

Lifetime Management of Aortic Valvular Heart Disease – A Heart Team Approach

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Disclosure

I have no financial conflicts of interest to disclose



Vignette

- 59-year-old male with no co-morbidities
- Severe AS, 0.8 cm²
- High-level VP of medical technology company
- 2 daughters in college, near graduation
- High-stress job with significant travel, including international
- Prefers TAVR due to job demands and upcoming daughters' graduations



Objectives

Indications for AVR

The Heart Team

Factors to consider pre-TAVR

Bioprosthetic valve failure

Valve-in-Valve TAVR

Alternative Access TAVR

TAVR vs SAVR – who and when



Age of TAVR Patients (Average)

PARTNER 1A: 84 yrs

CoreValve US Pivotal: 83 yrs

PARTNER 2: 82 yrs

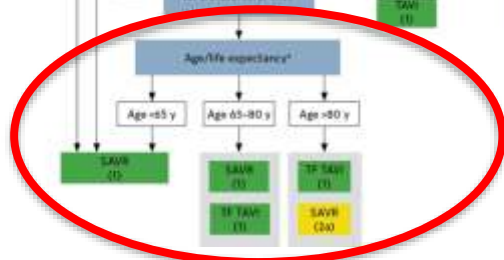
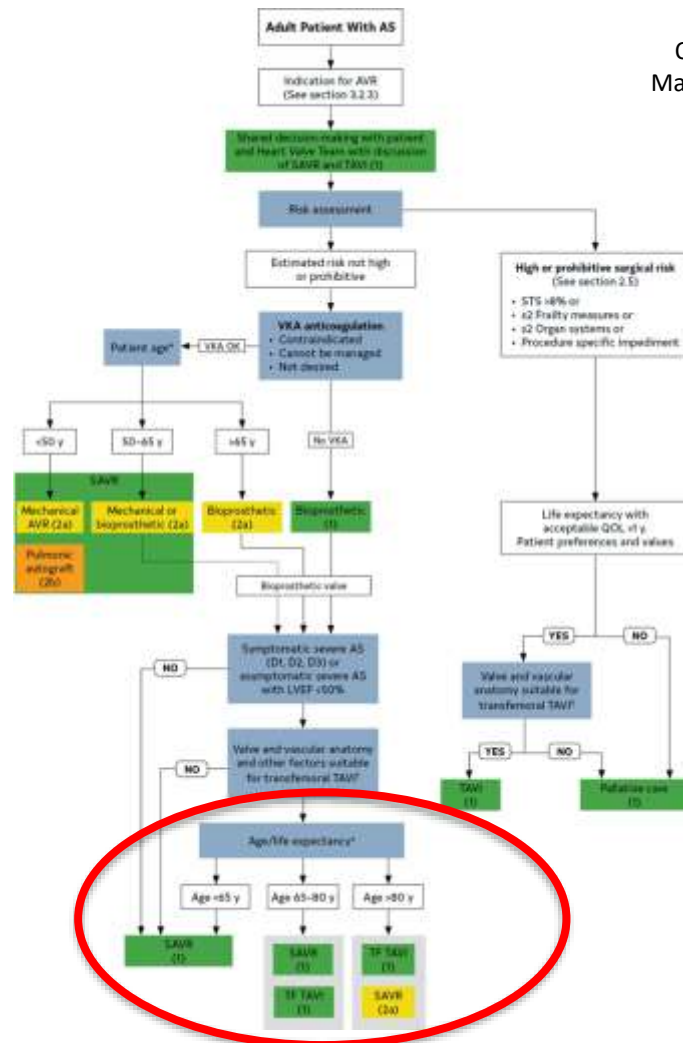
SURTAVI: 80 yrs

PARTNER 3: 73 yrs

Evolut Low Risk: 74 yrs

Desai PV, Goel SS, Kleiman NS, Reardon MJ. Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation: Long-Term Outcomes and Durability. *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovasc J.* 2023 May 16;19(3):15-25. doi: 10.14797/mdcvj.1201. PMID: 37213878; PMCID: PMC10198228.





ESC and ACC/AHA Guidelines for Management of Aortic Valve Stenosis

| Clinical setting | ESC guidelines | ACC/AHA guidelines |
|--|--|--|
| Severe symptomatic AS | | |
| With any symptoms | AVR recommended (IB) | AVR recommended (IB) |
| Haemodynamically unstable | AVR recommended BAV may be considered as a bridge to surgery (IIbC) | AVR recommended BAV may be considered as a bridge to surgery (IIbC) |
| Surgery contraindicated due to severe co-morbidities | BAV may occasionally be considered for palliation (IIbC) | BAV may be considered (IIbC) |
| Severe asymptomatic AS | | |
| With LV systolic dysfunction (EF < 50%) if no other cause identified | AVR recommended (IC) | AVR recommended (IC) |
| Undergoing CAGB, aortic surgery or mitral valve surgery | AVR recommended (IC) | AVR recommended (IC) |
| With symptoms on exercise testing | AVR recommended (IC) | AVR may be considered (IIbC) |
| With fall in BP to below baseline on exercise testing | AVR reasonable (IIaC) | AVR may be considered (IIbC) |
| With predictors of rapid progression | AVR reasonable (IIaC) with moderate to severe valve Ca^{2+} and a rate of V_{max} increase ≥ 0.3 m/s/year | AVR may be considered (IIbC) when rapid progression is likely (age, Ca^{2+} , CAD) or if surgery might be delayed at symptom onset |

Continued



ESC and ACC/AHA Guidelines for Management of Aortic Valve Stenosis

| Clinical setting | ESC guidelines | ACC/AHA guidelines |
|--|---|--|
| With complex ventricular arrhythmias on exercise testing | AVR may be considered (IIbC) | |
| With exercise LV hypertrophy (unless due to hypertension) | AVR may be considered (IIbC) | |
| Extremely severe AS | | AVR may be considered if AS is extremely severe (AVA < 0.6 cm ² , V _{max} > 5 m/s, ΔP _{mean} > 60 mmHg) and operative risk is < 1% (IIbC) |
| Moderate AS | | |
| Undergoing CABG, aortic surgery or mitral valve surgery | AVR reasonable (IIaC) | AVR reasonable (IIaB) |
| Indeterminate severity of AS | | |
| Low-gradient AS with LV dysfunction and contractile reserve | AVR reasonable (IIaC) | |
| Low-gradient AS with LV dysfunction but no contractile reserve | AVR may be considered (IIbC) | |
| Bicuspid aortic valve disease | | |
| Bicuspid valve present regardless of symptoms or haemodynamics | Aortic root replacement should be considered for diameters >5 cm or if rate of increase is ≥ 0.5 cm ² /year (IIaC) | Aortic root replacement is recommended for diameter >5 cm or if rate of increase is ≥ 0.5 cm ² /year (IC) |
| With severe AS undergoing AVR | Lower thresholds than above should be considered | Aortic root replacement is recommended for diameters >4.5 cm (IC) |

