Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting Without Cardiopulmonary Bypass
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INTRODUCTION
Coronary-artery surgery (CS) without cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) is a safe technique in terms of mortality and morbidity. (1) We present our anesthetic management and our findings concerning certain indices of morbidity after CS without CPB.

METHODS
76 patients were scheduled for a left mammary artery graft onto the left anterior descending artery without CPB: group A (n=46) through a sternotomy with grafting of diagonals if required; group B (n=10) through a left minithoracotomy; group C (n=20) through a sternotomy combined with a gastroepiploic artery grafting onto the right coronary artery. For 62 patients the anesthetic protocol was a continuous propofol infusion of 2 to 5 mg kg⁻¹ h⁻¹ until the end of surgery, a bolus of sufentanil (50 mg) and atracurium (0.5 mg kg⁻¹) for induction, sufentanil 0.3 mg kg⁻¹ h⁻¹ and atracurium 0.3 mg kg⁻¹h⁻¹ until completion of anastomosis. Postoperative analgesia was provided by (IV) morphine via a patient controlled analgesia device. 14 patients received thoracic epidural anesthesia (bupivacaine 0.25% 5 to 8 ml + sufentanil 10 mg) combined with a propofol infusion (same regimen) and postoperatively had patient controlled epidural analgesia (bupivacaine 0.12% + sufentanil). Intraoperative monitoring included 5-lead ECG, radial and pulmonary catheters and TEE. Heparin (10000 U) was administered before coronary clamping and a coronary clamping test was performed. Preoperative b -blockers and intraoperatively Esmolol, if needed, were used to slow the heart rate below 70/minute.

RESULTS
Demographic data are reported in table 1

CONCLUSION
Coronary surgery without cardiopulmonary bypass is safe, the overall morbidity being low. One of the main advantages is the decrease in the need for perioperative blood transfusions.

References
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