STATE-OF-THE-ART CLINICAL CARE

Our multi-disciplinary team combines experts from cardiovascular medicine, cardiovascular surgery, cardiac imaging, anesthesia and cardiovascular nursing. Currently, we are providing transcatheter therapies for the treatment of aortic stenosis. We will be offering catheter based treatments for other valvular heart diseases in the near future.

Integrated patient care provides comprehensive assessment and treatments for patients with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis, with an emphasis on those patients considered high operative risk for morbidity and mortality due to their age and/or other medical co-morbidities.

Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR) remains the standard therapy for symptomatic severe aortic stenosis due to a long and established track record of very low death and stroke rates and excellent long-term valve durability. Stanford’s recognized cardiovascular surgeons have nearly 40 years of experience with outcomes that are superior to national Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) benchmarks.

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) is an innovative and newly FDA-approved, catheter-based therapy that provides a less invasive approach to relieving aortic stenosis. Stanford’s Cardiologists, Cardiovascular Surgeons, and Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists have collaborated on and performed nearly 200 TAVR surgeries since the Stanford TAVR Program’s inception. Stanford Hospital is one of only three hospitals in Northern California that performs this procedure. Stanford has been providing TAVR treatment to patients with severe aortic stenosis who are unfit to undergo open surgical AVR or who are very high risk for AVR since 2008.

Balloon Aortic Valvuloplasty (BAV) in conjunction with optimal medical management remains a safe and feasible treatment option in some patients. Stanford’s Interventional Cardiologists perform BAV in severe aortic stenosis patients who require urgent non-cardiac surgery and as a bridge to transcatheter or surgical aortic valve replacement in decompensated patients who cannot tolerate more definitive therapy.

Our goal is to comprehensively evaluate a patient’s suitability for all types of aortic valve interventions and to provide the most effective treatment option(s) for patients with symptomatic aortic stenosis. We aim to optimize clinical outcomes and seek to improve and prolong quality and duration of life.

Individualized treatment plans are developed in conjunction with the referring physician to determine the optimal approach for each patient. Electronic medical records provide patients with secure on-line access to health information and communication.

The program includes:

- A complex evaluation process involving multi-disciplinary assessment
- High quality transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography
- The latest advances in radiographic imaging and anesthetic techniques
- Collaborative multi-disciplinary decision making and experience