AVR, aortic valve replacement; BAV, balloon aortic valvuloplasty; BP, blood pressure; Ca²⁺, calcification; CABG, coronary artery bypass grafting; CAD, coronary artery disease; EF, ejection fraction; LV, left ventricular; ESC, European Society of Cardiology; ACC/AHA, American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association.



Mild vs Moderate vs Severe Aortic Valve Stenosis

| | Mild AS | Moderate AS | Severe AS |
|---|--|--|--|
| Clinical evaluation (review of symptoms and reported exercise levels) | 1 year | 1 year | 6 months |
| Evaluation and treatment of cardiovascular risk factors | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year |
| Echocardiography (AS jet velocity, mean gradient, valve area, AR severity, LV function) | 3–5 years or any change in symptoms | 1–2 years or any change in symptoms | 6 months to 1 year or for any change in symptoms |
| Exercise test | Not needed | Not needed | If symptom status unclear and annual increase in jet velocity is <0.3 m/s/year |
| Serum BNP level | Not needed | Not needed | If symptom status unclear |
| Dobutamine stress echo | If LV dysfunction present and AS severity unclear | If LV dysfunction present and AS severity unclear | If LV dysfunction present and AS severity unclear |
| CT or CMR imaging | If bicuspid valve and aortic sinuses enlarged ^b | If bicuspid valve and aortic sinuses enlarged ^b | If bicuspid valve and aortic sinuses enlarged ^b |
| Cardiac catheterization | Not needed | Not needed | Coronary angiography at symptom onset |

AS, aortic stenosis, BNP, brain natriuretic peptide, CT, computed tomography, CMR, cardiac magnetic resonance, LV, left ventricle.

^aOnce symptoms occur, intervention is recommended if symptoms are due to severe AS as shown in Table 2. Evaluation for other causes of symptoms is needed when AS is mild or moderate in severity.

^bInterval for repeat CT or CMR depends on severity of aortic enlargement.



The Heart Team



The Heart Team in 2023 Has Gotten More Complicated!

- ❖ Treatment focus has now shifted from the first to the second aortic intervention (i.e., to the treatment of bioprosthetic failure), regardless of whether the first intervention is SAVR or TAVR.
- ❖ **Anatomy:**
 - Will redo TAVR be straightforward or complex (i.e., require leaflet modification)?
 - Will coronary access be an issue, both now and with future THV in THV?
- ❖ **Durability:**
 - Bioprosthetic vs mechanical valve
 - How long will a bioprosthetic valve last?
- ❖ **Hemodynamics:**
 - What size (ID) and type of SAVR will be used?
 - Will the SAVR be compatible with future VIV TAVR?
- ❖ **Other Considerations:**
 - Significant mitral or tricuspid valve disease
 - Multivessel or significant CAD
 - Patient preference



Hemodynamics, Prosthesis-Patient Mismatch



Classification of AS Severity

| | Aortic Sclerosis | Mild | Moderate | Severe |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| Aortic jet velocity (m/s) | ≤ 2.5 m/s | 2.6-2.9 | 3.0-4 | > 4 |
| Mean gradient (mm Hg) | | $< 20^{\circ}$ ($<30^{\circ}$) | 20 – 40 ^b (30 -50 ^b) | > 40 |
| AVA (cm ²) | | > 1.5 | 1.0- 1.5 | < 1.0 |
| Indexed AVA (cm ² /m ²) | | > 0.85 | 0.60 – 0.85 | < 0.6 |
| Velocity ratio | | > 0.50 | 0.25 – 0.50 | < 0.25 |



Invasive vs Echo-Derived Valve Function

Heart Valve Collaboratory 2022

Echocardiographic

-Simplified Bernoulli equation fails to account for:

- Laminar/average flow with lower velocity adjacent to the vessel
- Proximal LV velocity
- Variability of contraction coefficient
- Non-convective forces of flow acceleration, viscosity, and convective acceleration

Not corrected for pressure recovery

Invasive hemodynamic

-Inaccuracies introduced by:

- Fluid-filled catheters
- Use of pigtail instead of end-hole catheters
- Improper positioning within LV and aorta

Timing of measurements immediately post-TAVR



Prosthesis-Patient mismatch – Definition and Variability

TABLE 3 Definitions for Prosthesis-Patient Mismatch

| | Severe, cm ² /m ² | Moderate, cm ² /m ² |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| ASE guidelines ²⁶ | <0.65 | 0.65-0.85 |
| VARC-2 ¹⁰⁵ | <0.65 | 0.65-0.85 |
| BMI ≥30 kg/m ² | <0.60 | 0.60-0.70 |
| EACVI recommendations ⁸⁰ | <0.65 | 0.65-0.85 |
| BMI ≥30 kg/m ² | <0.55 | 0.55-0.70 |
| VARC 3 ⁶ | ≤0.65 | 0.66-0.85 |
| BMI ≥30 kg/m ² | <0.55 | 0.55-0.70 |

ASE = American Society of Echocardiography; BMI = body mass index; EACVI = European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging; VARC = Valve Academic Research Consortium.

TABLE 4 Summary of Reasons for Discrepancy in Effects of Severe PPM on Outcomes

Reasons why the reported incidence of PPM varies after AVR

- Method of EOA calculation (measured vs predicted)
- Correction or not for obesity
- Timing of measurement (immediate vs later)
- Effect of underlying flow state
- Method of gradient determination (echocardiographic vs hemodynamic)

Reasons why the effects of severe PPM on outcomes are conflicting

- Measurements and calculations differ as above
- Incomplete correction for confounding and competing outcome variables
 - Paravalvular aortic regurgitation
 - Low flow state
 - Older patients or other survival limitations
- Underpowered analyses
- Limited follow-up (1 year may not be sufficient)

AVR = aortic valve replacement; EOA = effective orifice area; PPM = prosthesis-patient mismatch.

