Mitral regurgitation can cause heart failure or heart rhythm problems.

Getting worse and whether you have symptoms. Untreated severe mitral regurgitation depends on how severe your condition is, whether it's

As a result, blood can't move through your heart or to the rest of your body. This can cause your heart's left ventricle to pump harder and eventually enlarge. It can also result in fluid buildup in your lungs or legs.

The mitral valve is the valve between the left atrium and left ventricle of the heart. When your mitral valve is normal, blood flows in a single direction between the chambers:

- From the left atrium into the left ventricle
- From the left ventricle into the aorta

When your mitral valve is in good shape,

Its two leaflets (or flaps) are aligned and do not interfere with each other. When the valve's two leaflets (or flaps) do not close properly, some blood flows backward through the valve back into the left atrium. This is called mitral regurgitation.

MitraClip therapy is an approved treatment to repair your leaking mitral valve using an implanted clip.

The MitraClip device is smaller than the size of a dime.

About the Procedure

First a small incision will be made in your leg vein used to deliver the clip to your heart.

Your doctor will implant the clip in the best position to bring the mitral valve leaflets together to reduce the mitral regurgitation.

Once the clip is in place it will become a permanent part of your heart, allowing your mitral valve to close more tightly and reduce the backward flow of blood.

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The heart is divided into the left & right atrium and the left & right ventricle.

Four valves, each made of flaps of tissue called leaflets, control the flow of blood through your heart: the aortic, mitral, pulmonary and tricuspid valves.

With each heart beat, blood is pumped through these valves by squeezing its chambers. The valves open in one direction, like one-way gates, allowing blood to flow forward. In between beats, the heart's chambers quickly relax, and its valves close, preventing blood from flowing backward.

The Mitral Valve and Mitral Regurgitation

The mitral valve is the valve between the left atrium and left ventricle of your heart. In a normally functioning valve, blood flows in a single direction between the left atrium and left ventricle. When your mitral valve's two leaflets (or flaps) do not close properly, some blood flows backward through the valve back into the left atrium. This is called mitral regurgitation (or MR).

Symptoms of Mitral Regurgitation

- Shortness of Breath
- Fatigue
- Coughing
- Swollen Feet or Ankles
- Lightheadedness

Treatment Options

Treatment for MR depends on how severe it is and how symptomatic you are. There are medications used to treat your symptoms, such as water pills, and it is important to have good blood pressure control.

To fix mitral regurgitation, there are only two options: mitral valve replacement or repair. You will be evaluated by your heart team to determine the best method of treatment for you.

Mitral Valve Surgery

Open heart surgery is done by a cardiothoracic surgeon to remedy mitral regurgitation. Repair of your valve preserves your own valve and is preferred over replacement. If the valve cannot be repaired, the damaged mitral valve is replaced by an artificial valve (mechanical or tissue).

Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair

For patients too high risk for open heart surgery, Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVR) is a non-surgical and minimally invasive alternative. TMVR allows for repair of the leaky mitral valve using one or more small clip-like devices to be placed on the mitral valve to decrease the leaking.