



The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Questions to Ask the Doctor **Aortic Valve Disease**

- Will my condition ever get better without treatment? Can it get worse?
- Will I need surgery?
- Are there any lifestyle changes I can make to avoid having surgery?
- What are my options for replacement valves? What kind of valve do you recommend?
- How often do you perform the procedure that you've recommended, and what is the success rate?
- What are the potential side effects of this treatment?
- Am I a candidate for minimally invasive surgery?
- Can you walk me through the entire treatment process?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- Will I have any restrictions after treatment? (activity, driving, etc)
- How long will I be out of work?
- Will I have to change my diet and/or lifestyle after treatment?
- Will I have to take any long-term medications?
- What will my follow-up care be like?