



Essentials: Episode 1

Aortic valve disease: what you need to know

Aortic Stenosis - Focus to the myocardium



ESC

European Society
of Cardiology

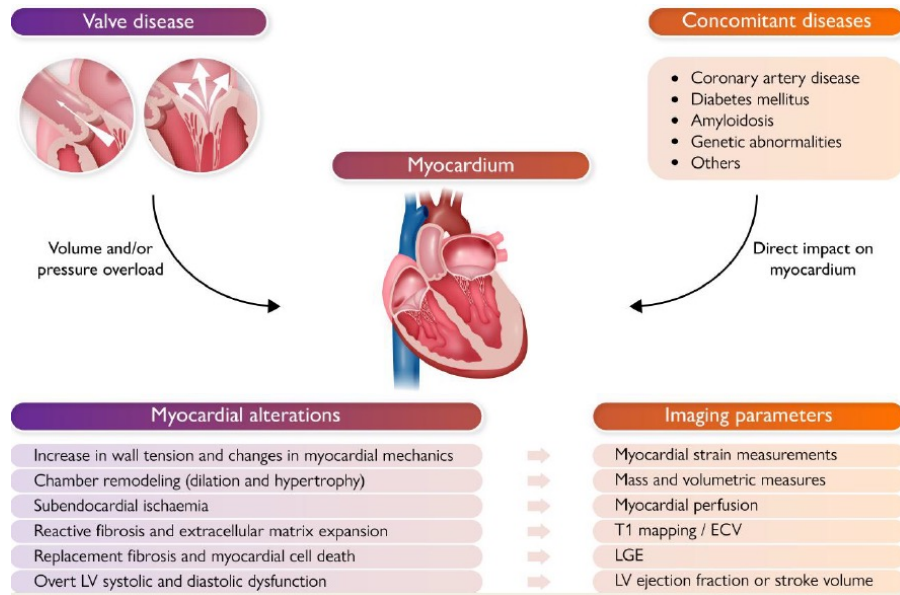
European Heart Journal (2023) 44, 28–40
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehac504>

STATE OF THE ART REVIEW

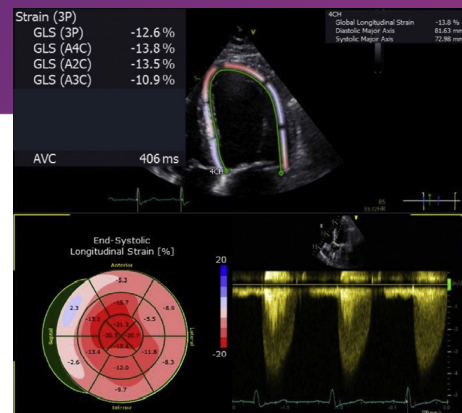
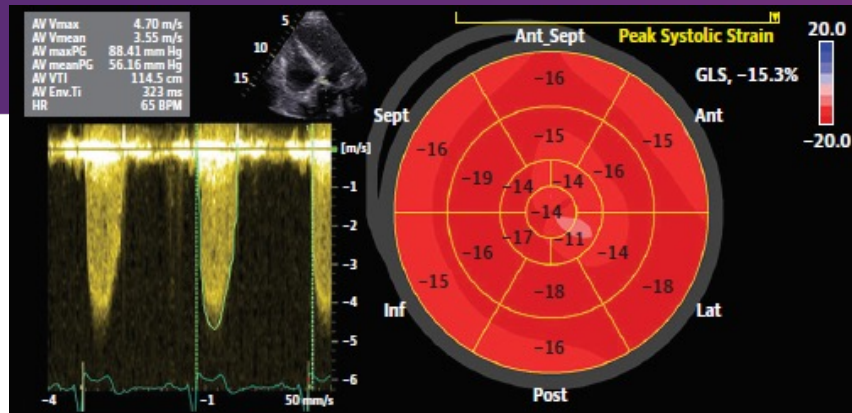
Valvular heart disease

Valvular heart disease: shifting the focus to the myocardium

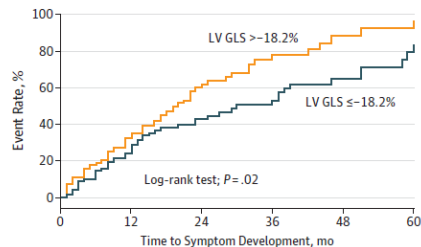
Nina Ajmone Marsan ¹, Victoria Delgado ^{1,2}, Dipan J. Shah ³, Patricia Pellikka ⁴, Jeroen J. Bax ¹, Thomas Treibel ⁵, and João L. Cavalcante ⁶



LV GLS in AS

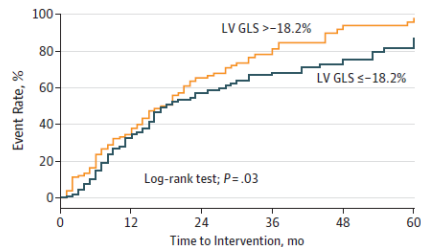


A Symptom development



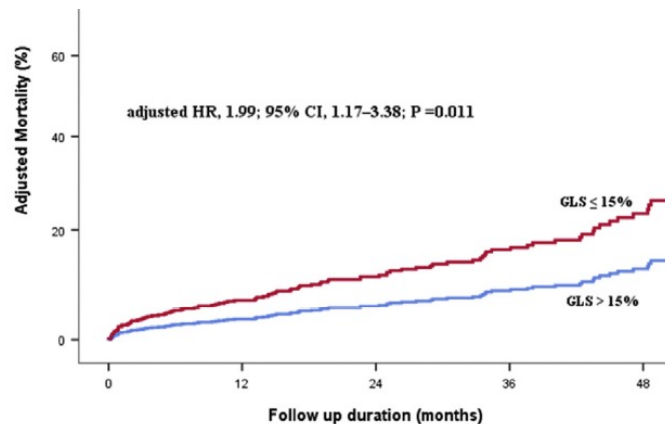
No. at risk	102	52	22	9	3	2
LV GLS > -18.2%	118	60	33	22	12	5