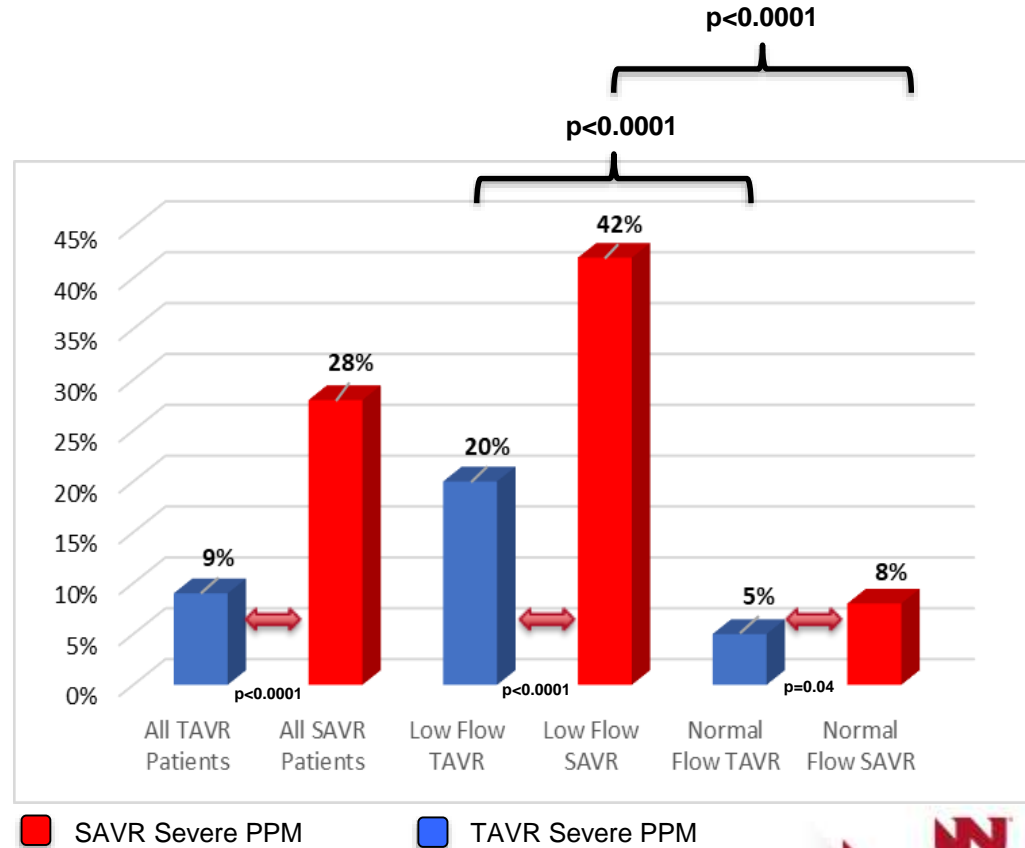


Severe Prosthesis Patient Mismatch: TAVR vs SAVR

Severe PPM following TAVR was significantly lower (9%) than SAVR (28%) in all patients.

- Independently predicted by stroke volume index and small valve size
- Associated with rehospitalization in all
- Associated with all cause mortality, all cause mortality or rehospitalization, cardiac death or rehospitalization in SAVR

PARTNER 2A/S3i registries: TAVR: n=954 and SAVR: n=726



What We Know and Don't Know

What we know

- Echo and invasive hemodynamics can be and in most cases are complimentary.
- Small annuli – concern for PPM.
- TAVR vs SAVR – valve selection in small annulus matters - annular enlargement may be necessary. Inner diameter to match patients' annuli (19-25 mm).
- PPM is associated with worse outcomes more often in SAVR than TAVR patients.



What we don't know

- Surgical vs Transcatheter – definition and measurement of PPM
- Impact of invasive gradients on valve durability and clinical outcomes
- Prospective Trials: Proposal to add on hemodynamics in studies



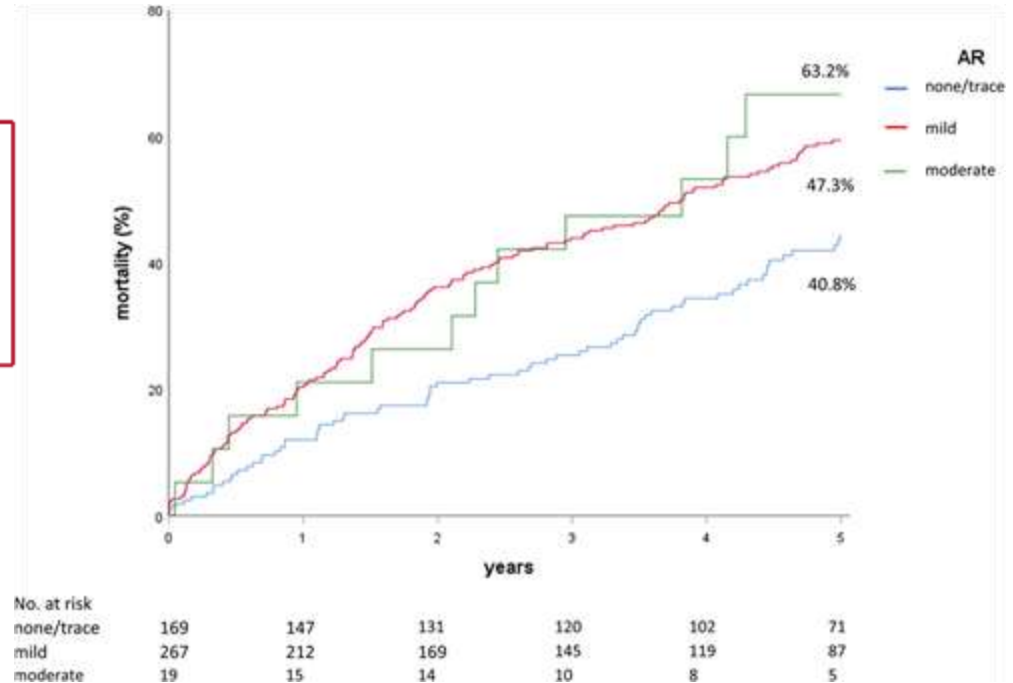
Paravalvular Leak, Left Ventricular Outflow Tract Calcification



