

Heart News: The Latest In Heart Valve Replacement

Your Aortic Valve And Its Role

(NAPSA)—Did you know that a normal aortic heart valve is approximately the size of a half dollar? As one of the four valves of the heart, the aortic valve opens and closes each time the heart beats, or about 100,000 times each day. As a result, this valve can become damaged over time, most often due to aging, which can harden (due mainly to calcium deposits) or weaken the cusps of the valve.

When an aortic valve is damaged and unable to open fully, a condition called aortic stenosis results. This causes constricting blood flow through the valve, which can make the rest of the heart work harder to pump blood through the body. Sometimes, this damage can cause the valve not to close tightly, which is called aortic regurgitation, commonly known as a “leaky” valve.

While there is a range of heart valve disorders that may result in a patient’s need for an aortic valve replacement treatment, the two most common diseases that cause patients to undergo surgery are aortic stenosis and regurgitation. Mild forms of aortic stenosis or regurgitation do not typically require aortic valve replacement, though doctors may recommend that patients with complex forms of these diseases undergo a repair or replacement surgery.

The Facts and Future of Heart Valve Surgery

Every year in the U.S., there are more than 60,000 surgical aortic valve replacements to treat damaged aortic heart valves. As the most common surgical procedure for the treatment of aortic stenosis, aortic valve replacement procedures replace the damaged heart valve with a mechanical or tissue valve.

However, some aortic valve replacement options are complex, requiring a number of surgical steps such as placing sutures and tying knots, resulting in a long procedure and recovery time. The



Doctors have many ways to help people with heart valve problems lead full and healthy lives.

good news is that there is a new advancement in aortic valve replacement called the Perceval sutureless valve. Perceval is the first rapid-deployment, sutureless heart valve for patients who need a surgical aortic valve replacement.

“As a new generation in aortic valve replacement, the Perceval sutureless valve helps reduce the complexity of a valve replacement procedure by optimizing the speed and efficiency of the operation and enables a minimally invasive approach,” said Dr. Allan Stewart, Director of Aortic Surgery and Co-Director of the Valve Center in the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at The Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, N.Y. “Many of my patients who have had an implant with Perceval are impressed with the valve’s benefits, including shorter procedure times, hospital stays and recovery time.”

Many patients who receive treatment live full and healthy lives, especially when their other cardiovascular risks are low. If you have a valve disease, speak to your doctor about your treatment options, understand your risk and determine the best treatment option for you. To learn more about the Perceval valve, how the valve works and its benefits, visit the Sutureless Valve Education Center at www.heartvalvesurgery.com/sutureless.