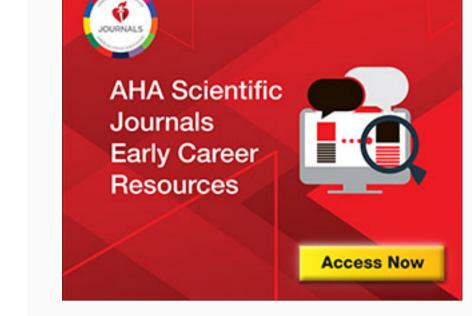


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eLetters	Abstract							
	<b>Objectives:</b> The choice of bit the compared long-term out of bioprosthesis used to replace	come of two type of ster	ntless biologic valve co	nduits namely homogra	· •	November	e 222, 2011	
	<b>Methods:</b> Between 1993 and bioprosthetic aortic valve wit were implanted. All clinical at 8.5±3.9 years (range: 0.1-15)	h (n=38) or without (n=1 nd echocardioraphic dat	50) CABG. Among the ta were collected prosp	se patients, 98 Freestyle bectively. Mean overall fe	e and 90 homografts ollow-up was	Vol 124, Is suppl_21	sue	
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**Results:** Patient characteristics were comparable between groups except for age and number of pre-operative

diagnosis of endocarditis (p < 0.0001) and moderate/severe aortic insufficiency (p < 0.008). The mean age was significantly higher in the Freesstyle (65.4 $\pm$ 8.5years) compared to homograft (48.1 $\pm$ 13.0 years) group (p < 0.0001). Hospital mortality was comparable between the Freestyle and the homograft group (5.1% versus 7.8%, p=0.6). Ten and 15-years survival was 66.7% and 53.0% in the Freestyle versus 89.9% and 69.1% in the homograft group, respectively (p<0.001). Freedom from reoperation due to structural valve deterioration (SVD) at 10 and 15 years was 98.8% and 92.7% for the Freestyle compared to 87.4% and 68.6% in the homografts group, respectively (p=0.009). Independent risk factors for reoperation for SVD were age (OR:1.1, CI: 1.02-1.1, *p*=0.002), and use of homograft (OR:7.7, CI: 1.7-35.5, p=0.008). Independent risk factors for poorer long-term survival were age (OR 1.2, CI: 1.1-1.3, p=0.001), and lenght of hospital stay (OR 2.9, CI: 1.5-3.8, p=0.0003). Mean pressure gradient at the end of follow-up was  $8.5\pm6.2$  mm Hg for the Freestyle and  $9.9\pm9.1$  mm Hg for the homograft patients.

Conclusion: The choice of stentless biologic valve for aortic root reconstruction have no influence on early and longterm survival. The use of biologic root reconstruction with Freestyle bioprostheses provides a better freedom from reoperation due to SVD compared to homografts.



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