5-year Mortality and Stages of PVL

Cumulative incidence of 5-year mortality for echocardiographic graduation of PVL, PVL, paravalvular leakage

- Minor degrees of PVL are independently associated with long-term mortality
- Hemodynamic measurements did not aid in identifying PVLs relevant to 5-year survival

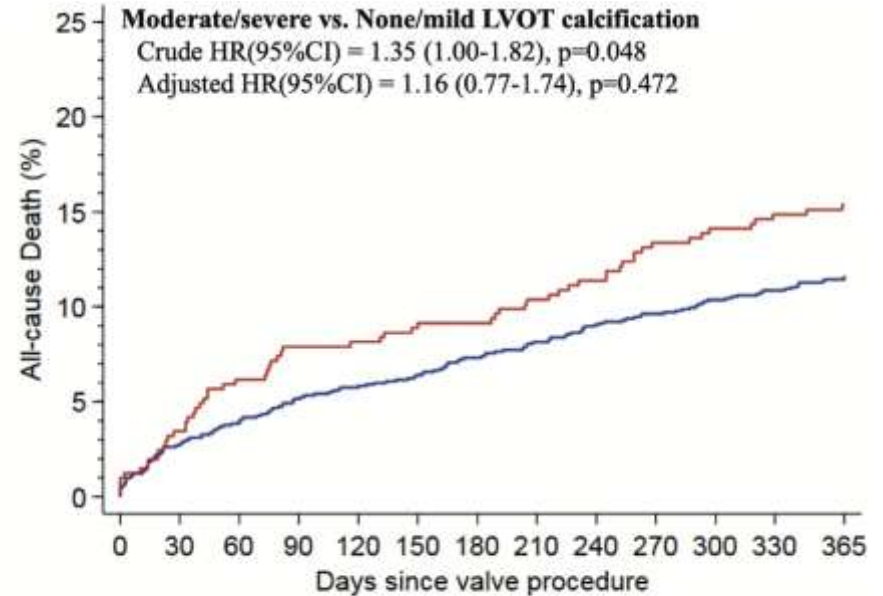
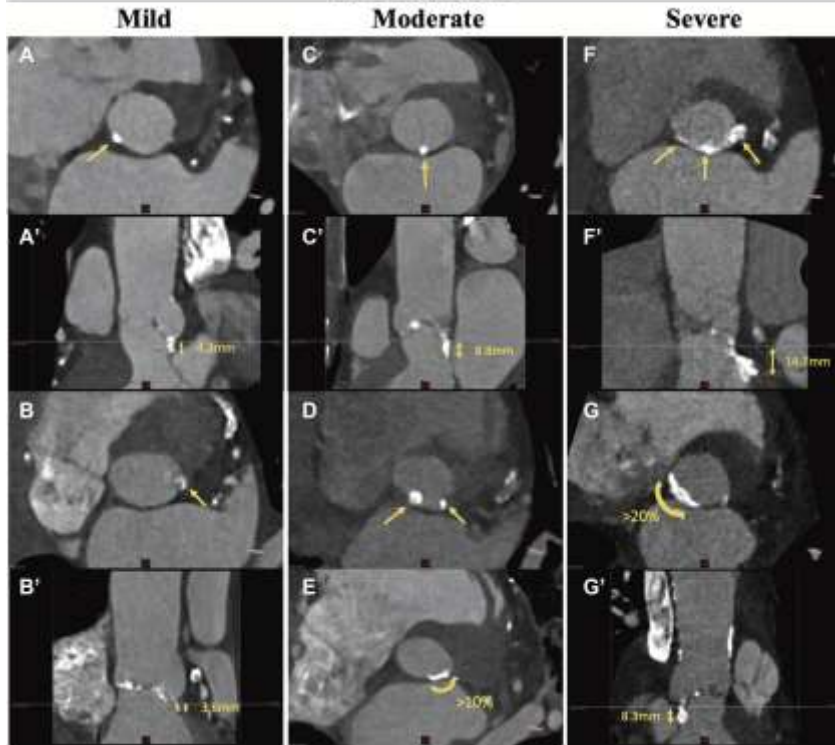


Retrospective single center study, n=464



LVOT Calcium Grading and Outcomes

LVOT Calcium



Number at risk

| | 1228 | 1186 | 1167 | 1150 | 1142 | 1134 | 1123 | 1113 | 1102 | 1095 | 1086 | 1079 | 931 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| none/mild | 1228 | 1186 | 1167 | 1150 | 1142 | 1134 | 1123 | 1113 | 1102 | 1095 | 1086 | 1079 | 931 |
| moderate/severe | 407 | 392 | 379 | 372 | 371 | 367 | 366 | 360 | 356 | 348 | 345 | 342 | 309 |



Bioprosthetic Valve Failure



CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Classification and Definitions of Bioprosthetic Valve Dysfunction and Failure

Is the Bioprosthetic Valve Dysfunction (BVD) Related to Intrinsic Permanent Changes to the Prosthetic Valve?

Is there any Hemodynamic Valve Deterioration During FU?

No



Nonstructural BVD

Any abnormality, not intrinsic to the valve, resulting in BVD

- Prosthesis-patient mismatch
- Paravalvular regurgitation
- Other: malpositioning, embolization, etc.

No Hemodynamic Valve Deterioration During FU

Nonstructural BVD

Yes



Structural BVD

Intrinsic permanent structural changes to the prosthetic valve
Stage 1 BVD

Hemodynamic Valve Deterioration During FU
Stage 2 (Moderate); Stage 3 (Severe) BVD

