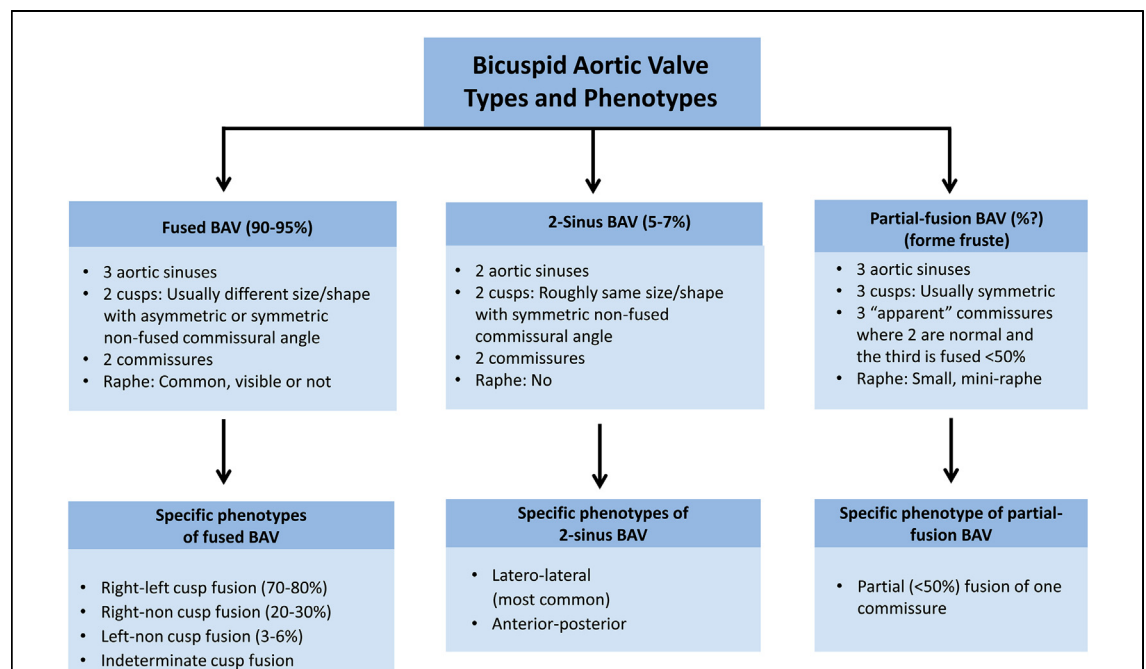
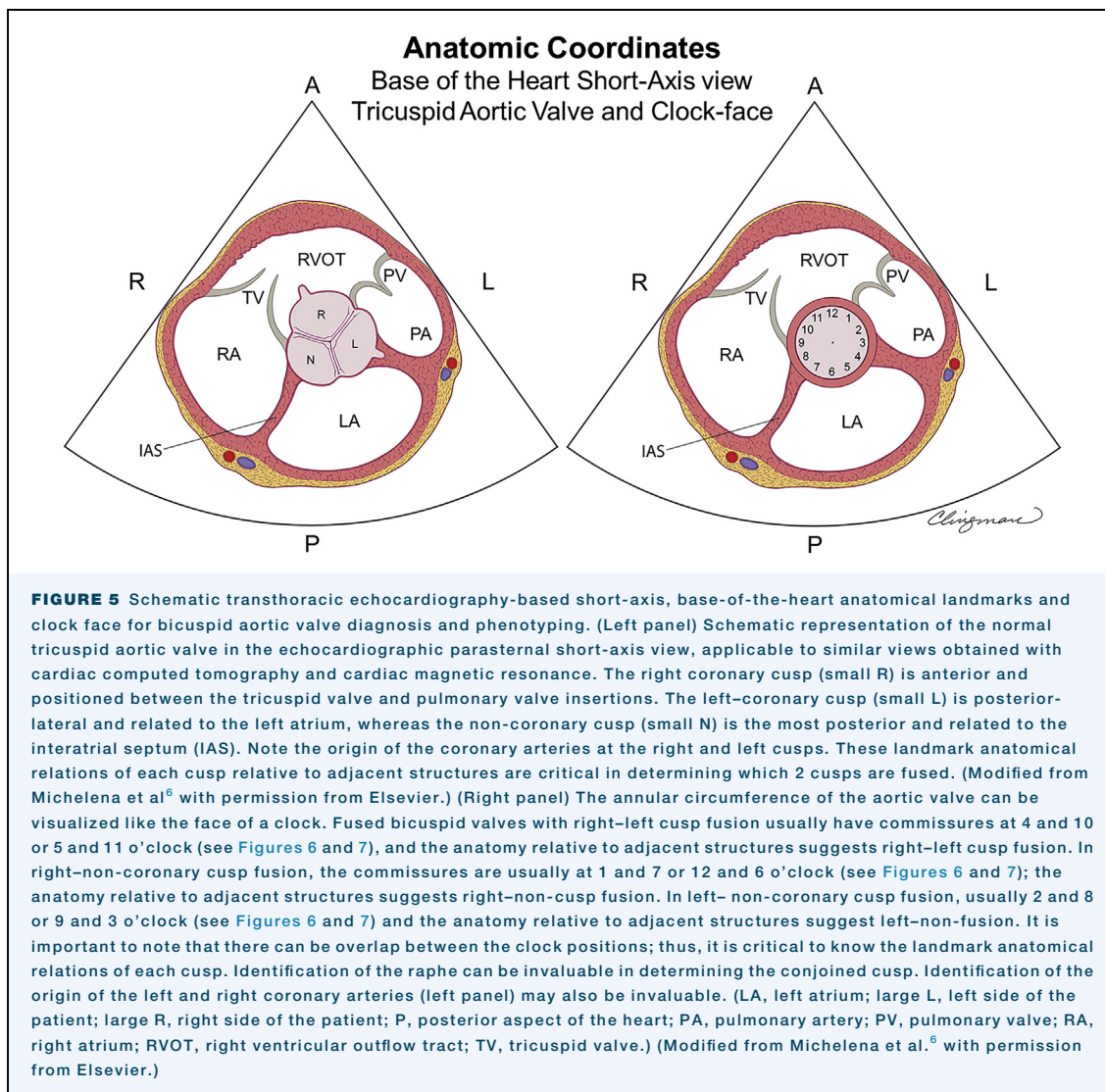


FIGURE 4 Types and specific phenotypes of the congenital bicuspid aortic valve. There are 3 major types of bicuspid aortic valves and each type has specific phenotypes: fused bicuspid aortic valve (right-left cusp fusion, right-non-cusp fusion, left-non-cusp fusion and indeterminate phenotypes); 2-sinus bicuspid aortic valve (laterolateral and anteroposterior phenotypes) and partial-fusion bicuspid aortic valve or forme fruste bicuspid aortic valve (small raphe, single phenotype). Symmetrical or asymmetrical refers to the angle of the commissures of the non-fused cusp (see Figure 9).

for right-left-coronary cusp fusion (Figure 2), but it is less reliable for identifying other BAV phenotypes. The diagnosis can also be made by direct surgical observation^{20,27} and by a pathological examination.²⁸ It is important to recognize that a tricuspid aortic valve that is calcified or rheumatic may present a pattern of acquired (non-congenital) fusion of 2 cusps that may be difficult to differentiate from congenital BAV; in these cases, surgical inspection and/or pathological examination may identify whether the fusion is congenital or not. In the operating room, although it is not always possible, the surgeon can define the congenital bicuspid condition by comparing the height of the ‘pseudocommissure’ (the attachment of the raphe [pseudocommissure] at the aortic wall), which is lower within the root compared to the height of the true commissures, whose attachment is higher

