



Mitral Regurgitation & Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVR)

What is 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 (MR).

What is Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVR)?

This is a less invasive procedure for patients too high risk for open heart surgery. 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. This procedure is done while your heart is beating and without cutting your chest.

Who is a Candidate for TMVR?

To be a candidate, two cardiac surgeons must determine that you are too high risk or too sick to undergo open-heart surgery.

What is the Evaluation?

You will undergo a comprehensive evaluation to determine whether TMVR is an appropriate therapeutic option. The following is a list of tests and appointments you can expect to have:

- **Echocardiogram/Ultrasound (Echo):** a test that uses sound waves to create pictures of the heart. The picture is more detailed than a standard x-ray image. An echocardiogram does not expose you to radiation.
- **Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE):** TEE is a type of echocardiography (echo). Echo shows the size of the heart and how well the heart chambers and valves are working. TEE involves a flexible tube (probe) with a transducer at its tip. Your doctor will guide the probe down your throat and into your esophagus (the passage leading from your mouth to your stomach). This approach allows your doctors to get more detailed pictures of your heart because the esophagus is directly behind the heart. Mitral valve disorders are better evaluated with TEE.
- **Heart Catheterization/Angiogram:** a long, thin, flexible tube, called a catheter, is put into a blood vessel in your arm or groin (upper thigh) and threaded to your heart. A special dye is used to take x-ray pictures of your heart. The dye will make your coronary (heart) arteries visible to look for any blockages. Also your doctors will get more information on your heart valves.
- **Pulmonary Function Testing:** tests that measure how well the lungs take in and release air and how well they move oxygen from the atmosphere into the body's circulation.

We will coordinate as many of your tests and appointments on the same day as possible.