Structural BVD

Yes/No

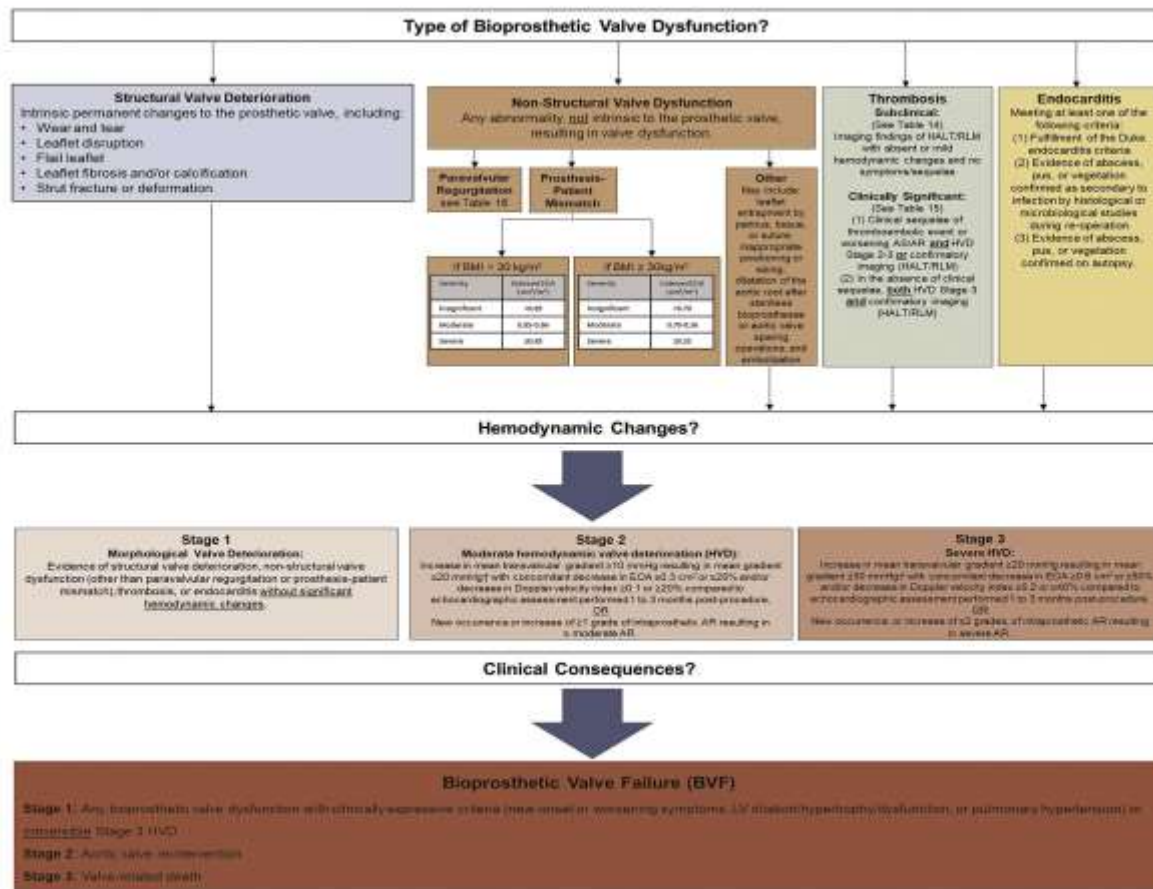


Thrombosis
Endocarditis

Bioprosthetic Valve Failure (BVF)

- Any BVD with clinically expressive criteria (new-onset or worsening symptoms, LV and/or RV dilation/hypertrophy/dysfunction, or pulmonary hypertension)
- Irreversible Stage 3 BVD
- Reintervention or indication for reintervention
- Valve-related death





Stages of Structural Valve Deterioration

TABLE 4 Standardized Definitions of the Stages of BVD Following Biological Aortic Valve Replacement

Stage 1: Morphological Valve Deterioration

- Evidence of structural valve deterioration, nonstructural valve dysfunction (other than paravalvular regurgitation or prosthesis-patient mismatch), thrombosis, or endocarditis without significant hemodynamic changes (see Table 3)

Stage 2: Moderate Hemodynamic Valve Deterioration^a

- Morphological valve deterioration (Stage 1)
AND
- Increase in mean transvalvular gradient ≥ 10 mm Hg resulting in mean gradient ≥ 20 mm Hg^b with concomitant decrease in AVA ≥ 0.3 cm² or $\geq 25\%$ and/or decrease in DVI ≥ 0.1 or $\geq 20\%$ compared with echocardiographic assessment performed 1 to 3 mo postprocedure (or discharge if not available)
OR
New occurrence or increase of ≥ 1 grade of intraprosthetic AR resulting in \geq moderate AR

Stage 3: Severe Hemodynamic Valve Deterioration^a

- Morphological valve deterioration (Stage 1)
AND
- Increase in mean transvalvular gradient ≥ 20 mm Hg resulting in mean gradient ≥ 30 mm Hg^b with concomitant decrease in AVA ≥ 0.6 cm² or $\geq 50\%$ and/or decrease in DVI ≥ 0.2 or $\geq 40\%$ compared with echocardiographic assessment performed 1 to 3 mo postprocedure (or discharge if not available)
OR
New occurrence, or increase of ≥ 2 grades, of transvalvular AR resulting in severe AR

^aWhen assessing the presence and severity of hemodynamic valve deterioration, it is important to differentiate true hemodynamic changes vs interechocardiography variability in the measurement of gradient, AVA, DVI, or AR (see Table 1). In particular, one should use the same window for continuous-wave Doppler interrogation when comparing gradients in early (1 to 3 months) postprocedural echocardiography vs follow-up echocardiography. Each case with potential hemodynamic valve deterioration should be individually adjudicated to confirm presence, stage, and etiology. Hemodynamic valve deterioration may be caused by structural valve deterioration but also by nonstructural dysfunction including valve thrombosis and endocarditis. The assessment of valve leaflet morphology and structure as well as clinical features (fever, blood culture, and so on) and change in valve and clinical status over time are key to make differential diagnosis between the different etiologies of hemodynamic valve deterioration: structural valve deterioration vs valve thrombosis or endocarditis vs nonstructural dysfunction (prosthesis-patient mismatch or paravalvular regurgitation) (see Table 3). ^bThis criteria for hemodynamic dysfunction assumes normal flow. Adapted with permission from Généreux et al.⁴

BVD = bioprosthetic valve dysfunction; other abbreviations as in Table 1.