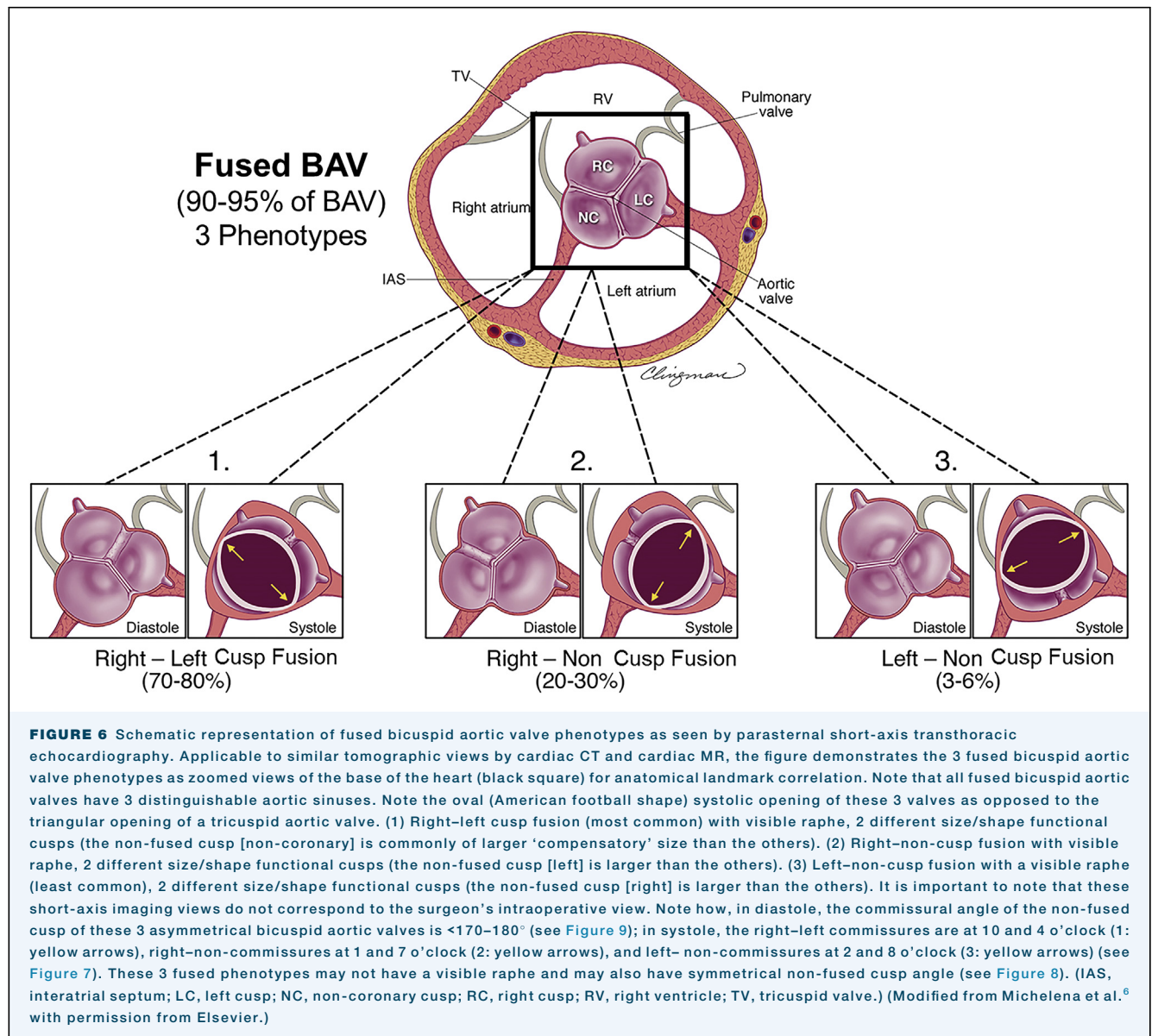
(Figure 3). Additional gross features can be used on surgical or pathological inspection, such as the angle formed between the fused cusps (obtuse = congenital fusion; acute = acquired fusion) and the cleavage plane on the ventricular aspect of the fused cusps (absent = congenital; present = acquired) (Figure 2).

AORTIC ROOT AND ROOT COMPLEX. Although ‘ascending aorta’ and ‘aortic root’ are sometimes used interchangeably to indicate the entire vascular segment from the aortic valve to the brachiocephalic artery take-off (beginning of the arch), the term aortic root correctly refers only to the most proximal part of the ascending thoracic aorta, from the distal end of the left ventricular outflow tract to the sinotubular junction (STJ), formed by the sinuses of Valsalva and containing the aortic valve²⁹ (Figure 3). The anatomy and



physiology of the aortic root complex and its interaction with the valve have been thoroughly investigated as contemporary techniques for aortic valve repair have been introduced and more widely adopted.^{30,31} Functionally, and particularly in relation to the competency of the BAV and surgical repair, 3 elements form the aortic root complex and cooperate in determining physiological valve dynamics³²: (i) the STJ, (ii) the aortic sinuses with the crown-like attachment line of the aortic valve cusps to the aortic wall at the aortic sinuses (which, as mentioned, assumes a peculiar form in the fused BAV, with 1 of the 3 'crown tips' corresponding to the under-the-raphe pseudocommissure, reaching a lower height than the other 2) (Figure 3) and (iii) the aortic annulus,

which is a virtual circular line inside the left ventricular outflow tract, running through the nadir of the aortic cusps and the bases of the respective inter-cusp triangles (Figure 3). The aortic annulus is a virtual surrogate for the ventriculo-aortic junction, which is the real boundary of the aortic root complex, identified anatomically as the transition from the ventricular muscle to the aortic media and located circumferentially slightly above the nadir of the aortic cusps, crossing the semilunar lines of each cusp's attachment (Figure 3). However, for both surgical and imaging purposes, the virtual aortic annulus is the practical and clinically used anatomical landmark that constitutes the 3rd component of the root complex, as described above. The aortic root complex, particularly



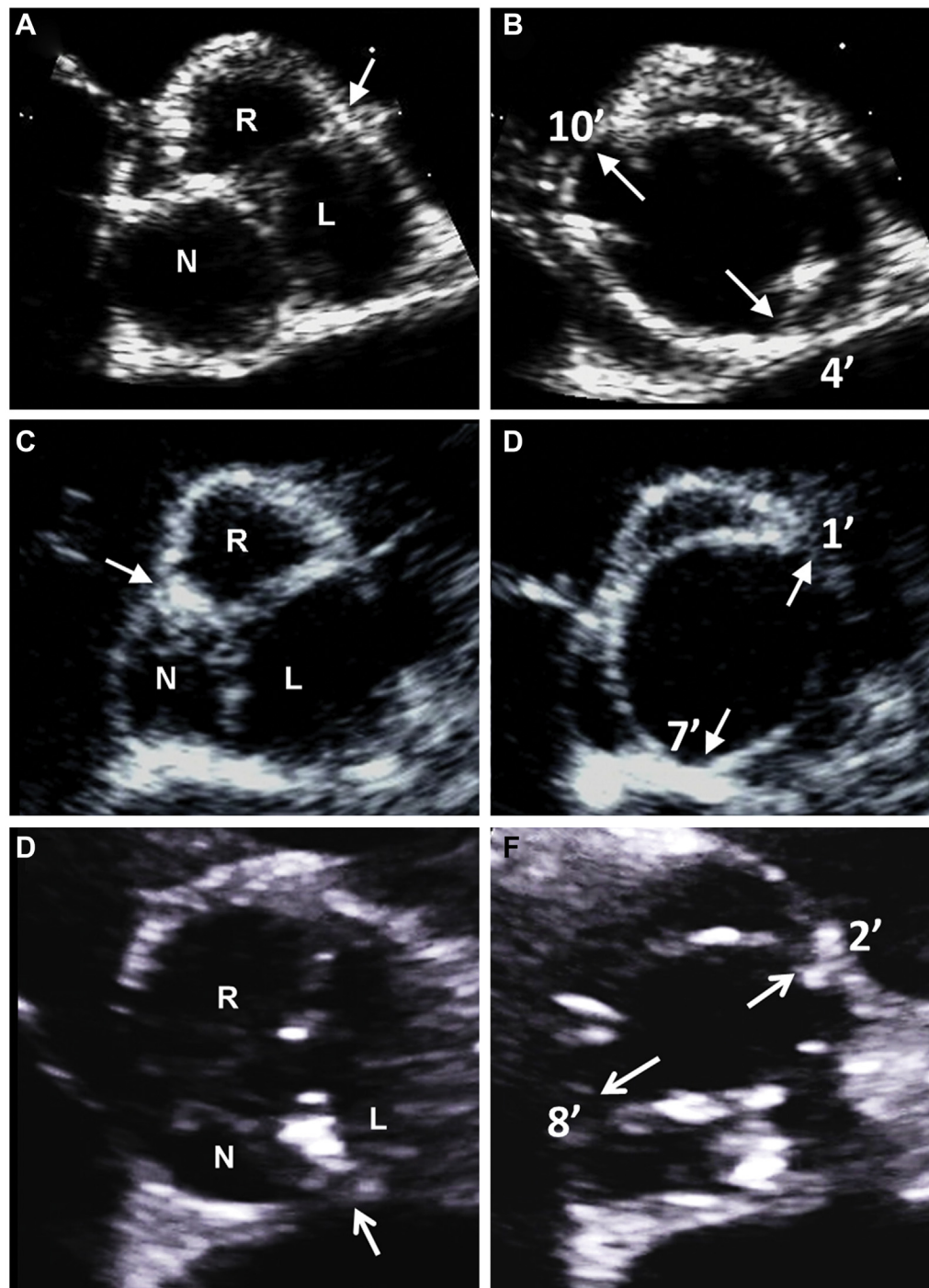


FIGURE 7 Diastolic and systolic transthoracic echocardiography parasternal short-axis still images of the 3 phenotypes of fused bicuspid aortic valve. Applicable to similar tomographic views obtained with cardiac CT and cardiac MR. (A) Right-left cusp fusion bicuspid aortic valve within 3 distinguishable aortic sinuses, with raphe (arrow) in diastole and (B) typical systolic opening with commissures marked as the clock face (arrows). (C) Right-non-cusp fusion bicuspid aortic valve within 3 distinguishable aortic sinuses, with raphe (arrow) in diastole and (D) typical systolic opening with commissures marked as the clock face (arrows). (E) Left-non-cusp fusion bicuspid aortic valve within 3 distinguishable aortic sinuses, with raphe (arrow) in diastole and (F) typical systolic opening with commissures marked as the clock face (arrows). (Modified from Michelena et al.¹¹ with permission from Elsevier.)

