LONG-TERM OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN WITH CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE
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Advances in the medical and surgical management of congenital heart disease (CHD) in the recent past have shifted the focus from mortality to an increasing emphasis on other measures of long-term outcomes, particularly neurodevelopment and quality of life. Outcomes are dependent on a multitude of factors, including the complexity of the lesion, comorbid syndromes, and other diseases as well as other preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative factors. Studying long-term outcomes is difficult, because “accepted” therapies are ever evolving and multiple decades are required to assess meaningful outcomes in a child. Many surgical techniques are still new enough that long-term follow-up is not yet possible. Many studies have been performed to attempt to delineate outcomes, particularly of various surgical corrections and palliations for CHD in its various forms. This talk briefly discusses late outcomes in general and focuses on neurodevelopmental outcomes in children with CHD.