Clinically Relevant Durability Definition

To be clinically relevant, bioprosthetic valve durability should include measures of valve deterioration or dysfunctions AND the clinical consequence of valve dysfunction (i.e., reintervention or valve-related death)

Measures of valve deterioration or dysfunction

- ✓ Abnormal leaflets on CT or TEE

AND

- ✓ Stage 2 SVD by VARC 3 with mean gradient at least 20 mmHg by invasive measurements

Bioprosthetic Valve Failure

- Reintervention

OR

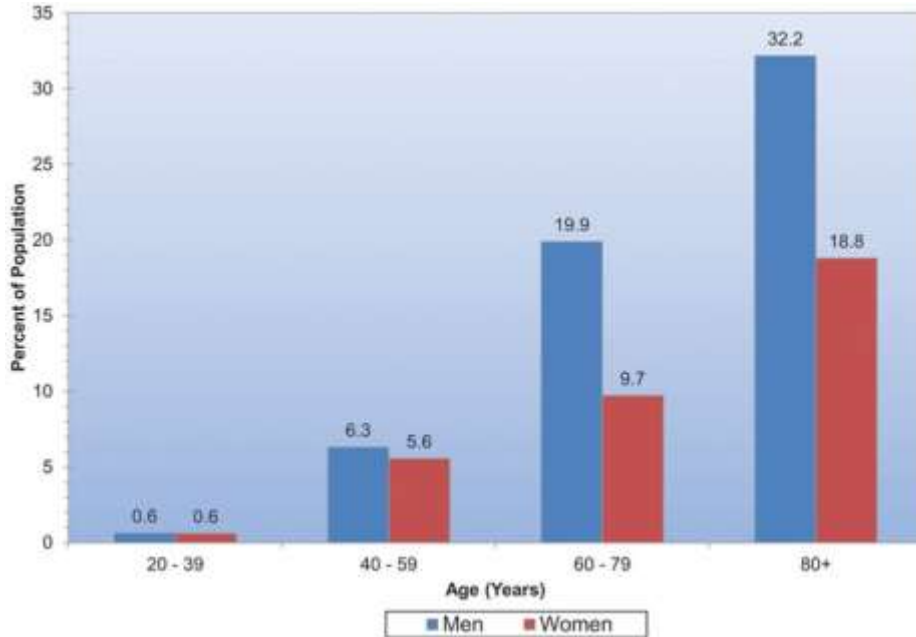
- Valve-related death



Valve-in-Valve TAVR



The Presence and Progression of Coronary Heart Disease Needs to be Considered When Assessing TAVR Patients



~20% of men and ~10% of women aged 60-79 years have frank CHD

- Lifetime CHD burden needs to be assessed in TAVR patients
- CHD makes up more than half of all CV events in those <75 years of age

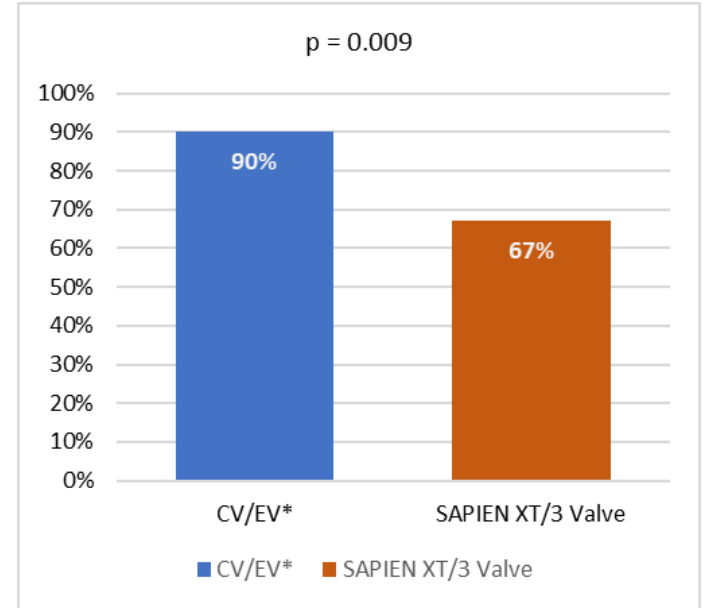
Prevalence of coronary heart disease by age and sex (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: 2009–2012).
Source: National Center for Health Statistics and National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.



Coronary Access Interference: Factors to Consider

Interfering Factors

1. Ostium of the coronary artery below the top of the neo-skirt
2. Distance between the THV stent frame and aortic wall <3 mm (in case the coronary artery originates below the top of the neo-skirt)
3. Distance between the stent struts of the first and second THV <3 mm at the “crossing zone” at the same longitudinal level as the coronary ostium
4. A coronary ostium below the top of the neo-skirt and <2 mm distance between the THV stent frame and aortic wall
5. Distance <2 mm between the stent struts of the first and second THVs at the “crossing zone” for CV/EV-in-CV/EV cases



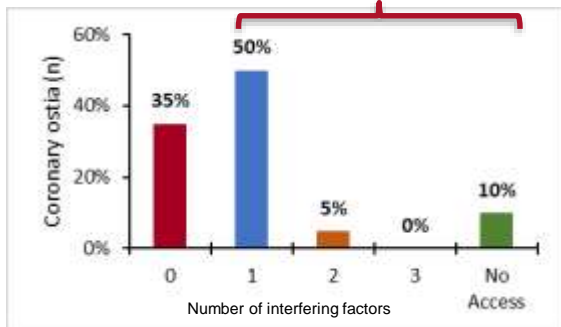
*CV/EV = CoreValve/Evolut; TAV/THV: transcatheter aortic/heart valve;
n = 45



Does THV design and sequence affect coronary access in TAV-in-TAV?

SAPIEN 1st

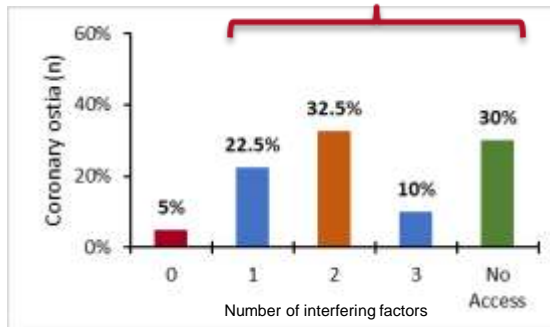
Interference with coronary access



SAPIEN in SAPIEN (n=20)

CV/EV 1st

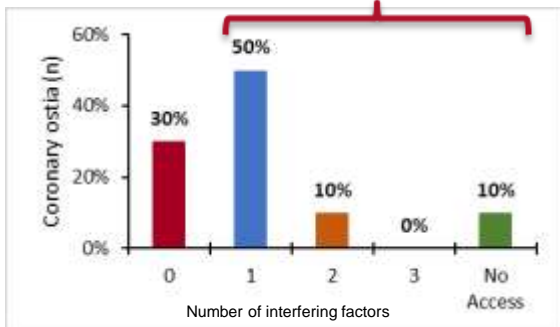
Interference with coronary access



CV/EV in CV/EV (n=40)