B Intervention

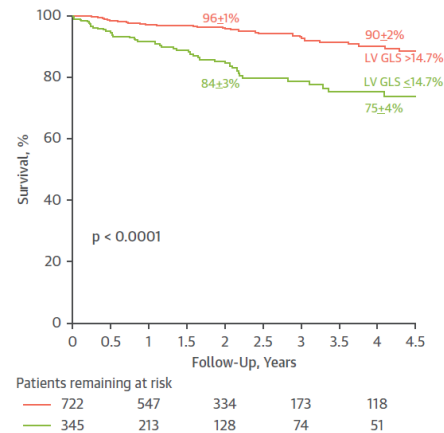


No. at risk	102	58	25	14	4	2
LV GLS > -18.2%	118	66	36	22	14	7

Vollema et al, JAMA Card 2018

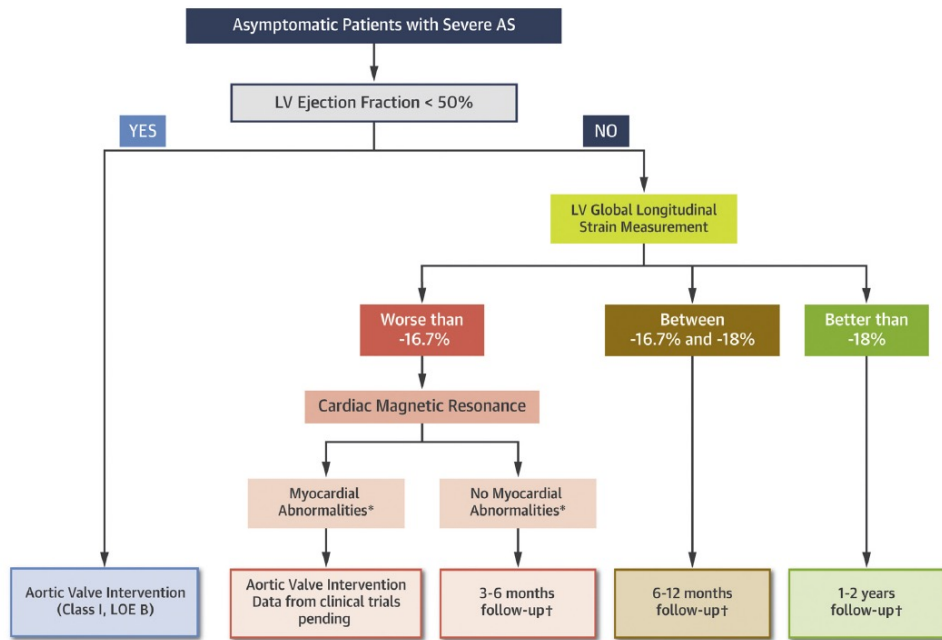


Magne et al, JACC CVI 2019

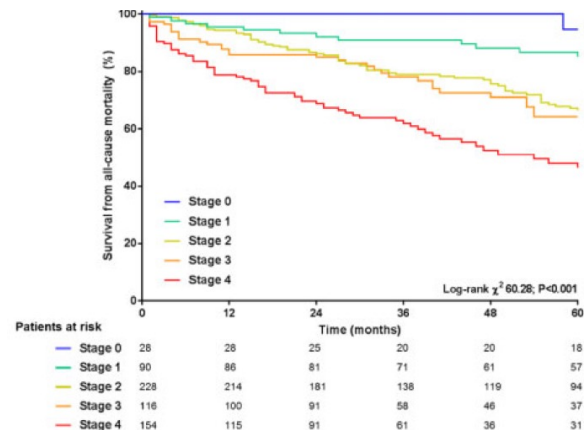
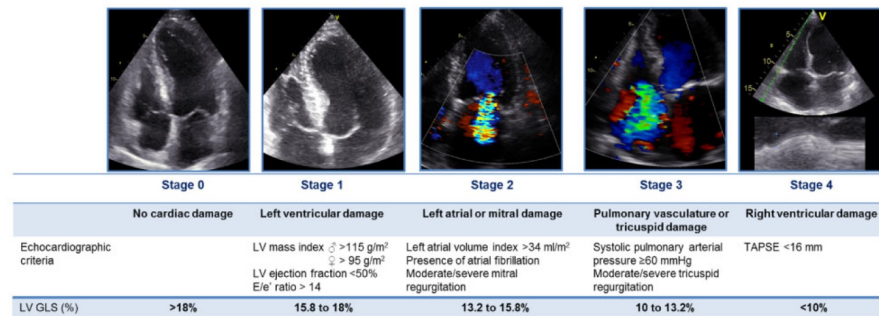


Theillier et al, JASE 2020

GLS in Asymptomatic Severe AS



Dahl, J.S. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Img. 2019;12(1):163-71.



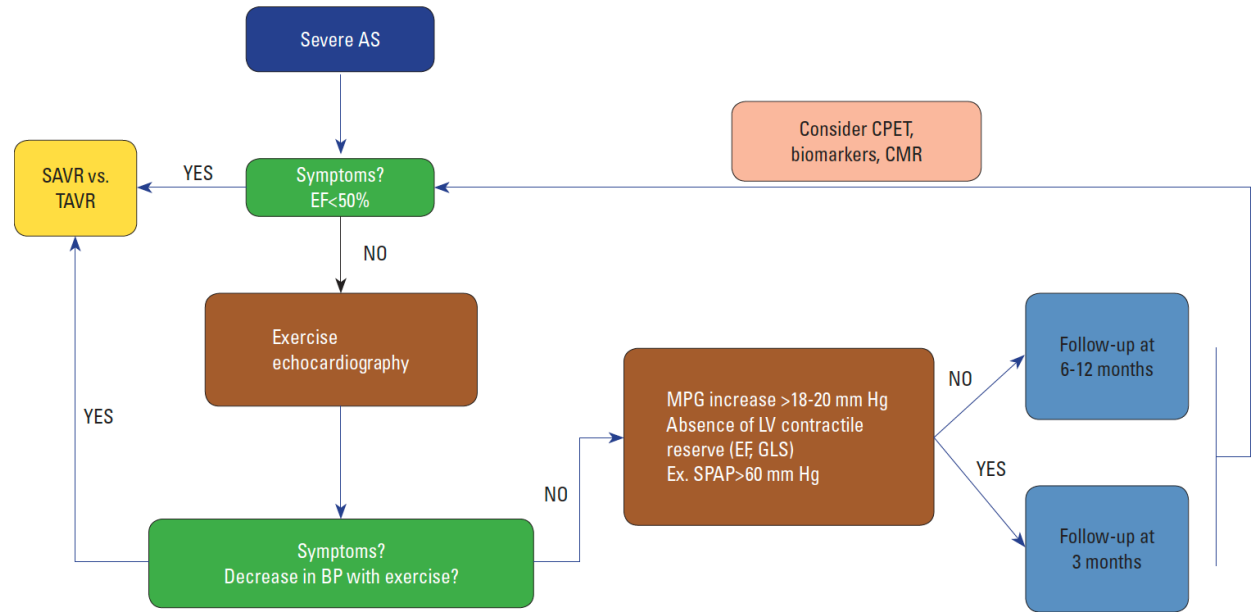
Vollema et al, EHJ CVI 20202

Role of exercise echocardiography (ESE) in AS

Asymptomatic severe AS
Risk stratification, optimal timing

LFLG preserved AS
True severe AS

Symptomatic moderate AS
Cause of symptoms



Postolache Anatol J Cardiol 2020; 23: 312-7

ESE incremental information to optimize follow-up interval according to predicted risk of event

Role of Cardiac CT in AS - Aortic valve calcification

Sex-specific CT-AVC thresholds

Cardiac CT

Severe AS very likely

Sex	AUC	Threshold	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	PPV (%)	NPV (%)
AVC						
Women	0.91	>1600				
		Specific threshold	69	95	95	65
		Best threshold	86	89	93	79
		Sensitive threshold	95	63	81	88
Men	0.90	>3000				
		Specific threshold	59	95	95	59
		Best threshold	89	80	88	82
		Sensitive threshold	95	70	84	90

