

**Table 1. Study characteristics**

		Pooled data	Range	Included studies (N)
Total patient number		<b>5227</b>	50 - 421	31
Surgical period		<b>1992 - 2014</b>		30
Mean age		<b>65.4 years</b>	47 – 73 years	30
Gender	Male	<b>67.6%</b>	30 – 85%	31
Etiology	Valve pathology			18
	Aortic stenosis	<b>49.8%</b>	3 – 100%	
	Aortic regurgitation	<b>37.7%</b>	0 – 92%	
	Stenosis & regurgitation	<b>17.9%</b>		
	Connective tissue disease	<b>2.9%</b>	0 – 32%	13
	Bicuspid aortic valve	<b>28.0%</b>	0 – 42.6%	14
Prior surgery	Cardiac	<b>14.2%</b>	0 – 39%	23
Other indications	Acute type A dissection	<b>7.2%</b>	0 – 24%	20
	Acute endocarditis	<b>9.1%</b>	1 – 11%	9
Valve type				
	Stentless	<b>99.7%</b>	95 – 100%	23
	Stented	<b>92.8%</b>	84 – 100%	5
	Mixed	<b>50%</b>	50 – 50%	2
Concomitant procedures	Aortic hemiarch repair	<b>18.2%</b>	0 – 44%	19
	Aortic arch repair	<b>5.9%</b>	3 – 21%	19
	CABG	<b>28.9%</b>	0 – 44%	19
	Mitral valve surgery	<b>3.3%</b>	0 – 17%	19
Re-exploration for bleeding		<b>10.8%</b>	1 – 28%	14
Early mortality		<b>5.5%</b>	0 – 16%	31

Causes of early mortality *	<i>Low cardiac output</i>	<b>22.7%</b>	1 – 44%
	<i>Multi-organ failure</i>	<b>18.1%</b>	13 – 100%
	<i>Hemorrhage</i>	<b>7.5%</b>	0 – 13%
	<i>Sepsis</i>	<b>5.0%</b>	6 – 25%
	<i>Myocardial infarction</i>	<b>4.0%</b>	0 – 100%
	<i>Unknown / unreported</i>	<b>9.6%</b>	10 – 55%

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Table 1. Pooled pre-operative and peri-operative characteristics. CABG indicates coronary artery bypass grafting. \* major causes of early mortality. Data indicate the pooled mean % of occurrence and the pooled range of occurrence. Included studies are publications reporting on the specific characteristic. The percentages mentioned are means of the reported variables in the studies that provided these variable numbers. The range indicates the lowest and the highest reported % of that specific variable within all studies, and N indicates the number of studies reporting on that specific variable.

