

KNOW YOUR VALVES

Stenotic or Incompetent?

YOUR BEST TREATMENT PLAN

You are experiencing a shortness of breath, heart palpitations, chest pain, and dizziness. You know these are signs and symptoms of a heart disorder. Don't wait! Get an appointment with your healthcare professional soonest possible to diagnose and treat the problem early to avoid complications.

With cardiac symptoms such as these, your doctor would have ordered an electrocardiogram (ECG) and echocardiography (ECHO) to check your heart.



An ECG is a painless test that can identify any abnormal heart rhythm, enlarged chambers of your heart and other heart diseases.



An ECHO is an ultrasound that provides a clear picture of your heart in a 2-D or 3-D image. An ECHO is a doctor's binoculars. From an ECHO, any abnormalities of the heart structure, blood flow, and valves will be detected.

Once you have your results analyzed, you may be diagnosed with valvular heart disease. There are two types – stenotic and an incompetent valve. A narrowed (stenotic) valve is when the valve does not fully open due to stiffness or fused leaflets. An incompetent valve also known as leaky, and just as the name suggests, does not close tightly thus regurgitate blood back into the adjacent chamber it just exited.

Based on your results, your doctor will be able to inform you which valves are narrowed (stenotic) or leaky. Know your options and discuss with your doctor the best treatment plan for the best outcome – your quality of life.

INSIDE THE DISEASED VALVE

AORTIC VALVE STENOSIS



Normally open



Does not open properly

AORTIC VALVE REGURGITATION



Normally close



Does not close properly

MITRAL VALVE REGURGITATION

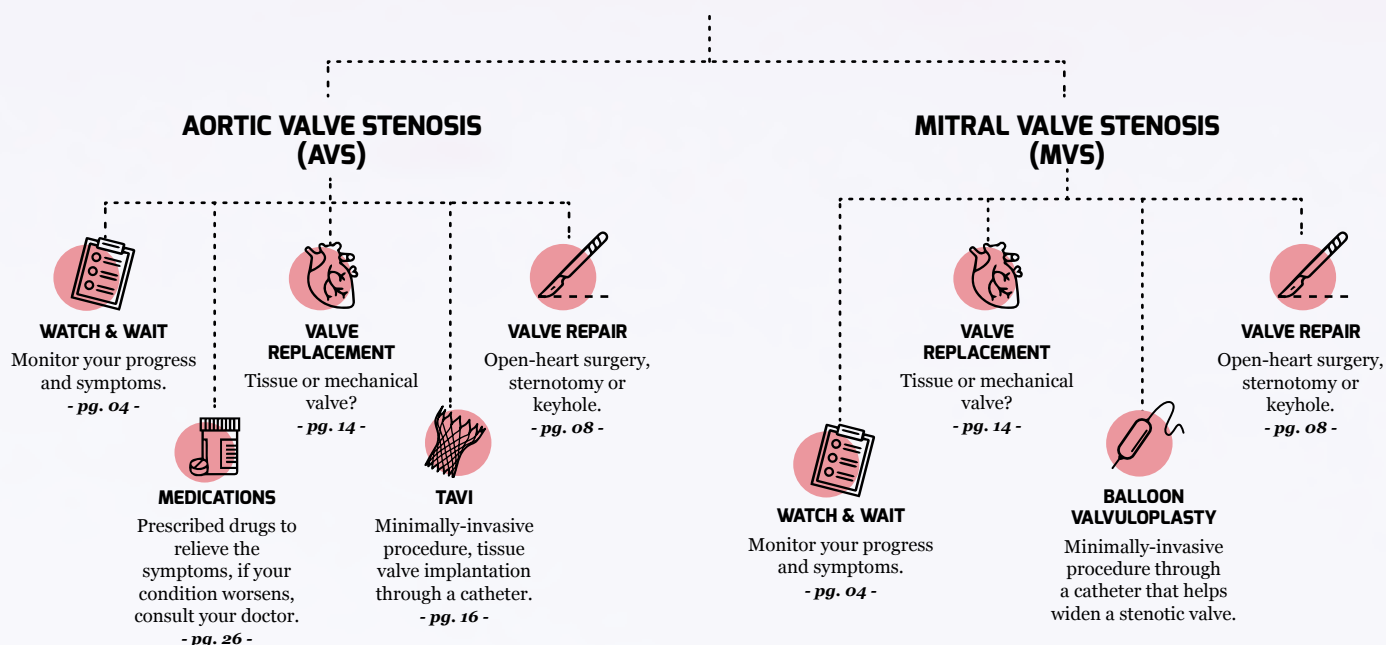


Normally close

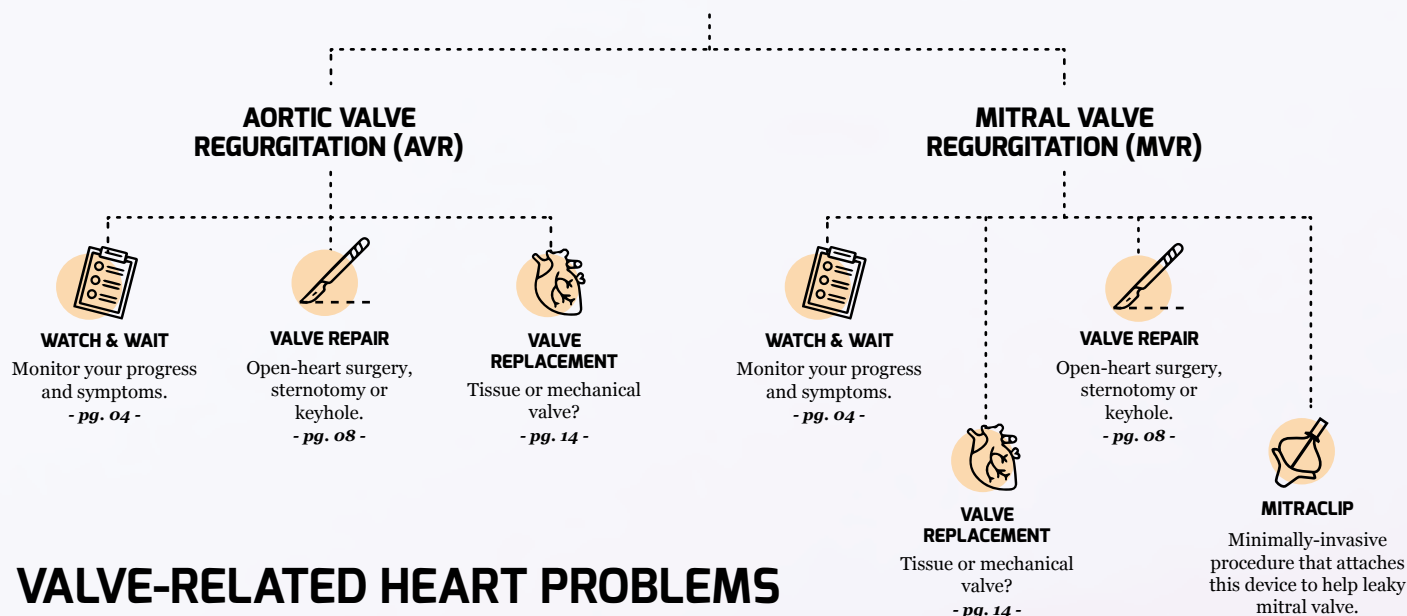


Does not close properly

STENOTIC VALVE



INCOMPETENT VALVE



VALVE-RELATED HEART PROBLEMS