Women >1200-1300

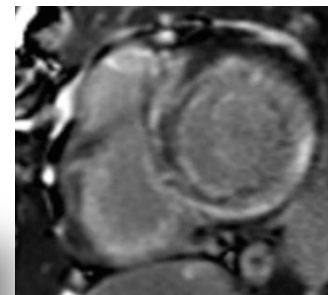
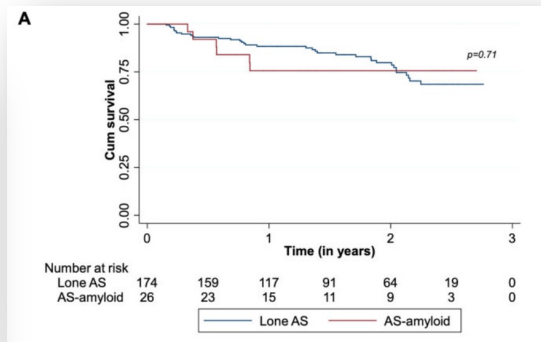
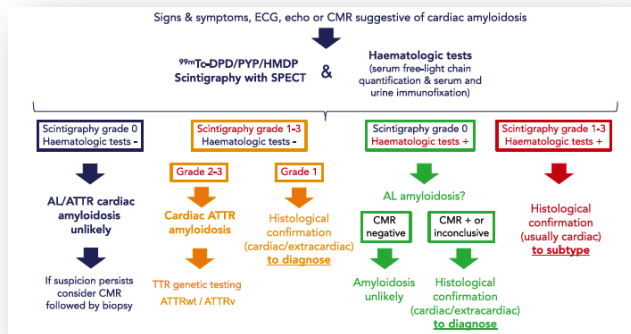
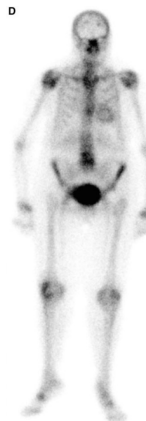
Men >2000

Clavel MA, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 64:1202–1213
Pawade et al. Circ Cardiovasc Imaging 2018;11:e007146.

Role of Cardiac MR in AS: Association with cardiac amyloidosis

- **Red flags:** LF-LG AS, excessive hypertrophy, low electrocardiographic voltages, or relatively higher levels of biomarkers
- **CMR findings:** typical LGE patterns, high T1 and ECV values

Bone scintigraphy is supported by recent expert consensus recommendations

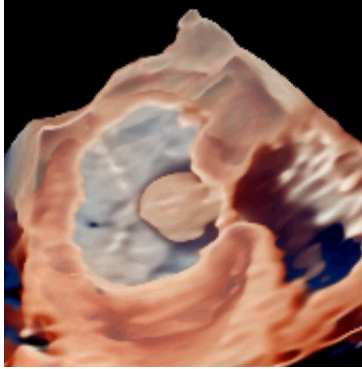


Cavalcante JL, et al. J Cardiovasc Magn Reson 2017;19:98.

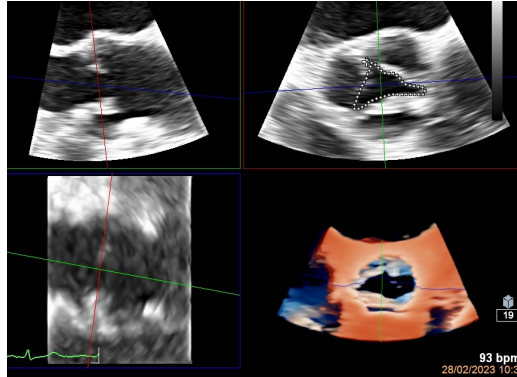
García Pavía. European Journal of Heart Failure (2021) 23, 512–526

Scully PR, et al Eur Heart J. 2020;41:2759–2767.

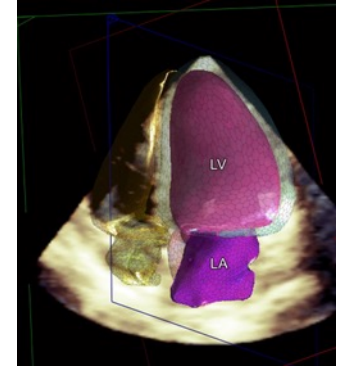
Aortic Stenosis - Role of 3D echocardiography



Detailed **anatomy**
presentation

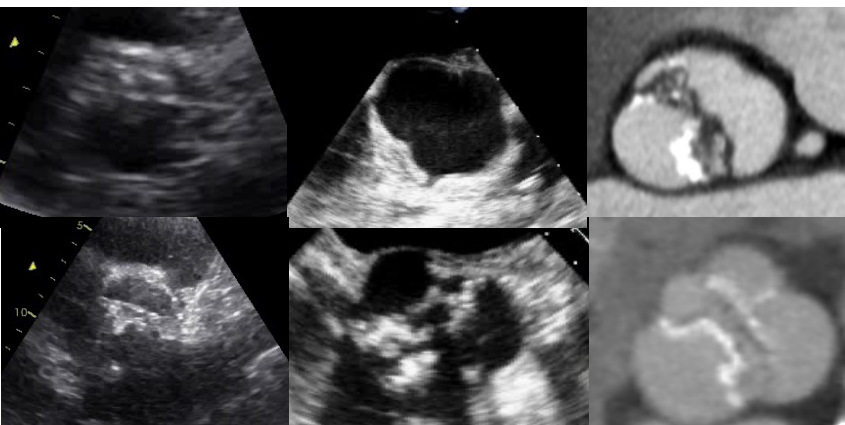


Advances in AVA
quantification



Cardiac function
assessment

Patient selection for TAVI: Mechanism of AS – tricuspid vs bicuspid calcific AS



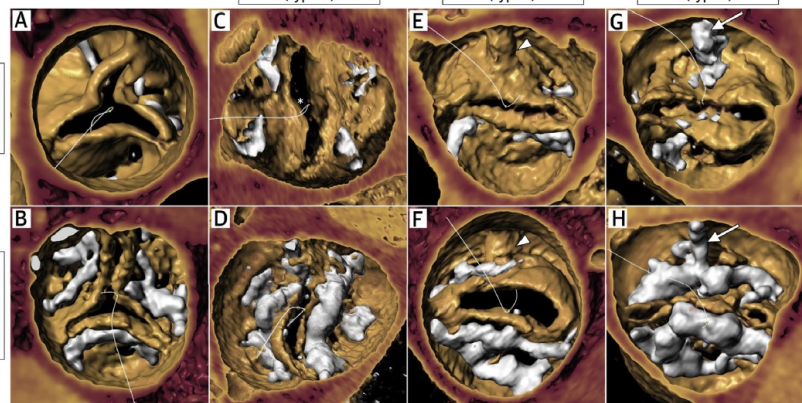
Tricuspid Aortic Valve

Bicuspid Aortic Valve

No Raphe
(type 0)

Noncalcified Raphe
(type 1)

Calcified Raphe
(type 1)

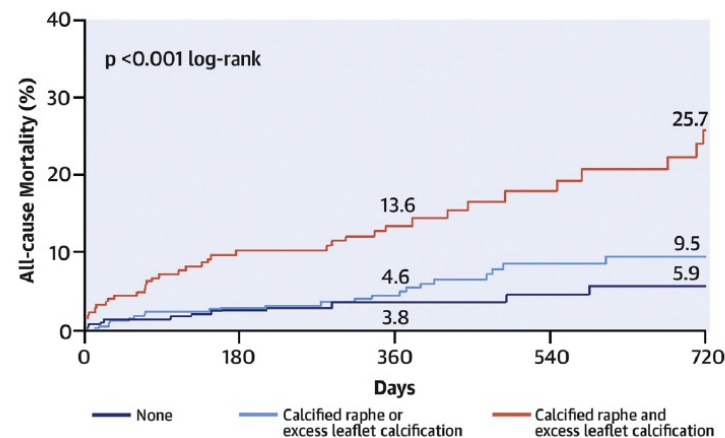
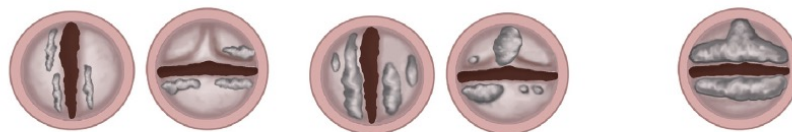


