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Post-operative Course of Heart Valve Surgery: From the Intensive Care Unit to Rehabilitation

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Message from the Guest Editors

The post-operative course of cardiac valve surgery is as important as the surgery itself. In the immediate post-operative hours it is necessary to monitor cardiac rhythm, blood loss, cardiovascular parameters, neurological status, urine output and many more aspects. Nevertheless, despite optimal care, complications can still arise, creating a barrier to quick discharge.

The current literature has been dealing with post-operative course, especially since the spread of minimally invasive surgical techniques, in order to understand the difference in post-operative outcomes.

Many suggestions have been made over the years regarding the optimal post-operative course after cardiac valve surgery, but there is on-going debate in the literature. Moreover, nursing care has become even more important in the last year, together with the work of physiotherapists in order to study and understand the perfect timing for moving, for example. In addition, dedicated nursing care might be important to decrease the rates of delirium, especially in older patients.





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