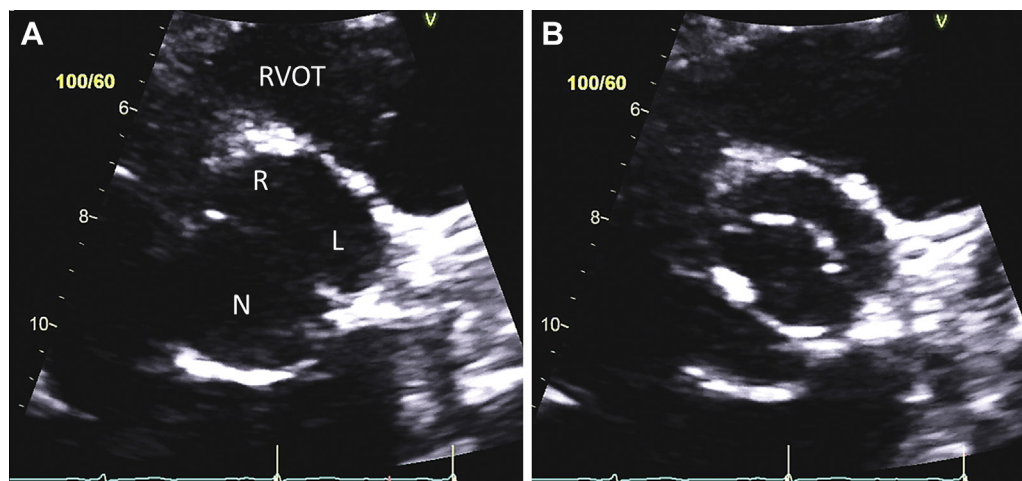


FIGURE 8 Fused-type right–left cusp fusion without visible raphe and symmetrical non-fused cusp commissural angle. (A) Diastolic transthoracic echocardiography short-axis still frame shows right–left cusp fusion without visible raphe (uncommon) and 180° angle of the non-fused cusp commissures (see Figure 9), yet the sizes and shapes of the 2 functional cusps are different, the conjoined cusp is smaller than the predominant non-fused non-coronary cusp (N) and there are 3 aortic sinuses. (B) Systolic transthoracic echocardiography short-axis still frame confirms the absence of a visible raphe and the 180° commissural angle. (L, left-coronary cusp; R, right coronary cusp; RVOT, right ventricular outflow tract.)

Symmetry of Fused BAV

Commissural Angle of the Non-fused Cusp

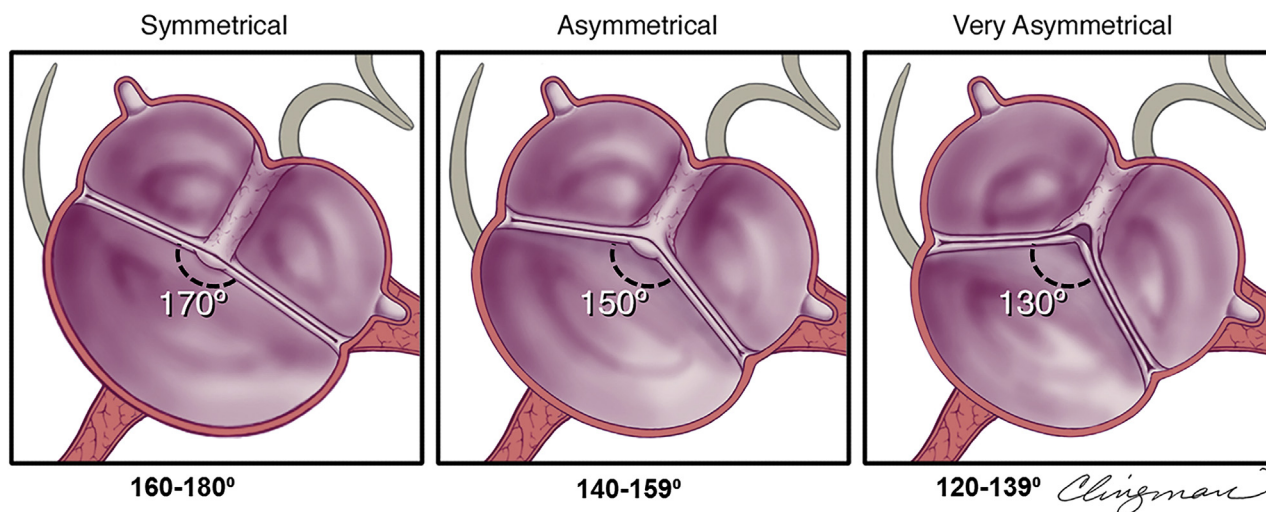


FIGURE 9 Schematic representation of the transthoracic echocardiographic evaluation of fused bicuspid aortic valve symmetry in the parasternal short axis. Applicable to similar tomographic views obtained from cardiac CT and cardiac MR, the figure demonstrates different commissural angles of the non-fused cusps (applicable to the 3 fused bicuspid aortic valve phenotypes, although only right–left cusp fusion is shown) that define symmetry. (Left panel) Symmetrical (angle 160–180°) right–left cusp fusion bicuspid aortic valve with raphe, where the 2 functional cusps are almost the same size/shape (the non-fused cusp is a little larger) and the commissural angle of the non-fused cusp is about 170°. (Middle panel) Asymmetrical (angle 140–159°) right–left fusion bicuspid aortic valve with a raphe, and the commissural angle of the non-fused cusp is about 150°. (Right panel) Very asymmetrical (angle 120–139°) right–left fusion bicuspid aortic valve shows retraction of the conjoined cusp at the raphe area and the commissural angle of the non-fused cusp is about 130°. Note that retraction is more prominent as the angle decreases and that this may cause aortic regurgitation. (Modified from Michelena et al.⁶ with permission from Elsevier.)

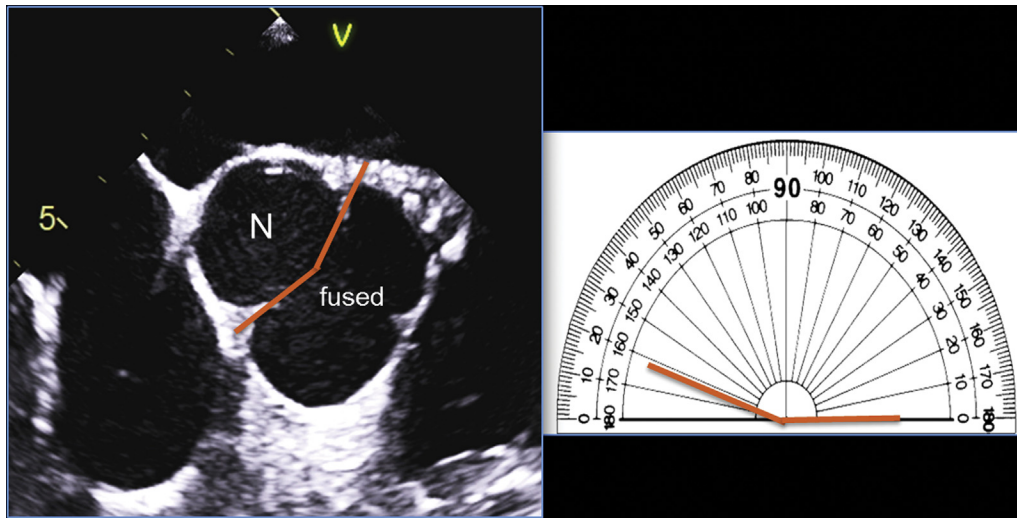


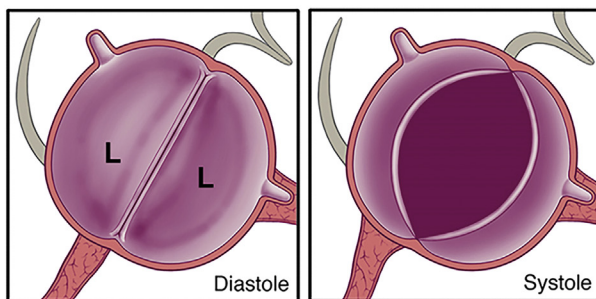
FIGURE 10 Transesophageal echocardiographic measurement of the commissural angle of the non-fused cusp prior to valve repair. Applicable to similar tomographic views obtained using cardiac CT and cardiac MR, after careful visualization of the systolic and diastolic motion of this regurgitant fused-type right-left cusp fusion bicuspid aortic valve, the non-fused commissures are identified, and a line is drawn from the position of the commissures to the center of the valve in diastole (left). The angle of the non-fused cusp (N) is then carefully measured at approximately 162° on the protractor to the right, suggesting a good chance for successful repair. (Modified from Michelena et al.¹¹ with permission from Elsevier.)

2-Sinus BAV (5-7% of BAV) 2 Phenotypes

1.