Death From Any Cause, According to Morphological Features

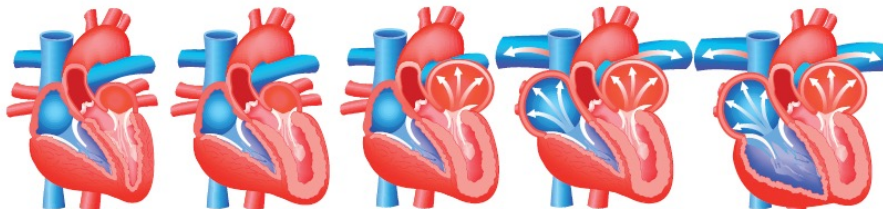
No Calcified Raphe or
Excess Leaflet
Calcification
(31.3%)

Calcified Raphe or
Excess Leaflet
Calcification
(42.6 %)

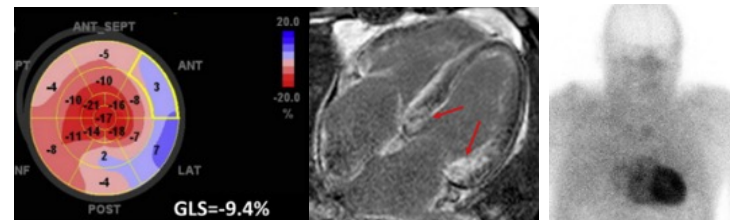
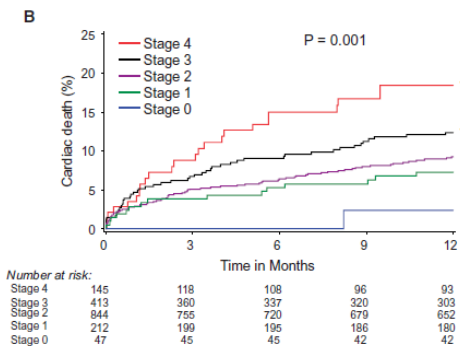
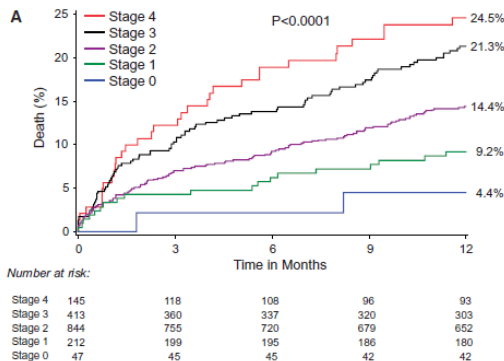
Calcified Raphe Plus
Excess Leaflet
Calcification
(26.0 %)



Patient selection for TAVI: Focus on the myocardium



Stages/Criteria	Stage 0	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
	No Cardiac Damage	LV Damage	LA or Mitral Damage	Pulmonary Vasculature or Tricuspid Damage	RV Damage
Echocardiogram		Increased LV Mass Index >115 g/m ² (Male) >95 g/m ² (Female)	Indexed left atrial volume >34mL/m ²	Systolic Pulmonary hypertension ≥60 mmHg	Moderate-Severe right ventricular dysfunction
		E/e' >14	Moderate-Severe mitral regurgitation	Moderate-Severe tricuspid regurgitation	
		LV Ejection Fraction <50%	Atrial Fibrillation		



Cardiac Amyloidosis

CA Red Flags

- Clinical: ≥65 years, Male, carpal tunnel syndrome
- ECG: Low-voltage despite LVH, Pseudo-infarction pattern
- Biomarkers: Disproportionate elevation of troponin and BNP
- TTE: Severe biventricular hypertrophy, Myocardial granular sparkling, Severe LV longitudinal systolic dysfunction with apical sparing
- CMR: Extensive LV LGE and elevated ECV values

Confirm Diagnosis of CA

- Confirm TTR-CA: Grade 2 or 3 cardiac uptake on bone scintigraphy with negative blood or urine monoclonal light chain
- Exclude CA Diagnosis: Grade 0 cardiac uptake on bone scintigraphy with negative blood or urine monoclonal light chain
- Prevalence of TTR-CA in AS: up to 15%

Therapeutic Management of CA

- AL-CA: Chemotherapy
- TTR-CA: TTR stabilizer in patients with HF
- Heart Management: CHAD-STOP

Aortic Stenosis

AS Features in Patients with CA

- High prevalence of paradoxical low-flow, low-gradient AS
- Aortic valve amyloid infiltration
- Faster AS progression?

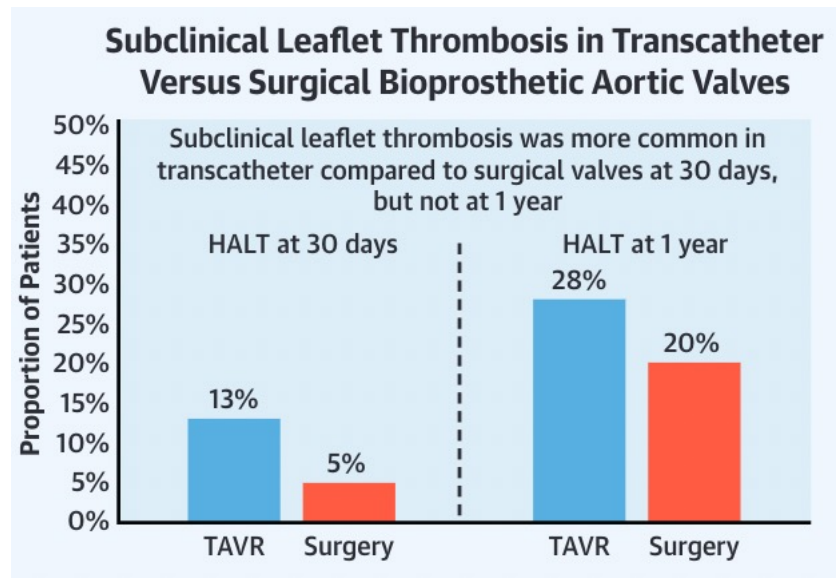
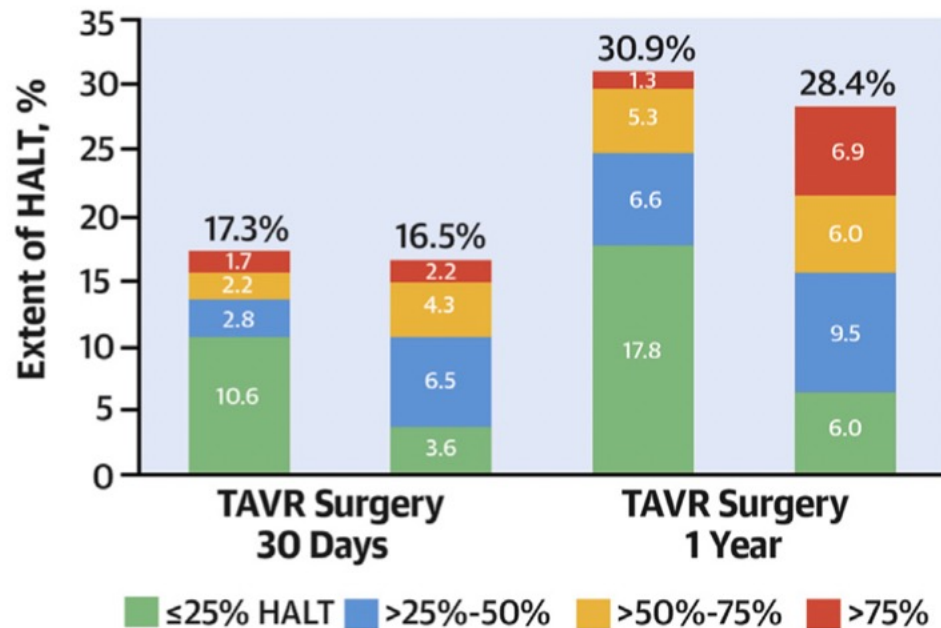
Confirm AS Severity

