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


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.