2.A

2.B



Latero-lateral
(most common)

Anteroposterior
(least common)

FIGURE 11 Schematic representation of the 2-sinus bicuspid aortic valve phenotypes as seen by the transthoracic echocardiogram parasternal short axis. Applicable to similar tomographic views obtained from cardiac CT and cardiac MR, the figure demonstrates 2-sinus bicuspid aortic valve phenotypes as zoomed views of the base of the heart for anatomical landmark correlation. (Left panels) (1) 2-sinus laterolateral bicuspid aortic valve with only 2 distinguishable aortic sinuses in diastole and 2 cusps of roughly same size and shape, each occupying 180° of the circumference, with a 180° angle of the commissures. Note that although it is possible to suspect right-non-fusion, the landmark anatomical relations are not clear because both the geographic 'left' and 'non-coronary' cusps occupy portions of the normal geographical location of the 'non-coronary' cusp, and the posterior commissural line is almost aligned with the interatrial septum, bisecting the geographical location of the normal non-coronary cusp (Figures 5 and 12). The 2-sinus bicuspid aortic valve laterolateral phenotype has 1 coronary artery arising from each sinus. (Right panels) (2A) a 2-sinus anteroposterior bicuspid aortic valve with only 2 distinguishable aortic sinuses in diastole and 2 cusps of roughly same size and shape each occupying 180° of the circumference, with a 180° angle of the commissures. Note that although it is possible to suspect right-left fusion, but the landmark anatomical relations are not clear because the commissural line actually bisects the normal geographical location of the left cusp, such that both anterior and posterior functional cusps appear to have a 'piece' of the left cusp (see Figures 5 and 12). (2B) A 2-sinus anteroposterior bicuspid aortic valve that resembles a fused right-left fusion but without a raphe, with only 2 distinguishable aortic sinuses in diastole and 2 same size/shape cusps each occupying 180° of the circumference. The 2-sinus anteroposterior bicuspid aortic valve may have coronary arteries arising from each cusp (2A) or from the anterior cusp (2B). (Modified from Michelena et al.⁶ with permission from Elsevier.)

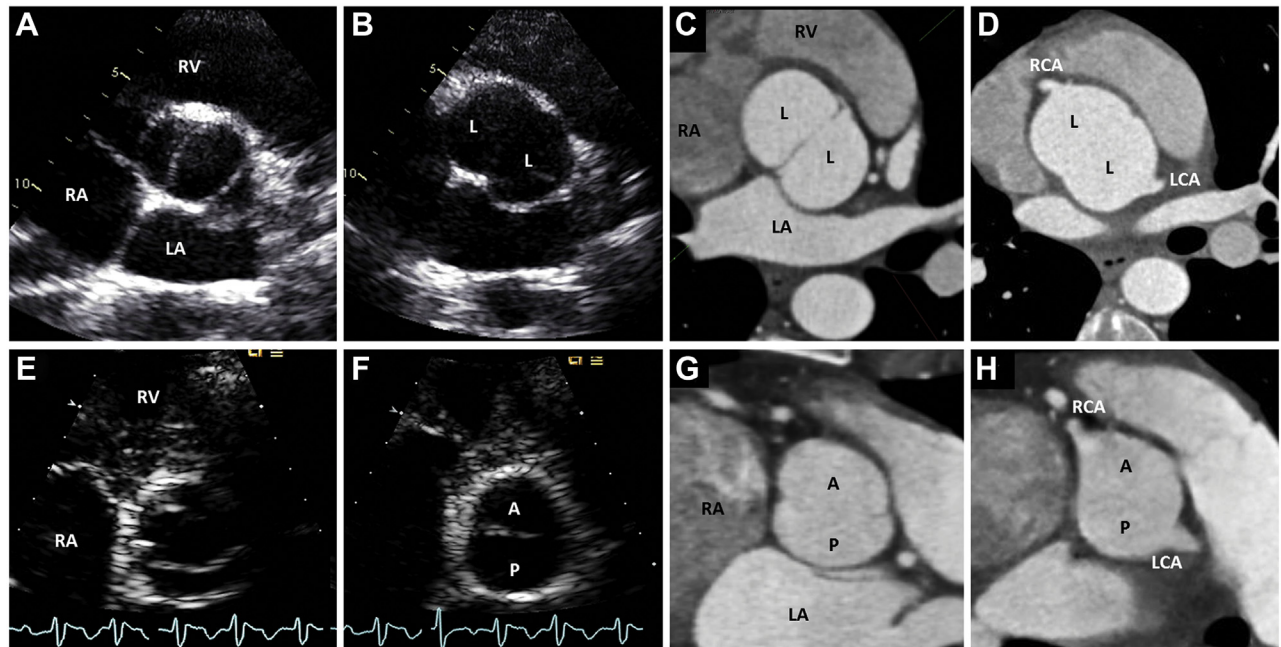


FIGURE 12 Diastolic and systolic short-axis still images of the 2-sinus bicuspid aortic valve phenotypes obtained from transthoracic echocardiographic and diastolic still images from electrocardiographic-gated cardiac CT. (A) A 2-sinus laterolateral bicuspid aortic valve in systole, with the commissural line bisecting the normal geographic position of the non-coronary cusp (B and C), with only 2 distinguishable aortic sinuses in diastole (B), and roughly equal size/shape cusps occupying 180° of the circumference, reproducible on an equivalent tomography cut as seen with cardiac CT (C). Note the coronary arteries arising, 1 from each cusp (D). (E) A 2-sinus anteroposterior bicuspid aortic valve in systole, with the commissural line bisecting the left-coronary cusp geographic position (F) (diastolic still frame), with only 2 distinguishable aortic sinuses and roughly equal size/shape cusps occupying 180° of the circumference, reproducible on an equivalent tomographic cut as seen with cardiac CT (G). Note the coronary arteries arising, 1 from each cusp in this particular example (H). (A, anterior cusp; L, lateral cusp; LA, left atrium; RCA, right coronary artery; P, posterior cusp; RA, right atrium; RV, right ventricle; RCA, right coronary artery.)

the size of the aortic annulus and the STJ, is indispensable in the maintenance of sufficient diastolic cusp coaptation area to prevent the progression of aortic regurgitation³³ and its recurrence after surgery.³⁴ Therefore, the aortic root complex is the anatomical scaffold that maintains BAV competency, with the BAV cusps acting as a stentless valve and the root complex as its native stent.³²

The tract of the proximal aorta, spanning from the STJ to the brachiocephalic artery take-off, should be referred to as the tubular ascending aorta or ascending aorta. The subsequent tract, from the brachiocephalic artery to the isthmus (the physiological narrowing just distal to the left subclavian artery origin), is called the aortic arch.

CONSENSUS ON BAV NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION FOR CLINICAL, SURGICAL, INTERVENTIONAL AND RESEARCH PURPOSES

BAV TYPES AND SPECIFIC PHENOTYPES. There are 3 BAV types: the fused BAV, the 2-sinus BAV and the partial-

fusion BAV, each with specific phenotypes^{1,6} (Figure 4).

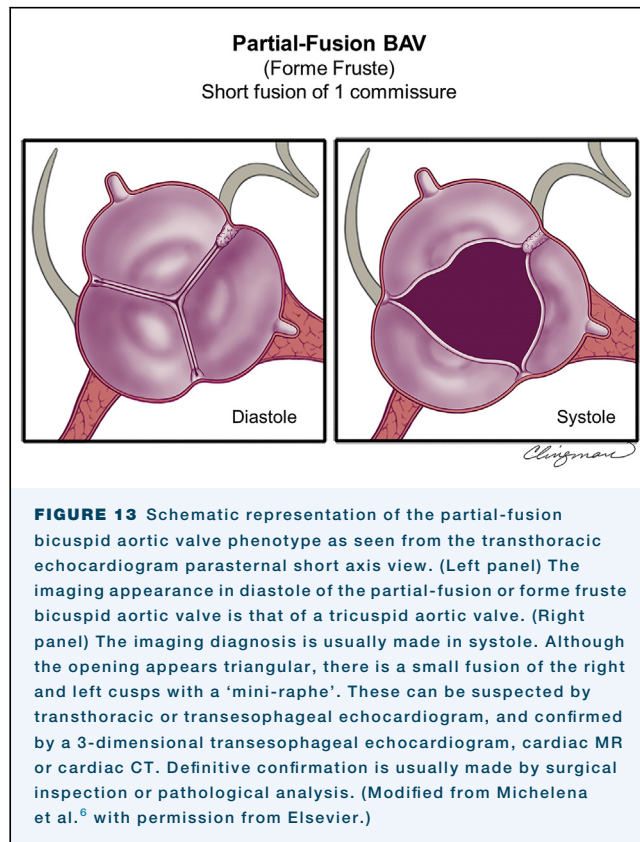
The fused BAV type. The fused BAV type is the most common (Figures 5 and 6), accounting for 90–95% of BAV cases^{2,28}. The fused BAV is characterized by 2 of the 3 cusps appearing fused or joined within 3 distinguishable aortic sinuses, resulting in 2 functional cusps (1 fused or conjoined and the other non-fused) that are usually different in size and shape (Figures 6–8), with non-fused cusp commissural angles of varying degrees (Figure 9). Commonly, patients with a fused BAV demonstrate eccentric dominance of the non-fused aortic sinus and its cusp (compared to the other 2 sinuses and 2 fused cusps), irrespective of age³⁵ (Figures 6 and 7). Frequently (70%) but not always (Figure 8), a congenital fibrous ridge occurs between the fused cusps, termed ‘raphe’^{28,36}. The presence of a raphe has been associated with the progression of valvular dysfunction (particularly AS) and future valvular surgery.^{26,36,37} A raphe may be present but not initially visible on the echocardiogram and may become visible years later.³⁸