- AV Calcium Score by Non-Contrast CT
≥ 1,200 AU in women
≥ 2,000 AU in men

Therapeutic Management of AS

- Evaluation by Heart Team
- TAVR in low-flow, low-gradient severe AS
- TAVR in high-gradient AS with depressed LV systolic function
- SAVR or TAVR according to surgical risk in high-gradient AS with preserved LV systolic function
- Medical treatment alone in patients with high risk of AVR futility

Bioprosthetic Valve Thrombosis - Both TAVR and SAVR are Equally Susceptible

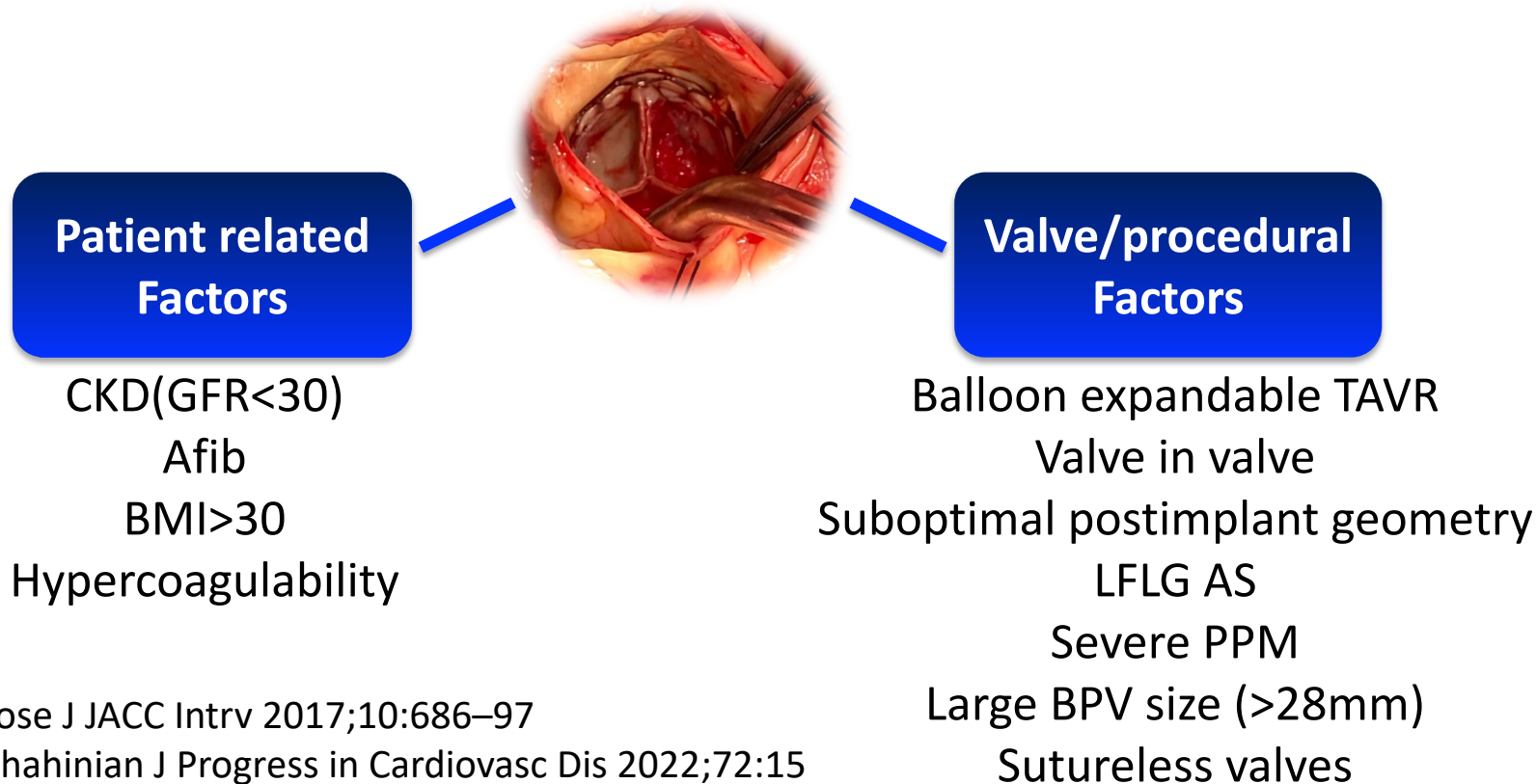


➤ **At the end of 1 year BPVT incidence is similar in TAVR and SVR**

Blanke, P. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020;75:2430

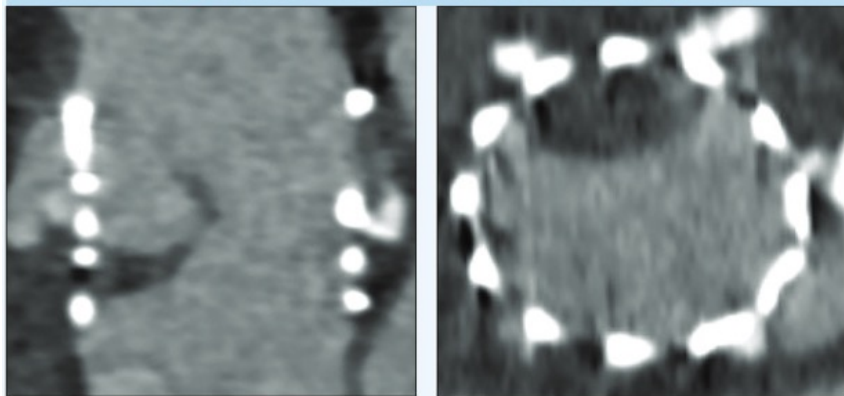
Makkar, R.R. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020;75:3003

Bioprosthetic Valve Thrombosis - Risk Factors

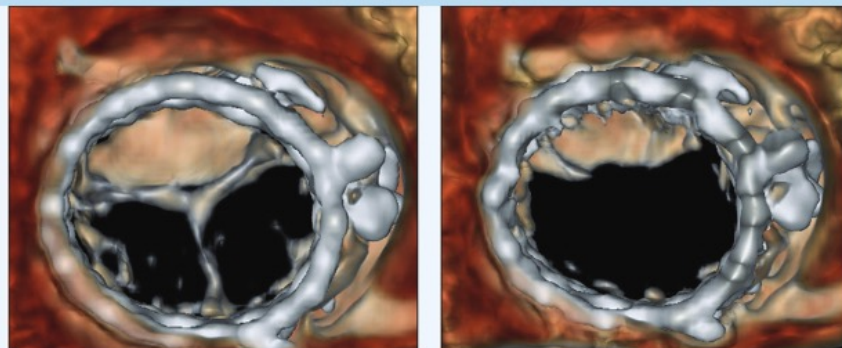


Bioprosthetic Valve Thrombosis HALT vs Restricted Leaflet Motion (RLM) by CT

Hypoattenuated leaflet thickening



Reduced leaflet motion



Diastole

Systole

HALT is very reproducible given the **excellent spatial resolution of CT**.

