



NF FLORIDA HEART & LUNG INSTITUTE

NORTH FLORIDA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

What is TAVR?

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) is a heart valve replacement option for people with severe aortic valve stenosis who may not qualify, or would be intermediate to high risk, for open aortic valve replacement surgery. The TAVR procedure consists of a manufactured valve, which is delivered via a catheter that is advanced through the femoral artery in the groin, and into the heart – repairing the valve without having to remove the old, damaged valve.

Aortic Valve Stenosis

Aortic valve stenosis is a condition that must be treated by valve replacement via surgery. It occurs when the heart's aortic valve narrows, preventing the valve from opening fully and causing an obstruction of blood flow from your heart into your aorta, and thus to the rest of your body. The obstruction then causes your heart to go into overdrive, and work harder to pump blood to your body. Eventually, this takes a toll on your valve, limiting the amount of blood it can pump, and weakening your heart muscle.

The benefits of TAVR

There are many ways in which TAVR is more beneficial than the traditional open-heart surgery in carefully selected patients. Given that intermediate to high risk patients may not do as well with open-heart surgery, TAVR provides that life-saving alternative. It lowers the risk of stroke, bleeding, death, and avoids the need for heart-lung machine usage. Most importantly, the TAVR procedure provides a significantly shorter hospital stay, and a much more comfortable recovery.

Minimally invasive means you get home more quickly

The TAVR procedure uses a catheter to replace the heart valve. Rather than opening up the chest and completely removing the diseased valve, the valve used during TAVR is inserted via the femoral artery, and led to the heart, where it is then placed within the diseased aortic valve. The valve is then expanded, pushing the leaflets of the diseased valve aside, thus replacing it and taking over its role. The valve begins to work immediately, and should have a durability similar to surgically implanted valves.

The surgery usually lasts 1-2 hours, and patients are typically discharged within 24 to 48 hours post-procedure.

The Florida Heart & Lung Institute is a patient-focused center in which every provider is dedicated to excellence. Dr. Charles Klodell MD, Cardiothoracic surgeon, Professor of Surgery at the University of Central Florida, and Director of the cardiovascular surgical services at North Florida Regional Medical Center, offers a comprehensive range of services and specializes in heart and lung surgery, and is especially interested in minimally-invasive heart and lung operations. Having performed over 500 TAVR procedures, Dr. Klodell is considered one of the most qualified surgeons in his field. In addition to his extensive experience with TAVR, he is also an expert in minimally invasive methods of conventional surgical valve repair and replacement.



“Our goal is to help each patient not only live longer, but live better.”

Initial consultations are held at:

Florida Heart and Lung Institute Clinic at:
North Florida Regional Medical Center - 1st floor
6440 Newberry Road, Suite 102
Gainesville, FL 32605

To make an appointment, please call 352.333.5610

FLHeartAndLung.com