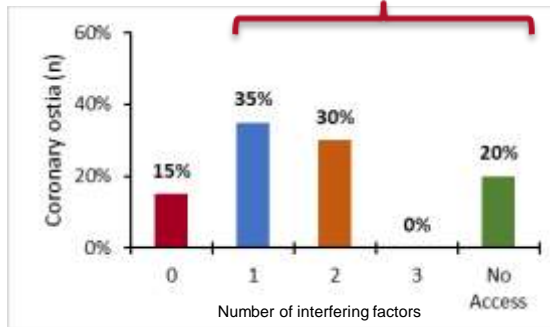
Coronary access may be further complicated by THV-THV stent frame strut misalignment in 53% of CV/EV-in-CV/EV cases

Interference with coronary access



CV/EV in SAPIEN (n=10)

Interference with coronary access



SAPIEN in CV/EV (n=20)



Important Considerations and Concepts for Future THV-in-THV



- Coronary access
- Coronary obstruction risk with future THV-in-THV



- Hemodynamics
- Durability concerns
- Residual gradient



Selection of Surgical Valves

| Manufacturer/ Brand | Valve Size | Bard TRU Balloon Fracture/Pressure | Bard Atlas Gold Balloon Fracture/Pressure | Appearance After Fracture |
|----------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| St. Jude Trifecta | 19 mm | NO | NO |  |
| | 21 mm | NO | NO | |
| St. Jude Biocor Epic | 21 mm | YES / 8 ATM | YES / 8 ATM |  |
| Medtronic Mosaic | 19 mm | YES / 10 ATM | YES / 10 ATM |  |
| | 21 mm | YES / 10 ATM | YES / 10 ATM | |
| Medtronic Hancock II | 21 mm | NO | NO |  |
| Sorin Mitroflow | 19 mm | YES / 12 ATM | YES / 12 ATM |  |
| | 21 mm | YES / 12 ATM | YES / 12 ATM | |
| Edwards MagnaEase | 19 mm | YES / 18 ATM | YES / 18 ATM |  |
| | 21 mm | YES / 18 ATM | YES / 18 ATM | |
| Edwards Magna | 19 mm | YES / 24 ATM | YES / 24 ATM |  |
| | 21 mm | YES / 24 ATM | YES / 24 ATM | |

1. Balloons sized 1 mm larger than valve size.
 2. Medtronic Mosaic and Sorin Mitroflow have no metal in ring therefore appearance after fracture unchanged.

If the Heart Team decides on SAVR, it is important that the best SAVR be chosen:

- Biggest ID possible
- Suitable for ViV TAVR
- Fracturable (especially if smaller size)
- Avoidance of surgical valves without stent frames (i.e., NO homografts or stentless valves)



What We Know and Don't Know

What we know



- In younger patients, bioprosthetic valves are increasingly used over mechanical valves
- Patients may need multiple valves over their lifetime and need is expected to increase
- TAV-in-SAV is safe and effective

What we don't know



- Procedure safety, patient selection, and best practices for THV-in-THV and THV explant
- Long-term durability and outcomes of THV-in-THV
- Anti-coagulation strategy after THV-in-THV
- The effect of PPM/host valve under expansion (especially small valves) on long-term outcomes



Alternative Access TAVR



Access Sites for TAVR

Figure 1: Algorithm for Deciding if Patient is a Candidate for Alternative Access Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation

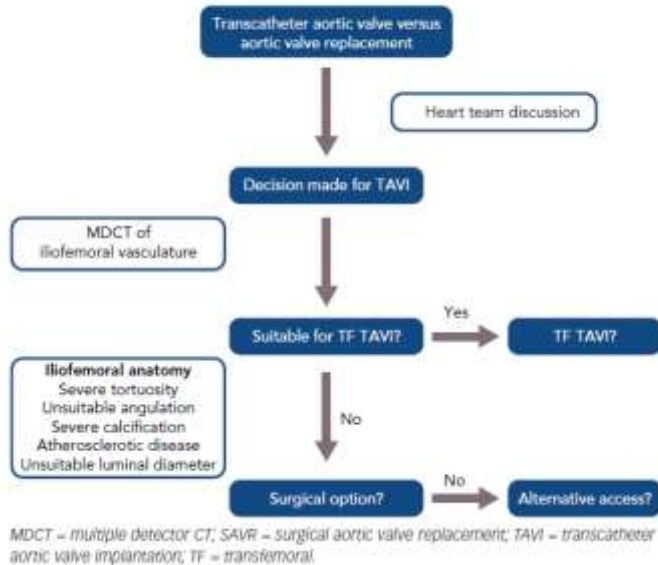
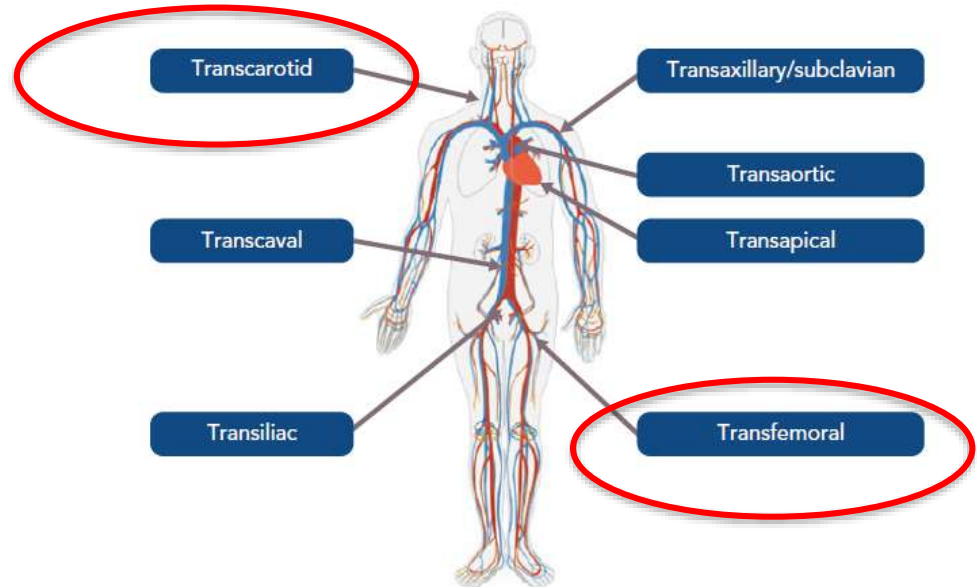