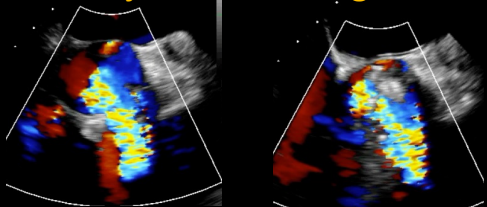
However, because of the **modest temporal resolution** of CT,

➤ **RLM** should be evaluated only in the context of HALT to avoid overdiagnosis

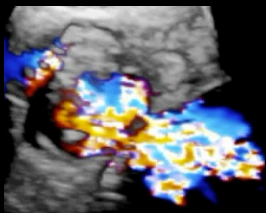
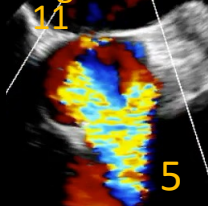
Paravalvular leak evaluation

PVL anatomy

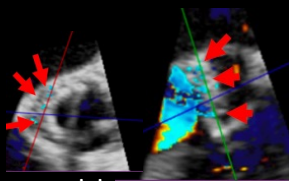
Track jet back to origin



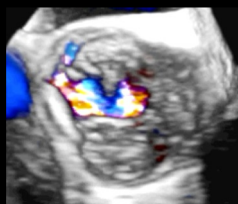
Interrogate entire sewing ring systematically



Sieve like defect V Discrete defect

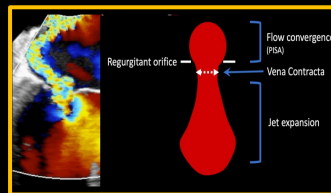


serpiginous route



PVL severity

Understand concept of regurgitant jet



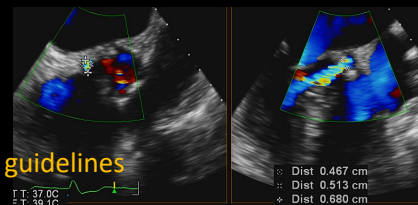
Orifice area

3D vena contracta

Describes the defect size

Quantification similar to standard guidelines

Biplane vena contracta



Jet characteristics

Broad jet origin severe $>60\%$ LVOT diameter

Multiple jets

Jet path visible along stent \geq Moderate

Flow convergence visible \geq Moderate

Diastolic flow reversal EDV >20

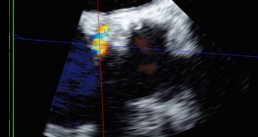
PHT ≥ 200

Circumferential extent $\geq 20\%$

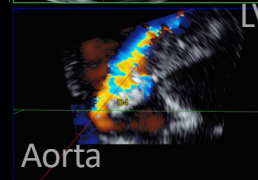
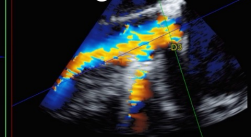
TOE allows detailed anatomical assessment, TG views essential

3D Multiplane reconstruction

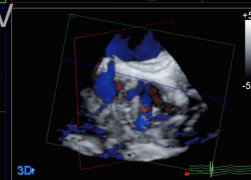
SAX AV view, 50°



Long axis AV view, 135°



Aorta



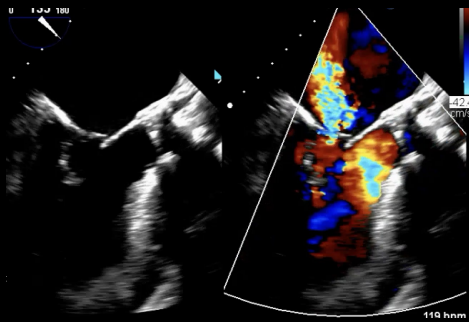
VC 12mm x 5mm
VC area 45mm²

Align to visualize 3 components of regurgitant jet
Locate vena contracta

Paravalvular leak management

Suboptimal TAVR position

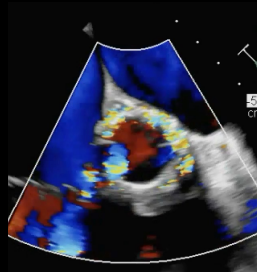
Prosthesis migrated towards aorta



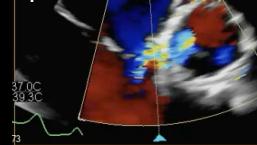
Valve in Valve to reestablish seal



PVL closure



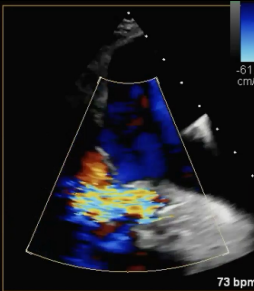
Transgastric view.
Xplane



Biplane VC
13x7mm

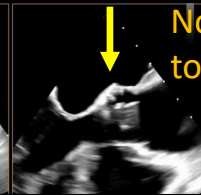
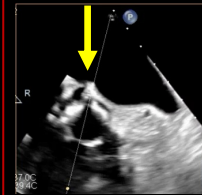
Leak closure with
vascular plug

SAX view
Acoustic shadowing

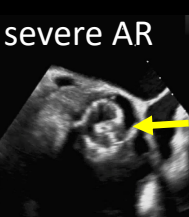
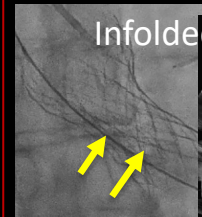


Prosthesis balloon valvuloplasty

High risk of annular rupture



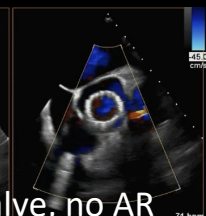
Not attractive
to balloon



Infolded Evolute 34, severe AR



Balloon valvuloplasty



Fully expanded valve, no AR

Paravalvular leak evaluation and management

Key messages

Moderate or more PVL after TAVR adversely impacts outcomes

Accurate annulus sizing essential

Ensure no contributing comorbid disease *eg arrhythmia, LV dyssynchrony, anaemia*

