

New Frontiers in Imaging the Human Body

Voice-over 1:

This patient suffers from what doctors call tetralogy of Fallot. The flow of blood from the right ventricle in his heart to the pulmonary valve was partially blocked. He underwent surgery; the obstruction was eliminated, and the right ventricle outflow was enlarged. But by doing so, the pulmonary valve was destroyed. Over time, that destruction causes a chronic flooding in the right ventricle. To prevent further danger to him, we must decide if and when we must perform new surgery to implant a new pulmonary valve.

Voice-over 2:

The disease is complex and cardiologists specialising with children often lack accurate, in-depth guidance on how to proceed. In a pilot experiment, Ugo's clinical data has been included in a new European-wide database. The network should allow Ugo's cardiologists to compare his case with other similar cases around Europe, so they can share information and plan Ugo's treatment in a better way.

Voice-over 1:

So the network has confirmed that there is in Europe a patient quite similar to mine. It is patient number fifty-seven, a boy from London. If we open the database for this patient, we will be able to analyse his clinical details. Here, for instance, we have a 3-D graphic reconstruction of his right ventricle. And we can see from this data that this British boy was successfully operated on by surgeons. The implant of a new pulmonary valve was useful for him; he is healthier and doing fine. By studying this similar case, I can feel more reassured about my own case. If that surgery worked for that boy, it can also work for my patient.

Voice-over 2:

The network is still experimental and part of a European research project aimed at providing paediatricians with new tools to tackle not only heart disease but also brain tumours and rheumatism.

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