There are 3 specific BAV phenotypes within the fused type: right-left cusp fusion, right-non (non-coronary)-cusp fusion and left-non-cusp fusion (Figures 4, 6 and 7). The right-left cusp fusion phenotype is the most common (70–80%).^{2,28,39} The right-left cusp fusion phenotype is also the most common across all variations of aortic phenotypes (normal aorta, dilated ascending aorta, dilated root, dilated arch) and across valve dysfunction (regurgitation or stenosis). Although this right-left fusion phenotype statistically develops more AS², it has been associated in some patients^{40,41} with aortic root dilatation, aortic regurgitation and male preponderance (these associations have been termed the ‘root phenotype’).^{38,39} The right-left cusp fusion is also strongly associated with aortic coarctation in children.⁴²

The right-non-cusp fusion phenotype is the next most common (20–30%). It is associated with a higher prevalence of AS in adults³⁷ and also independently predicts aortic regurgitation progression in adults.³³ Similarly, the right-non-cusp fusion phenotype is associated with a more rapid progression of AS and regurgitation in children and adolescents.^{42,43} The left-non-cusp fusion phenotype is the least common phenotype (3–6%) across studies.

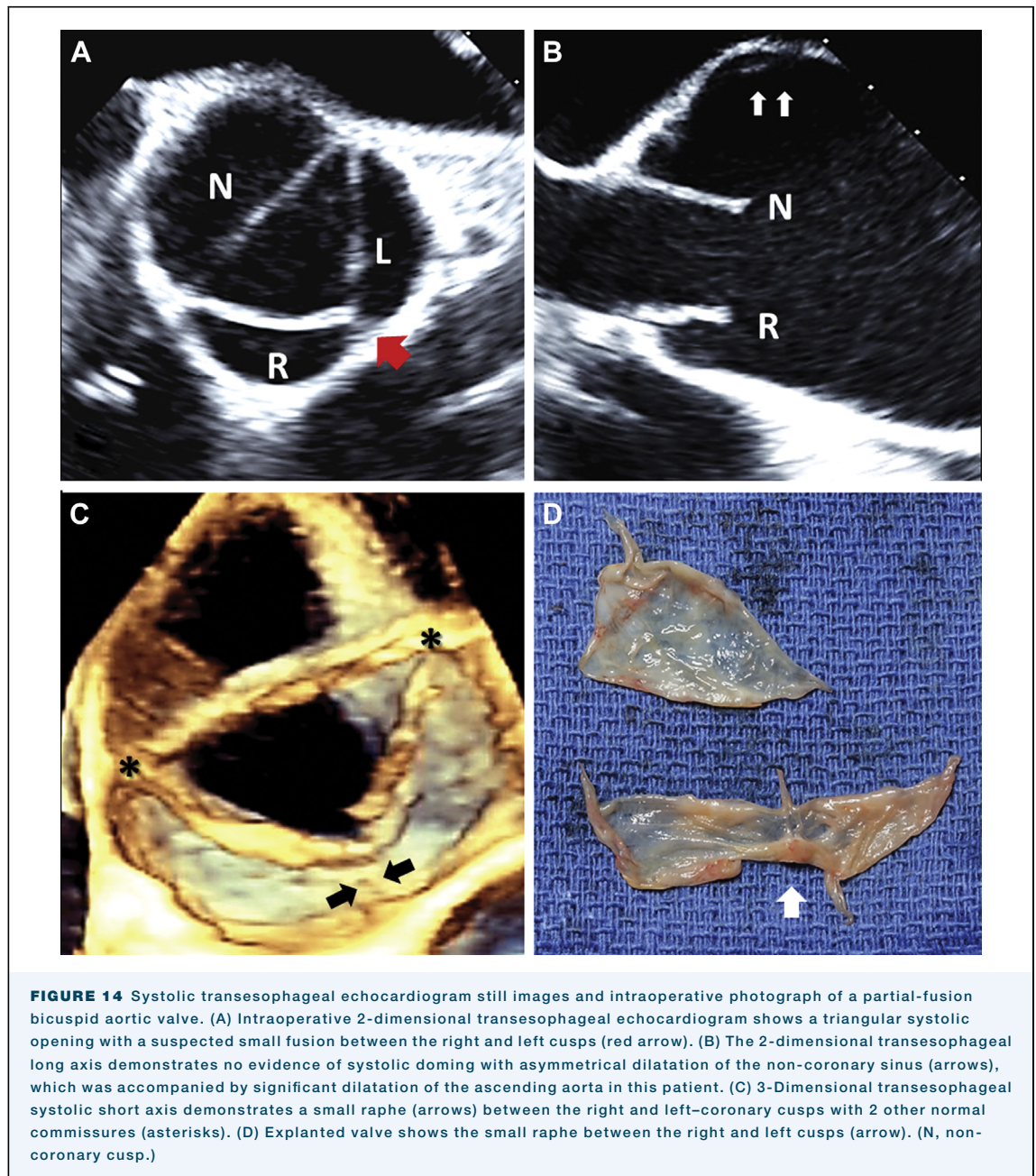
Referring to the fused phenotypes as BAV with right-left cusp fusion, right-non-cusp fusion or left-non-cusp fusion is appropriate. Occasionally, it is possible to recognize a fused BAV but not to be able to discern the fusion phenotype, in which case BAV with indeterminate cusp fusion is appropriate (Figure 4). It is important to recognize that some fused BAVs may not have a congenital raphe²⁸ or may have a raphe that is not visible via imaging³⁸, yet they have 3 distinguishable aortic sinuses, and the 2 fused cusps can usually be identified (Figure 8).

BAV symmetry for the fused BAV type is defined by the angle between the commissures of the non-fused cusp and has recently become a critical aspect in the planning and performance of BAV repair for pure aortic regurgitation.^{6,20,44} From a regurgitation-treatment perspective, the BAV ‘concept’ offers a single-line coaptation surface (a tricuspid aortic valve has 3 coaptation lines; Figure 5, left); as long as that single coaptation line is straight or almost straight (Figures 8 and 9—symmetrical), the repair of the regurgitant BAV is reproducible. As the angle between the commissures of the non-fused cusp decreases <160°⁴⁴, the BAV becomes less symmetrical, resembling more a tricuspid (especially <140°) valve (Figure 9, very asymmetrical), which becomes technically more challenging for the surgeon to ‘bicuspidize’ during the repair, yet remains repairable in experienced hands. Asymmetrical valves may exhibit retraction of the free edge of the fused cusp at the



raphe level, which is best appreciated by direct surgical visualization (Figures 2 and 9) or gross pathological inspection and not reliably by imaging. This retraction may contribute to valve regurgitation. Measuring the commissural angle of the non-fused cusp with transesophageal echocardiography before cardiopulmonary bypass aids the surgeon in planning the repair (Figure 10). Therefore, the symmetry of a fused-type BAV is defined by the angle between the commissures of the non-fused cusp.

The 2-sinus BAV type. The 2-sinus BAV type is uncommon, accounting for 5–7% of BAV cases.^{2,6,28} In contrast to the fused type, the appearance of the 2-sinus BAV does not suggest that 2 of the 3 cusps have fused; instead, it suggests that 2 cusps of roughly equal size and shape, each cusp occupying 180° of the annular circumference, were ‘formed’ within only 2 aortic sinuses, resulting in a 2-sinus/2-cusp valve (Figures 11 and 12) with 180° commissural angles. It is difficult to determine which 2 cusps could have coalesced to form a 2-sinus BAV, but it is usually evident whether the cusps are laterolateral (side-to-side) or anteroposterior (front and back) within the short-axis base-of-the-heart plane (Figures 11 and 12); thus, these are 2 specific phenotypes of the 2-sinus BAV category. The 2-sinus laterolateral



BAV has 1 coronary artery arising from each cusp, whereas the an-teroposterior BAV may have 1 coronary artery arising from each cusp or both coronary arteries arising from the anterior cusp (Figures 11 and 12). The 2-sinus BAV likely represents a more severe expression of the embryological mechanisms leading to the fused BAV. Referring to these phenotypes as 2-sinus latero-lateral BAV and 2-sinus anteroposterior BAV is appropriate. Occasionally, despite suspicion, it may be difficult to be certain whether there are only 2 sinuses, in which case, terms such as possible or probable 2-sinus BAV may be used. There is a lack of scientific

