



The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Mitral Valve Disease

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