TOE essential tool in evaluation

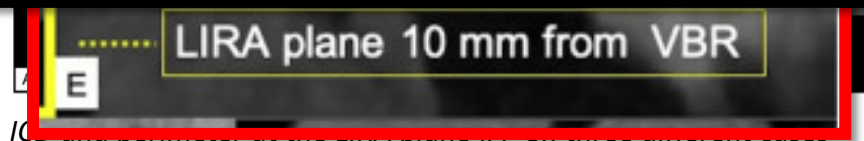
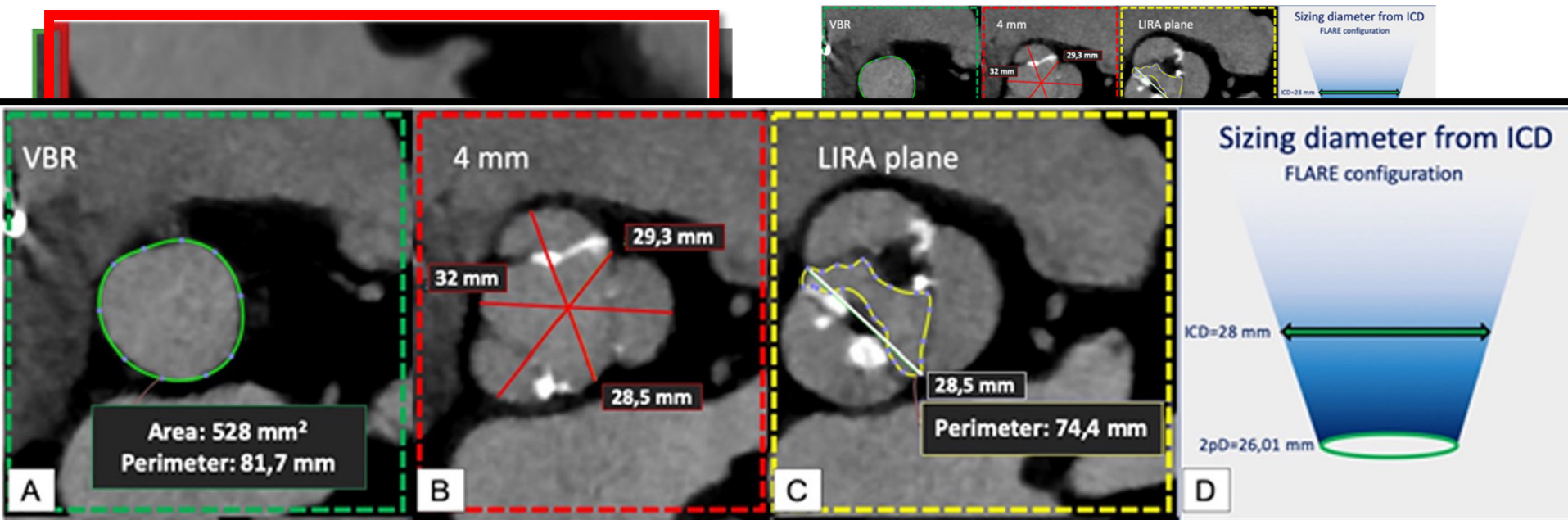
Decision on how to treat determined by clinical and anatomical factors

TAVR Malposition, not creating seal ? Valve in Valve

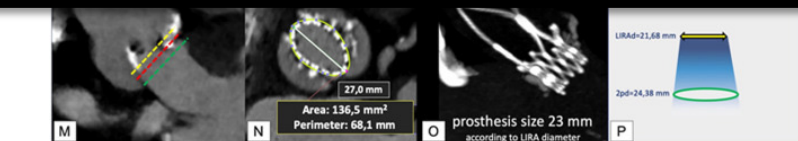
Heavy calcification stent unable to appose ? PVL closure

TAVR distortion (risk during recapture) ? Ballooning valve

Measurement of Aortic annulus in Bicuspid AV using CT (Level of Implantation at the RAphe) plane **LIRA** method



with similar ICDs values but with different perimeters at the LIRA



sizing according to LIRA plane perimeter and ICD at the LIRA plane

Oversizing

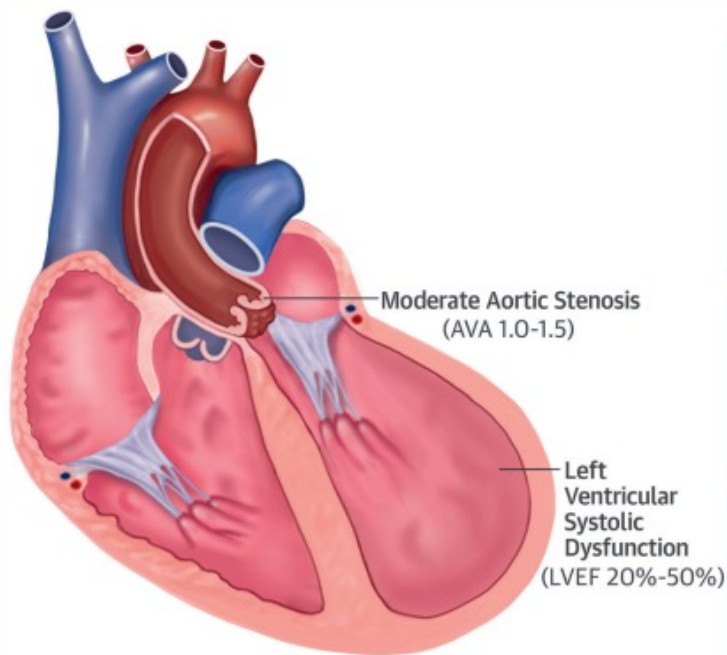
- 10-20% based on annular area for balloon-expandable TAVR prostheses
- 5-10% based on annular diameter for self-expanding TAVR prostheses

Undersizing

- is practiced rarely overall. Mostly in cautious situations to avoid annulus rupture

Symptomatic patient with moderate aortic stenosis. LV systolic and diastolic dysfunction

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Moderate Aortic Stenosis and LV Systolic Dysfunction



van Gils, L. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2017;69(19):2383-92.

Prognostic Implications at 4-year follow-up:

- All-cause death or hospitalization for heart failure-48%
- All-cause death-36%
- Aortic valve replacement-24%
- Hospitalization for heart failure-27%

Factors Associated with Worse Prognosis:

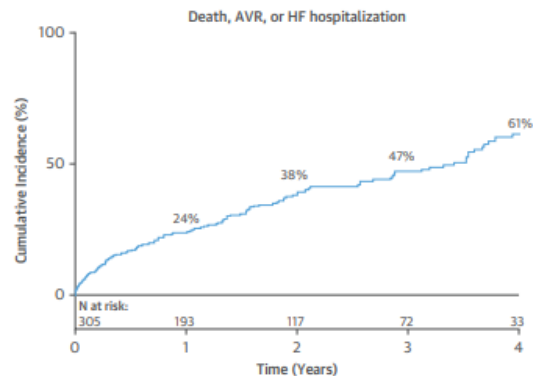
- Male sex
- NYHA functional class III or IV
- Higher transaortic velocities

Future Treatment Option:

- Early transcatheter aortic valve replacement; to be investigated in the randomized TAVR-UNLOAD trial.

What are the Prognostic Implications of Moderate Aortic Stenosis in Patients With Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction?