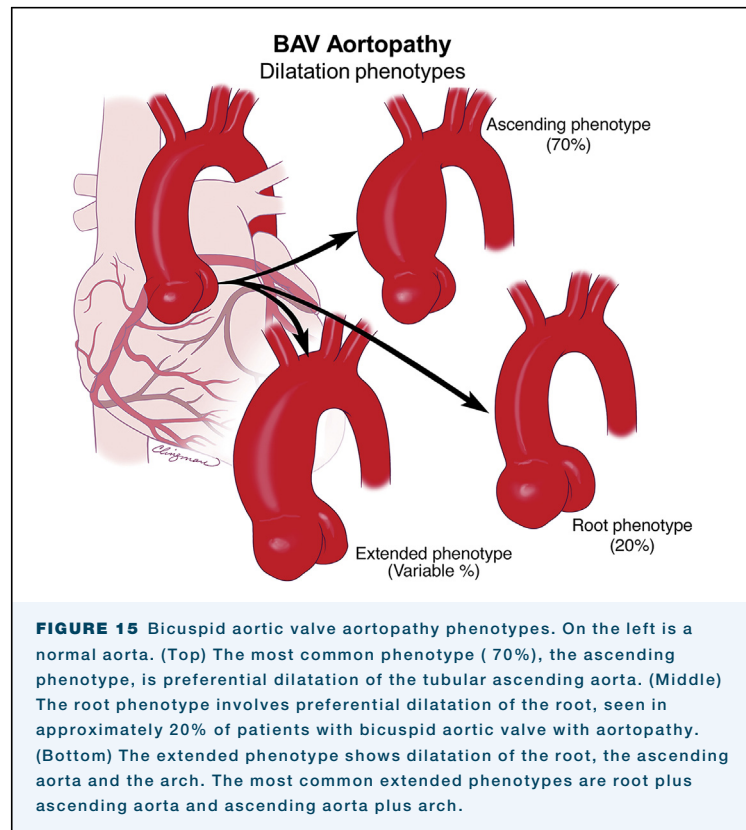
data on the clinical/prognostic associations of the 2-sinus BAV, which represents a ‘morphologically severe’ form of BAV. Therefore, we hope that, through this nomenclature/classification system, the research community directs more attention towards this BAV type.

The partial-fusion BAV (or forme fruste BAV) type. The prevalence of this recently recognized partial-fusion BAV (or forme fruste BAV) is unknown⁴⁵ (Figure 13). The appearance of the partial-fusion BAV is that of a typical tricuspid aortic valve with 3 sinuses and 3 symmetrical cusps with a systolic triangular opening and commissural

angles of 120°, yet on surgical inspection or high-resolution imaging, <50% cusp fusion is noted at the base of a commissure, forming a small ‘mini-raphé’.^{6,45-47} It is important to recognize and further study the partial-fusion BAV, which has been described most frequently in the operating room in patients undergoing surgery for aortic dilatation⁴⁵ (Figure 14).⁴⁷ This forme fruste BAV results in alteration of aortic flow patterns, consisting of increased flow eccentricity and increased vortices⁴⁶, perhaps partially explaining the apparent high prevalence of aortic dilatation in these patients. Referring to this phenotype as partial-fusion BAV or forme fruste BAV is appropriate, as is noting between which cusps the fusion occurs: right-left, right-non and so forth.

DEFINITION OF AORTIC DILATATION AND BAV AORTOPATHY. Definition of aortic dilatation. The definition of ‘aortic aneurysm’⁴⁸ is rarely applied in clinical practice, and the term aneurysm carries a sombre or dismal connotation for patients. Therefore, we propose a simple, universal term: aortic dilatation. Qualitative descriptive terms, such as saccular or fusiform dilatation or STJ effacement, may be important for aorta specialists and surgeons. A full discussion on aortic dilatation in patients with BAV is presented in the full document.¹

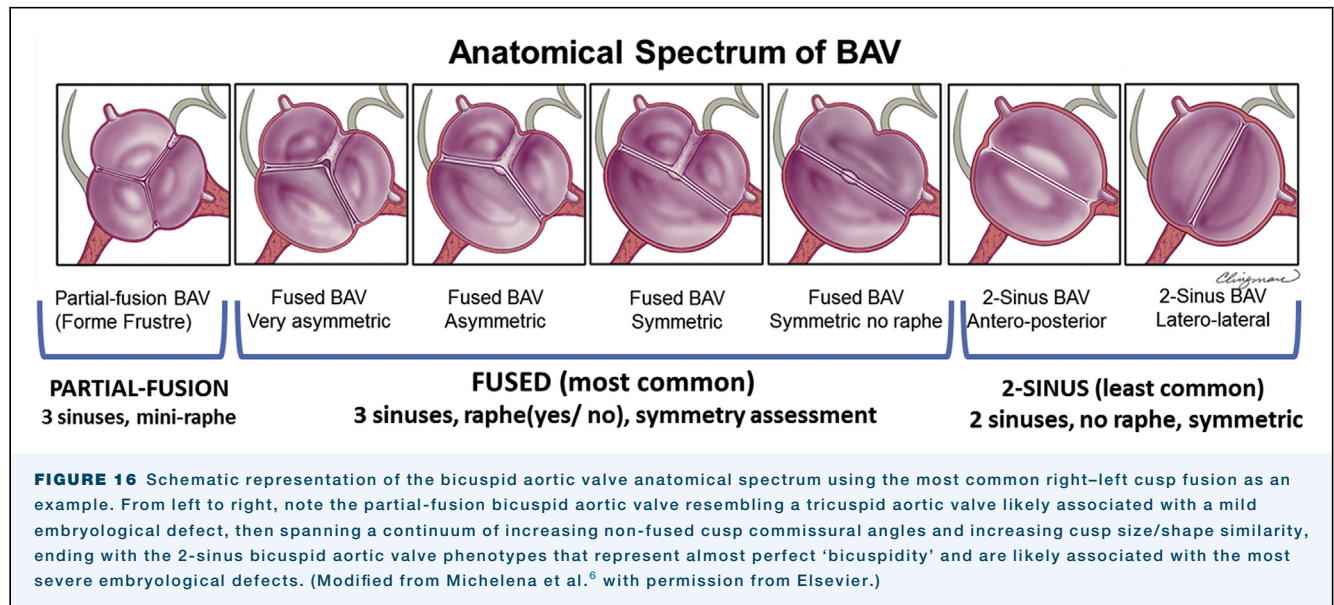
BAV aortopathic phenotypes. The importance of recognizing BAV aortopathic phenotypes is that their presence and association with specific valvular phenotypes and dysfunction patterns may imply different clinical histories for a patient with BAV.⁴⁹ There are 2 major forms of aortic dilatation BAV phenotypes: (i) the ascending phenotype (dilatation preferentially located at the tubular ascending tract beyond the STJ) (Figure 15), accounting for ~70% of BAV aortopathy cases, and (ii) the root phenotype (dilatation preferentially located at the root [sinuses of Valsalva]) accounting for ~20% of BAV aortopathy cases (Figure 15).^{6,40,41,50} Importantly, the root phenotype may have mild ascending dilatation but significantly prevails at the root, and the ascending phenotype may have mild root dilatation but significantly prevails at the ascending portion. In addition, these 2 categories often correspond to 2 clearly distinct overall patient phenotypes: roughly, the older patient with BAV, either male or female, presenting more often with aortic valve sclerosis/stenosis (ascending phenotype) with fused-type right-non fusion, and the younger patient with BAV, usually male, presenting with aortic regurgitation of degrees ranging from mild to severe (root phenotype) with fused-type left-right fusion.^{40,51,52} However, those associations are not unequivocal, and the right-left cusp fusion BAV can be associated with either aortic phenotype.⁵² The root phenotype has been associated with greater rates of acute aortic dissection in the postoperative



follow-up of patients with BAV who had undergone simple aortic valve replacement compared to the ascending phenotype.⁵³

Notably, in some cases, the dilation of the aorta does not significantly prevail at 1 segment. In a proportion of these cases, a localized dilatation at first observation can evolve during follow-up, with possible dilatation of previously normal adjacent segments of the aorta. In this scenario, the ascending phenotype can present, especially if a right-non-cusp fusion valve is present, with associated dilatation of the aortic arch; it is appropriate to refer to this condition as ascending phenotype extended. Similarly, the root phenotype has been demonstrated to be independently associated with faster growth of the ascending tubular tract, so that cases of ‘cross-over’ from an initial root phenotype configuration to significant dilatation of both tracts have been observed (Figure 15); root phenotype extended would be the appropriate definition of this form. In the context of a root phenotype, the presence and progression of effacement of the STJ may be an initial sign of this kind of evolution.

