

The Trans-Septal Approach to the Mitral Valve

K G Lim, 5, Upper Museum Road, Taiping, 34000 Perak

Sir,

For the record I would like to know where the series of 77 mitral valve operations were performed over the 2 years mentioned because that does say something about the prevalence of

the diseases operated upon in Penang and the socio-economic group affected. The author has just said that the majority of patients had rheumatic heart disease, 34 in the trans-septal group and 27 in the left atriotomy group. What were the other mitral valve pathologies operated on?

Reference

1. Eng JB. The trans-septal approach to the mitral valve. *Med J Mal.* 2001; 56: 236-39.

REPLY

J B Eng, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Gleneagles Medical Centre, Penang

Sir,

I thank Dr Lim for his letter.

The seventy-seven mitral valve procedures were all performed within the period June 1997 to June 1999. Patients came from the north of Peninsular Malaysia. I did not look at the socio-economic status of the patients.

Apart from rheumatic heart disease, the other major diagnosis was degenerative mitral valve disease.

Thank you once again.