

## Questions to ask your doctor

- Am I a candidate for transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI)?
- What tests do I need?
- How soon will I need treatment?
- What are the risks associated with not having my aortic valve replaced?
- How long will I be in the hospital for TAVI vs. open heart surgery?
- What will the recovery be like for TAVI vs. open heart surgery?
- What restrictions and/or medications, if any, would I be on after the procedure for TAVI vs. open heart surgery?
- How frequently will I need to have follow-up visits for TAVI vs. open heart surgery?

For a free doctor discussion guide,  
go to [NewHeartValve.ca](http://NewHeartValve.ca)

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## Factors that determine if you are a good TAVI candidate

Your doctor will decide the best way to replace your heart valve and if TAVI is the right treatment path for you.

Your personal health history will be needed to determine your best treatment option. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have a history of any of the following:

- Stroke
- Atrial fibrillation (AFib)
- Prior open heart surgery
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Frailty (weakness)
- Prior chest radiation
- Coronary artery disease
- COPD
- Kidney failure
- Diabetes

For more information on TAVI and open heart surgery, go to  
[NewHeartValve.ca](http://NewHeartValve.ca)

## What is TAVI?

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation



# What are your options for treating severe aortic stenosis?

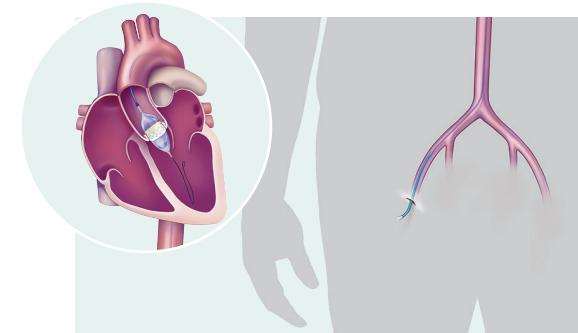
Treatment for aortic stenosis depends on how far your disease has progressed. If your stenosis is mild, medication may be prescribed to help regulate your heartbeat and prevent blood clots.

However, if the severity of your stenosis progresses, your doctor and a specialized heart team may recommend replacing your diseased aortic valve. Severe aortic stenosis cannot be treated with medication. The only effective treatment is to replace your aortic valve.

Today, there are two options to replace your diseased aortic valve: transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) or open heart surgery.

## Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI)

TAVI may be a better alternative for people who have been diagnosed with severe aortic stenosis and are at intermediate or greater risk for surgery. TAVI (sometimes called transcatheter aortic valve replacement, or TAVR) is a less-invasive procedure than open heart surgery. This procedure uses a catheter to implant a new valve within your diseased aortic valve. TAVI can be performed through multiple approaches; however, the most common approach is the transfemoral approach (through a small incision in the leg).

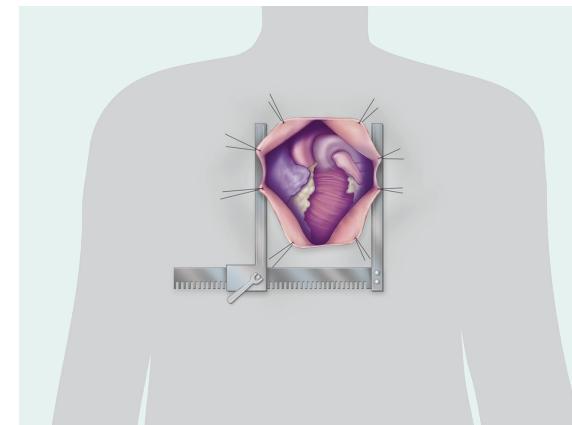


Only professionals who have received extensive training are qualified to perform the TAVI procedure. A properly trained and dedicated, multidisciplinary heart team at a heart center will conduct a thorough evaluation to determine the most appropriate treatment option for you.

## Open heart surgical aortic valve replacement (SAVR)

Aortic valve replacement through open heart surgery is another option for treating severe aortic stenosis. Most open heart surgeries are performed through an incision across the full length of the breast bone, or sternum. Open heart surgeries require the use of a heart lung machine which temporarily takes over the function of the heart.

During the procedure, the surgeon will completely remove the diseased aortic valve and insert a new valve. There are two different types of surgical valves, mechanical (man-made material) or biological (animal or human tissue). Please consult your doctor for more information on surgical aortic valve replacement and its associated risks.



## Benefits of different types of aortic valve replacement

	TAVI	SAVR
Benefits	Less invasive procedure	Open heart procedure
Relief of symptoms	✓	✓
Improved life expectancy	✓	✓
Improved quality of life	✓	✓
Short procedure time	✓	✗
Short hospital stay	✓	✗
Less painful procedure	✓	✗
Short recovery time	✓	✗