Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR)

Beebe Cardiac & Vascular Now Offers TAVR

Beebe’s award-winning Cardiac & Vascular Services is now offering the TAVR procedure in the state-of-the-art hybrid operating room at the Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus.

TAVR is a minimally invasive aortic valve replacement procedure which is appropriate for patients with symptomatic severe aortic stenosis (narrowing of the valve) who are at low-risk for complications.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved an expanded indication of the Medtronic Evolut™ TAVR system for use in low risk symptomatic severe aortic stenosis patients, the final surgical risk category to be approved for this minimally invasive alternative to open-heart surgical valve replacement (SAVR). The TAVR procedure involves guiding a catheter through a small incision in the groin, neck or space between the ribs to replace the diseased valve.

**WHAT PATIENTS MIGHT QUALIFY FOR TAVR?**

Severe aortic stenosis affects approximately 165,000 low risk patients a year in the United States, Western Europe, and Japan. The condition occurs when the aortic valve leaflets become stiff and thickened and have difficulty opening and closing, making the heart work harder to pump blood to the rest of the body and thereby impacting an individual’s daily activities. If left untreated, patients with SSAS can die from heart failure in as little as two years.

Talk to your patients about whether TAVR might be an option for them.

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**What do symptomatic severe aortic stenosis (ssAS) low risk patients look like?**

- **Low risk patients** are generally:
  1. Younger and healthier
  2. More active
  3. Attracted to less-invasive technologies that lead to fast recovery

**What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms of symptomatic severe aortic stenosis develop insidiously and often go unrecognized by patients and their physicians. They include, but are not limited to:

- Chest pain
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Irregular heartbeat

**How many people in the U.S. have symptomatic severe aortic stenosis?**

- ~250,000¹ annual incidence of ssAS
- ~105,000 untreated patients annually³

**What does the data say?**

- **EVOLUT TAVR SUPERIOR TO SAVR** in self-reported quality of life measures at 30 days⁴ with TAVR procedures vs. SAVR procedures²
- **58% SHORTER HOSPITAL STAY** with Evolut TAVR vs. SAVR at 1 year³
- **LOWER RATES OF HF REHOSPITALIZATION**

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**Beebe Cardiac Surgery Providers**

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**Ajith Kumar, MD**

Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine, Interventional Cardiology

Dr. Ajith Kumar, is board certified in internal medicine and interventional cardiology. He received his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, where he also completed an internship and assistant residency in internal medicine, and served as chief resident. He then completed fellowship training in molecular cardiology and in cardiovascular sciences.

**Robert Myers, MD**

Board Certified in Echocardiography, Cardiovascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology; Fellowship Trained in Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology

Dr. Robert Myers received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowships in Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology at Christiana Hospital. He is trained in nuclear cardiology and peripheral vascular disease. He specializes in cardiac catheterization and coronary intervention, as well as peripheral angiography and intervention.

Dr. Myers only sees patients at the Lewes location.

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**Mouhanad Freih, MD**

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Dr. Mouhanad Freih received his medical degree from the University of Damascus and completed his fellowship training in Interventional Cardiology. He specializes in cardiac catheterization, coronary angiography, cardiac imaging, cardiac MRI, coronary angioplasty, and stenting.

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**Ehtasham Qureshi, MD, FACC**

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Dr. Ehtasham Qureshi received his medical degree from St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital/Columbia University in New York City and completed cardiology training at Lenox Hill Hospital/Thomas Jefferson University at Wynnewood, Pa. He specializes in cardiology and interventional cardiology.