Figure 2: Access Options in Modern Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation



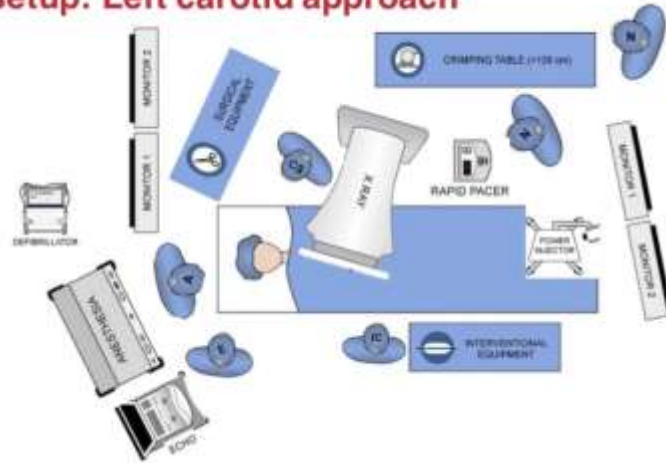
Room Setup – Alternative Access TAVR via the Carotid Artery

Transcarotid which carotid artery – right or left?

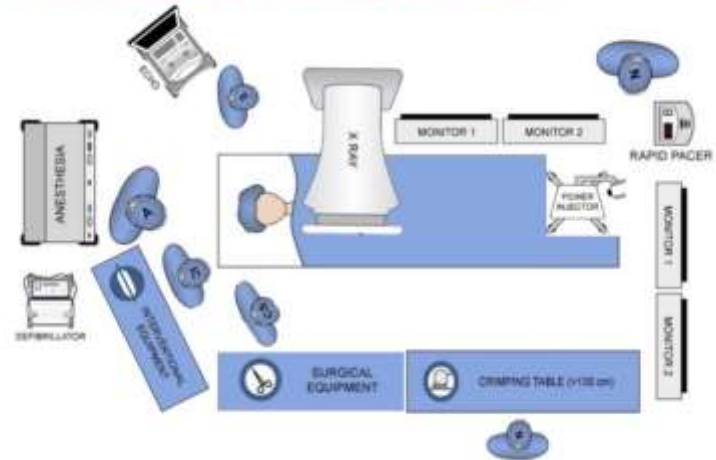
Sizing criteria is equivalent to the transfemoral approach



Room setup: Left carotid approach



Room setup: Right carotid approach



SAVR vs TAVR – Which One First?

- 59-year-old male with no co-morbidities
- Severe AS, 0.8
- High-level VP of medical technology company
- 2 daughters in college, near graduation
- High-stress job with significant travel, including international
- Prefers TAVR due to job demands and upcoming daughters' graduations



SAVR vs TAVR First: My Approach



Potentially Favors SAVR

- Younger Patient
- Unfavorable anatomy
 - Eccentric bulky leaflets
 - Type 0 Bicuspid
 - Severe LVOT calcium
 - Very large annulus
- Poor access for TAVR
- Aortopathy (especially if bicuspid)
- Other important valvular disease
- Multivessel CAD
- Redo TAVR won't be straightforward

Potentially Favors TAVR

- Older Patient
- Favorable anatomy
 - No eccentric bulky calcium
 - Favorable bicuspid
 - No or minimal LVOT calcium
 - Annular size in treatment range
- Favorable access for TAVR
- No aortopathy meeting surgical criteria
- No other important valvular disease
- Minimal CAD or CAD easily managed by PCI
- Redo TAVR will be straightforward



Thank You

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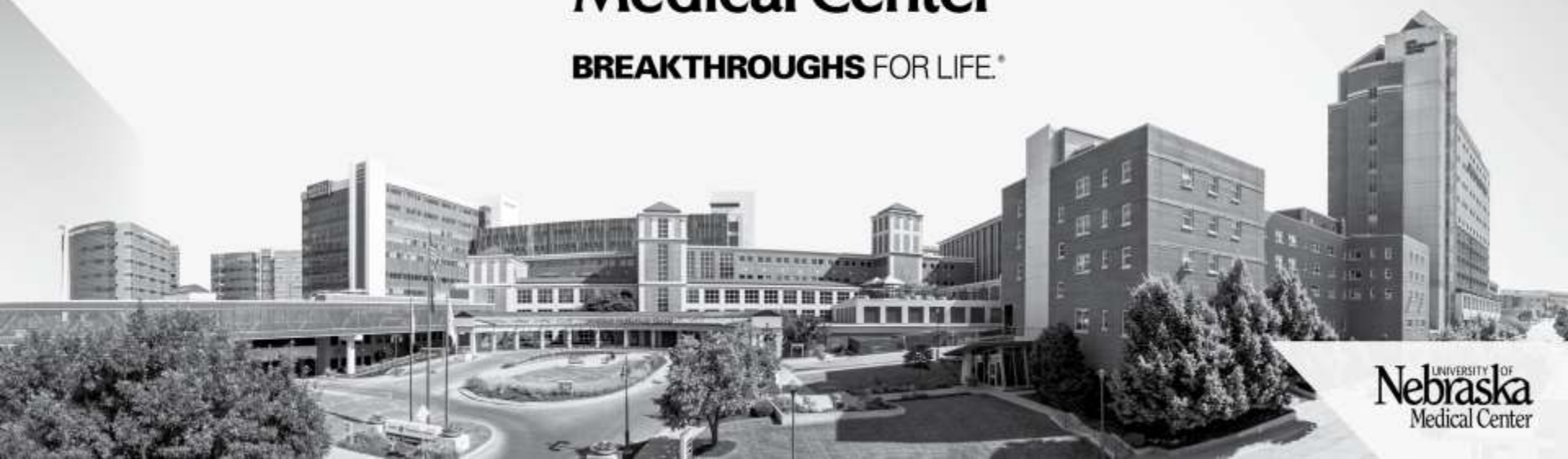
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