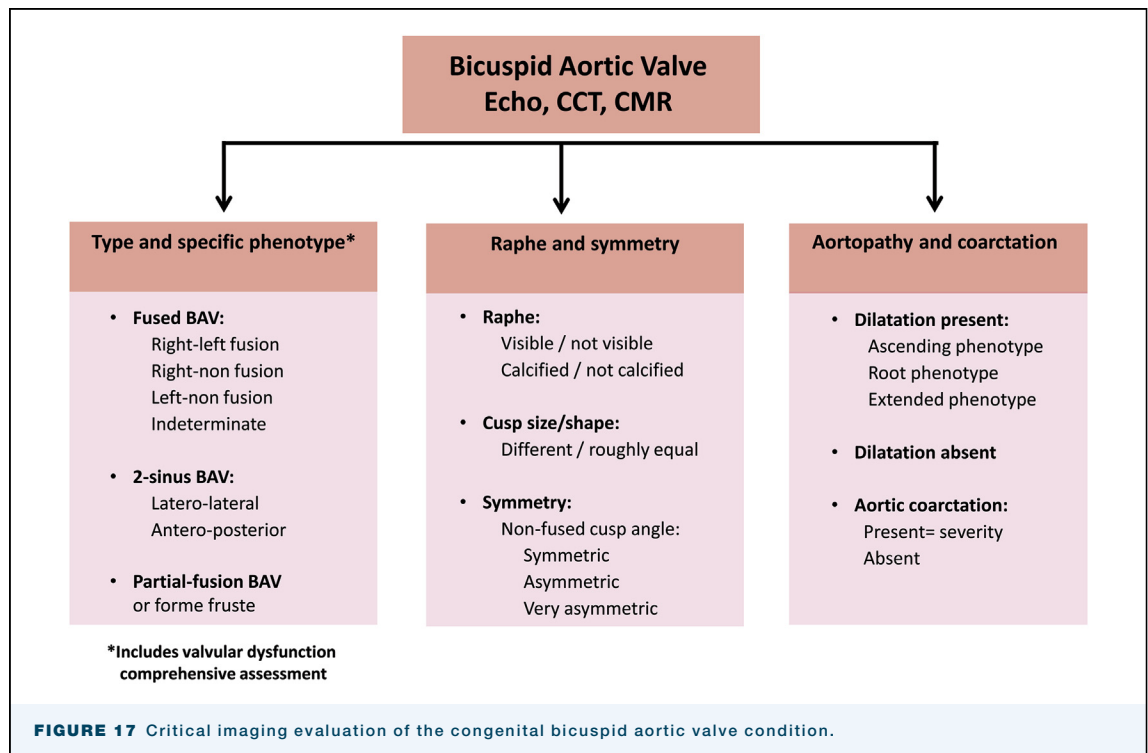
SUMMARY. The BAV phenotypic expression represents an anatomical continuum that is likely related to the severity of its embryological mechanisms. Therefore,



we propose a general BAV anatomical spectrum (Figure 16) of BAV phenotypes in order of 'bicuspidity', defined as resemblance to a 2-sinus BAV. This spectrum represents a continuum of increasing non-fused cusp commissural angles and increasing similarity of cusp size and shape.

Based on the new nomenclature and classification consensus, Figure 17 presents a simple algorithm of the

critical imaging evaluation for BAV valvulo-aortopathy. Three critical anatomic aspects to be described in all patients with BAVs are (i) the type and specific phenotype of the BAV and valve function; (ii) the presence and characteristics of the raphe and the cusp size/shape and symmetry of the BAV; and (iii) the presence and phenotype of aortopathy (aortic dilatation) and whether or not coarctation is present.



The authors wish to thank Carl Clingman, Senior Medical Illustrator, Biomedical & Scientific Visualization, Mayo Clinic, for his illustrations.

Conflict of interest: Victoria Delgado: discloses a financial relationship with Abbott Vascular, Edwards Lifesciences, GE Healthcare, MSD, Medtronic, and Novartis. Emmanuel Lansac: patent Extra Aortic ring annuloplasty device with Coroneo Inc. Philippe Pibarot: funding from Edwards Lifesciences and Medtronic for echocardiography core laboratory services with no personal compensation. Michael A. Borger: discloses a financial relationship with Edwards Lifesciences, Medtronic, Abbott, and CryoLife. John K. Forrest: grant support and consultant to: Edwards Lifesciences, Medtronic Inc. John Webb: consultant to: Edwards Lifesciences, Abbott, Boston Scientific. Martin B. Leon: institutional clinical research grants from Abbott, BSC, Edwards and Medtronic. Michael Markl: research support—Siemens Healthineers, Research Grant—Circle

Cardiovascular Imaging, Consulting—Circle Cardiovascular Imaging, Research Grant—CryoLife Inc. Victor A. Ferrari: Senior Advisory Board, *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance*. Philipp Blanke: consultant for Edwards Lifesciences and Circle Cardiovascular Imaging; and provides CT core lab services for Edwards Lifesciences, Medtronic, Neovasc, and Tendyne Holdings, for which he receives no direct compensation. Ruggero De Paulis: patent on aortic root graft with Terumo Aortic. Consultant for Edwards Lifesciences, Medtronic, and Terumo Aortic. Maurice Enriquez-Sarano: consulting fees from Edwards LLC, CryoLife, and ChemImage. The Department of Cardiology of the LUMC received unrestricted research grants from Abbott Vascular, Bayer, Biotronik, Bioventrix, Boston Scientific, Edwards Lifesciences, GE Healthcare, and Medtronic. The other authors report no conflict of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Michelena HI. International consensus statement on nomenclature and classification of the congenital bicuspid aortic valve and its aortopathy, for clinical, surgical, interventional and research purposes. *Ann Thorac Surg*. 2021; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsurg.2020.08.119>.
2. Michelena HI, Prakash SK, Della Corte A, Bissell MM, Anavekar N, Mathieu P, et al. Bicuspid aortic valve: identifying knowledge gaps and rising to the challenge from the International Bicuspid Aortic Valve Consortium (BAVCon). *Circulation*. 2014;129:2691-2704.
3. Michelena HI, Suri RM, Katan O, Eleid MF, Clavel MA, Maurer MJ, et al. Sex differences and survival in adults with bicuspid aortic valves: verification in 3 contemporary echocardiographic cohorts. *J Am Heart Assoc*. 2016;5:e004211.
4. Roberts WC. The congenitally bicuspid aortic valve. A study of 85 autopsies. *Am J Cardiol*. 1970;26:72-83.
5. Michelena HI, Vallabhajosyula S, Prakash SK. Nosology spectrum of the bicuspid aortic valve condition: complex-presentation valvulo-aortopathy. *Circulation*. 2020;142:294-299.
6. Michelena HI, Della Corte A, Evangelista A, Maleszewski JJ, Enriquez-Sarano M, Bax JJ, et al. Speaking a common language: introduction to a standard terminology for the bicuspid aortic valve and its aortopathy. *Prog Cardiovasc Dis*. 2020;63:419-424.
7. Niaz T, Poterucha JT, Johnson JN, Craviari C, Nienaber T, Palfreeman J, et al. Incidence, morphology, and progression of bicuspid aortic valve in pediatric and young adult subjects with coexisting congenital heart defects. *Congenit Heart Dis*. 2017;12:261-269.
8. Niaz T, Poterucha JT, Olson TM, Johnson JN, Craviari C, Nienaber T, et al. Characteristic morphologies of the bicuspid aortic valve in patients with genetic syndromes. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr*. 2018;31:194-200.
9. Michelena HI, Khanna AD, Mahoney D, Margaryan E, Topilsky Y, Suri RM, et al. Incidence of aortic complications in patients with bicuspid aortic valves. *JAMA*. 2011;306:1104-1112.
10. Masri A, Svensson LG, Griffin BP, Desai MY. Contemporary natural history of bicuspid aortic valve disease: a systematic review. *Heart*. 2017;103:1323-1330.
11. Michelena HI, Chandrasekaran K, Topilsky Y, Messika-Zeitoun D, Della Corte A, Evangelista A, et al. The bicuspid aortic valve condition: the critical role of echocardiography and the case for a standard nomenclature consensus. *Prog Cardiovasc Dis*. 2018;61:404-415.
12. Michelena HI, Katan O, Suri RM, Baddour LM, Enriquez-Sarano M. Incidence of infective endocarditis in patients with bicuspid aortic valves in the community. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2016;91:122-123.
13. Tanaka R, Yoshioka K, Niinuma H, Ohsawa S, Okabayashi H, Ehara S. Diagnostic value of cardiac CT in the evaluation of bicuspid aortic stenosis: comparison with echocardiography and operative findings. *AJR Am J Roentgenol*. 2010;195:895-899.
14. Gleeson TG, Mwangi I, Horgan SJ, Craddock A, Fitzpatrick P, Murray JG. Steady-state free-precession (SSFP) cine MRI in distinguishing normal and bicuspid aortic valves. *J Magn Reson Imaging*. 2008;28:873-878.
15. Borger MA, Fedak PWM, Stephens EH, Gleason TG, Girdauskas E, Ikonidis JS, et al. The American Association for Thoracic Surgery consensus guidelines on bicuspid aortic valve-related aortopathy: executive summary. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2018;156:473-480.
16. Sievers HH, Schmidtke C. A classification system for the bicuspid aortic valve from 304 surgical specimens. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2007;133:1226-1233.
17. Schaefer BM, Lewin MB, Stout KK, Gill E, Prueitt A, Byers PH, et al. The bicuspid aortic valve: an integrated phenotypic classification of leaflet morphology and aortic root shape. *Heart*. 2008;94:1634-1638.
18. Kang JW, Song HG, Yang DH, Baek S, Kim DH, Song JM, et al. Association between bicuspid aortic valve phenotype and patterns of valvular dysfunction and bicuspid aortopathy: comprehensive evaluation using MDCT and echocardiography. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging*. 2013;6:150-161.
19. Schneider U, Feldner SK, Hofmann C, Schöpe J, Wagenpfeil S, Giebels C, et al. Two decades of experience with root remodeling and valve repair for bicuspid aortic valves. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2017;153:S65-S71.
20. de Kerchove L, Mastrobuoni S, Froede L, Tamer S, Boodhwani M, van Dyck M, et al. Variability of repairable bicuspid aortic valve phenotypes: towards an anatomical and repair-oriented classification. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg*. 2019;56:351-359.
21. Fernández B, Soto-Navarrete MT, López-García A, López-Unzu MÁ, Durán AC, Fernández MC, et al. Bicuspid aortic valve in 2 model species and review of the literature. *Vet Pathol*. 2020;57:321-331.
22. Slostad BD, Witt CM, O'Leary PW, Maleszewski JJ, Scott CG, Dearani JA, et al. Unicuspid aortic valve: demographics, comorbidities, echocardiographic features, and long-term outcomes. *Circulation*. 2019;140:1853-1855.
23. Tsang MY, Abudiyab MM, Ammash NM, Naqvi TZ, Edwards WD, Nkomo VT, et al. Quadricuspid aortic valve: characteristics, associated structural cardiovascular abnormalities, and clinical outcomes. *Circulation*. 2016;133:312-319.
24. Fealey ME, Edwards WD, Miller DV, Maleszewski JJ. Unicommisural aortic valves: gross, histological, and immunohistochemical analysis of 52 cases (1978-2008). *Cardiovasc Pathol*. 2012;21:324-333.
25. Naito S, Sequeira-Gross T, Petersen J, Holst T, Reichenspurner H, Girdauskas E. Focus on a rare clinical entity: unicuspid aortic valve disease. *Expert Rev Cardiovasc Ther*. 2020;18:625-633.
26. Michelena HI, Desjardins VA, Avierinos JF, Russo A, Nkomo VT, Sundt TM, et al. Natural history of asymptomatic patients with normally functioning or minimally dysfunctional bicuspid aortic valve in the community. *Circulation*. 2008;117:2776-2784.

