

# Stellingen

*behorend bij het proefschrift:*

## **Congenital Aortic Stenosis and Aneurysms**

1. In the past century the birth prevalence of congenital heart disease increased; however whether this is due to changes in diagnostic methods and screening modalities, represents a true increase, or concerns a combination of both, remains to be determined (*this thesis*).
2. A conservative approach with scheduled follow-up visits seems justified in non-operated adult patients with discrete subaortic stenosis, as stenosis progresses slowly and aortic regurgitation is usually nonprogressive (*this thesis*).
3. The risk of aortic dissection in young adult patients with congenital aortic stenosis is low, thus questioning whether the benefit of prophylactic surgery exceeds the risk of surgery in every patient with an aortic diameter >50 mm (*this thesis*).
4. The clinical impact of the diagnosis of Aneurysms-Osteoarthritis Syndrome extends beyond the risk for aortic root aneurysms and dissections, since it is also associated with intracranial and visceral artery aneurysms, as well as early-onset osteoarthritis (*this thesis*).
5. Growth of aortic root aneurysms in Aneurysms-Osteoarthritis Syndrome patients can be fast and unpredictable, and aortic dissections can occur in relatively mildly dilated aortas in this syndrome. Because elective valve-sparing aortic root replacement shows favorable results so far, early prophylactic surgical intervention should be considered (*this thesis*).
6. Disease-specific criteria for risk stratification of aortic dissection are needed to establish the correct timing of preventive aortic surgery (*J Am Coll Cardiol* 2012;60:404-7).
7. Not only positive findings, but also negative results need airing, enabling us to see a more complete picture (*Nature* 2011;470:39).
8. Appraising research by its value for patients, society and the advancement of science instead of focusing on the number of publications or citations, will optimize good research practice.
9. We are prone to overestimate how much we understand about the world and to underestimate the role of chance in events. Overconfidence is fed by the illusory certainty of hindsight (*Daniel Kahneman*).
10. Flavanol-rich chocolate is not only delicious, but might also be a potentially cost-effective therapy in the treatment of heart failure, as it is able to improve endothelial function, peripheral vasodilatation and platelet function (*Eur Heart J* 2012;33:2172-2180).
11. Dare to be outstanding, as concealed talent brings no reputation (*Desiderius Erasmus*).

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