27. Angelini A, Ho SY, Anderson RH, Devine WA, Zuberbuhler JR, Becker AE, et al. The morphology of the normal aortic valve as compared with the aortic valve having two leaflets. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 1989;98:362-367.
28. Sabet HY, Edwards WD, Tazelaar HD, Daly RC. Congenitally bicuspid aortic valves: a surgical pathology study of 542 cases (1991 through 1996) and a literature review of 2,715 additional cases. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 1999;74:14-26.
29. Sievers HH, Hemmer W, Beyersdorf F, Moritz A, Moosdorf R, Lichtenberg A, et al.; on behalf of the Working Group for Aortic Valve Surgery of the German Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. The everyday used nomenclature of the aortic root components: the tower of Babel? *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2012;41:478-482.
30. de Kerchove L, Jashari R, Boodhwani M, Duy KT, Lengele B, Gianello P, et al. Surgical anatomy of the aortic root: implication for valve-sparing reimplantation and aortic valve annuloplasty. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2015;149:425-433.
31. Khelil N, Sleilaty G, Palladino M, Fouda M, Escande R, Debauchez M, et al. Surgical anatomy of the aortic annulus: landmarks for external annuloplasty in aortic valve repair. *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2015;99:1220-1226.
32. El Khoury G, Glineur D, Rubay J, Verhelst R, d'Acoz Y, Poncelet A, et al. Functional classification of aortic root/valve abnormalities and their correlation with etiologies and surgical procedures. *Curr Opin Cardiol.* 2005;20:115-121.
33. Yang LT, Pellikka PA, Enriquez-Sarano M, Maalouf JF, Scott CG, Michelena HI. Stage B aortic regurgitation in bicuspid aortic valve: new observations on progression rate and predictors. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging.* 2020;13:1442-1445.
34. Schneider U, Hofmann C, Aicher D, Takahashi H, Miura Y, Schäfers HJ. Suture annuloplasty significantly improves the durability of bicuspid aortic valve repair. *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2017;103:504-510.
35. Stefek HA, Lin KH, Rigsby CK, Michelena HI, Aouad P, Barker AJ, et al. Eccentric enlargement of the aortic sinuses in pediatric and adult patients with bicuspid aortic valves: a cardiac MRI study. *Pediatr Cardiol.* 2020;41:350-360.
36. Kong WK, Delgado V, Poh KK, Regeer MV, Ng AC, McCormack L, et al. Prognostic implications of raphe in bicuspid aortic valve anatomy. *JAMA Cardiol.* 2017;2:285-292.
37. Evangelista A, Gallego P, Calvo-Iglesias F, Bermejo J, Robledo-Carmona J, Sanchez V, et al. Anatomical and clinical predictors of valve dysfunction and aortic dilation in bicuspid aortic valve disease. *Heart.* 2018;104:566-573.
38. Yang LT, Enriquez-Sarano M, Michelena HI. The bicuspid aortic valve raphe: an evolving structure. *Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Imaging.* 2020;21:590.
39. Kong WKF, Regeer MV, Poh KK, Yip JW, van Rosendaal PJ, Yeo TC, et al. Inter-ethnic differences in valve morphology, valvular dysfunction, and aortopathy between Asian and European patients with bicuspid aortic valve. *Eur Heart J.* 2018;39:1308-1313.
40. Della Corte A, Bancone C, Quarto C, Dialetto G, Covino FE, Scardone M, et al. Predictors of ascending aortic dilatation with bicuspid aortic valve: a wide spectrum of disease expression. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2007;31:397-404. discussion 404-5.
41. Detaint D, Michelena HI, Nkomo VT, Vahanian A, Jondeau G, Sarano ME. Aortic dilatation patterns and rates in adults with bicuspid aortic valves: a comparative study with Marfan syndrome and degenerative aortopathy. *Heart.* 2014;100:126-134.
42. Fernandes SM, Sanders SP, Khairy P, Jenkins KJ, Gauvreau K, Lang P, et al. Morphology of bicuspid aortic valve in children and adolescents. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2004;44:1648-1651.
43. Fernandes SM, Khairy P, Sanders SP, Colan SD. Bicuspid aortic valve morphology and interventions in the young. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2007;49:2211-2214.
44. Aicher D, Kunihara T, Abou Issa O, Brittnr B, Gräber S, Schäfers H-J. Valve configuration determines long-term results after repair of the bicuspid aortic valve. *Circulation.* 2011;123:178-185.
45. Sperling JS, Lubat E. Forme fruste or 'Incomplete' bicuspid aortic valves with very small raphe: the prevalence of bicuspid valve and its significance may be underestimated. *Int J Cardiol.* 2015;184:1-5.
46. Guala A, Rodriguez-Palomares J, Galian-Gay L, Teixido-Tura G, Johnson KM, Wieben O, et al. Partial aortic valve leaflet fusion is related to deleterious alteration of proximal aorta hemodynamics. *Circulation.* 2019;139:2707-2709.
47. Michelena HI, Yang LT, Enriquez-Sarano M, Pochettino A. The elusive 'forme fruste' bicuspid aortic valve: 3D transoesophageal echocardiography to the rescue. *Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Imaging.* 2020;21, 1169-1169.
48. Hiratzka LF, Bakris GL, Beckman JA, Bersin RM, Carr VF, Casey DE Jr, et al. 2010 ACCF/AHA/AATS/ACR/ASA/SCA/SCAI/SIR/STS/SVM guidelines for the diagnosis and management of patients with Thoracic Aortic Disease: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/ American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines, American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American College of Radiology, American Stroke Association, Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society of Interventional Radiology, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and Society for Vascular Medicine. *Circulation.* 2010;121:e266-e369.
49. Della Corte A, Michelena HI, Citarella A, Votta E, Piatti F, Lo Presti F, et al. Risk stratification in bicuspid aortic valve aortopathy: emerging evidence and future perspectives. *Curr Probl Cardiol.* 2021;46:100428.
50. Della Corte A, Bancone C, Buonocore M, Dialetto G, Covino FE, Manduca S, et al. Pattern of ascending aortic dimensions predicts the growth rate of the aorta in patients with bicuspid aortic valve. *JACC Cardiovascular Imaging.* 2013;6:1301-1310.
51. Della Corte A, Bancone C, Dialetto G, Covino FE, Manduca S, Montibello MV, et al. The ascending aorta with bicuspid aortic valve: a phenotypic classification with potential prognostic significance. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2014;46:240-247; discussion 247.
52. Wojnarski CM, Roselli EE, Idrees JJ, Zhu Y, Cames TA, Lowry AM, et al. Machine-learning phenotypic classification of bicuspid aortopathy. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2018;155:461-469 e4.
53. Girdauskas E, Disha K, Rouman M, Espinoza A, Borger MA, Kuntze T. Aortic events after isolated aortic valve replacement for bicuspid aortic valve root phenotype: echocardiographic follow-up study. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2015;48:e71-e76.