FIGURE 2 Incidence of the Composite Primary Endpoint

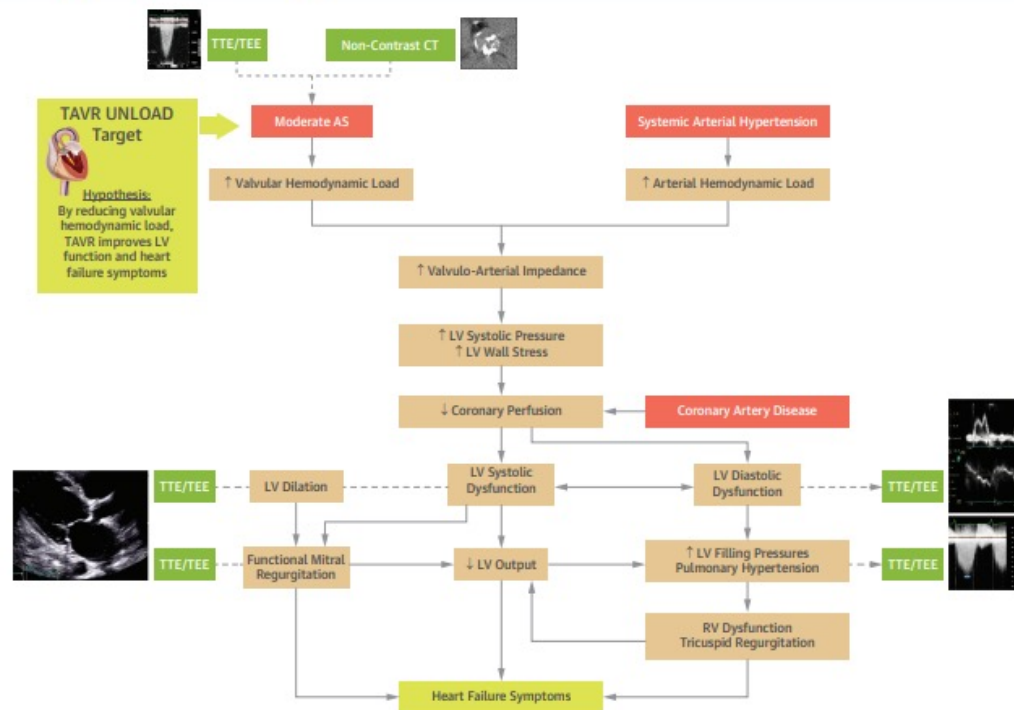


Cumulative incidence increased to 61% at 4-year follow-up, with the steepest increase during the first year following the index echocardiogram. The findings implicated that this population faces a high clinical event rate. Abbreviations as in Figure 1.

J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;69:2383-92

Symptomatic patient with moderate aortic stenosis. LV systolic and diastolic dysfunction

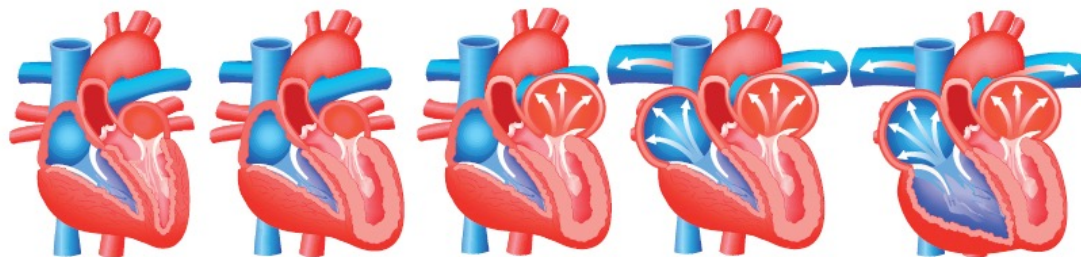
CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Moderate Aortic Stenosis and Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction: Pathophysiology and Role of Imaging



Pibarot, P. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Img. 2019;12(1):172-84.

The symptomatic patient with moderate aortic stenosis

Cardiac Damage Staging



Stages/Criteria	Stage 0	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
	No Cardiac Damage	LV Damage	LA or Mitral Damage	Pulmonary Vasculature or Tricuspid Damage	RV Damage
Echocardiogram		Increased LV Mass Index >115 g/m ² (Male) >95 g/m ² (Female)	Indexed left atrial volume >34 mL/m ²	Systolic Pulmonary hypertension ≥60 mmHg	Moderate-Severe right ventricular dysfunction
		E/e' >14	Moderate-Severe mitral regurgitation	Moderate-Severe tricuspid regurgitation	
		LV Ejection Fraction <50%	Atrial Fibrillation		

Stages 3-4: Pulmonary or tricuspid valve damage, or RV damage or subclinical heart failure

- Pulmonary hypertension (SPAP ≥60 mm Hg)
- Tricuspid regurgitation (≥moderate)
- RV systolic dysfunction (≥moderate)
- Moderate to severe low-flow (stroke volume index <30 mL/m²)

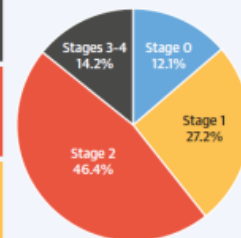
Stage 2: LA or mitral valve damage

- Left atrial enlargement (LA volume >34 mL/m²)
- Atrial fibrillation
- Mitral regurgitation (≥moderate)

Stage 1: LV damage

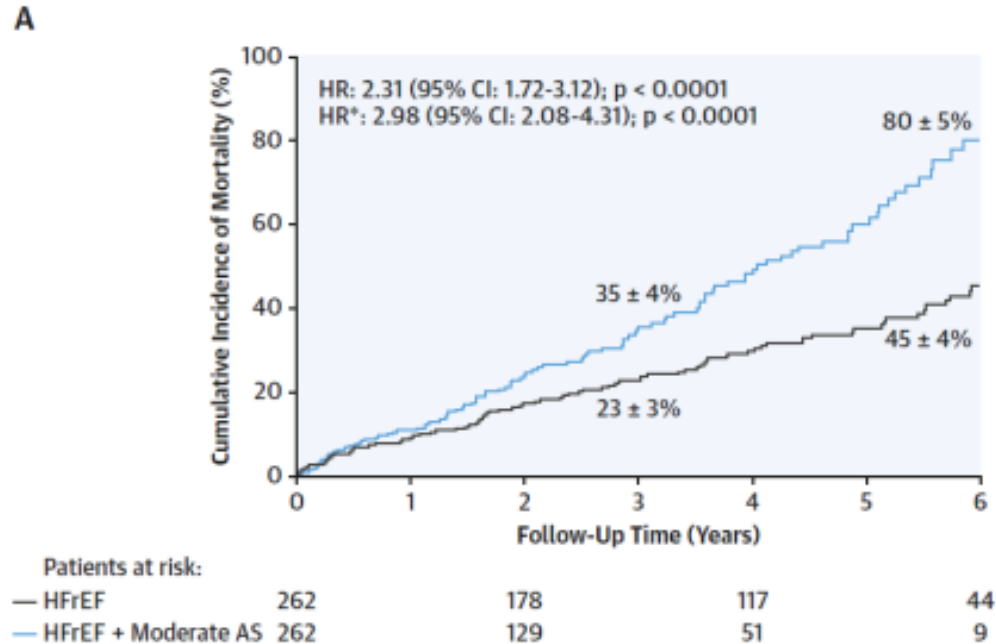
- LV hypertrophy (LV mass index >95 g/m² women; >115 g/m² men)
- Grade ≥ II LV diastolic dysfunction
- Impaired LV global longitudinal strain (≤15%)
- Subclinical LV systolic dysfunction (LVEF <60%)

Stage 0: No cardiac damage



The symptomatic patient with moderate aortic stenosis

Excess mortality compared to HFrEF



Jean et al. JACC 2021;77(22):2796-803

The symptomatic patient with moderate aortic stenosis

Why Transfemoral TAVR may be a good option in Moderate AS

- Patients with **moderate AS** have **low gradient** at baseline
- Provide large valve EOAs and low gradients: greater potential for significant **hemodynamic benefit**
- Low rates of **paravalvular regurgitation**: more impact in HF/LVH patients
- **Transfemoral TAVR** and under conscious sedation will be feasible in the vast majority of patients with moderate AS and HF
- Who to target and **where to stop**???

Cardiac Amyloidosis

CA Red Flags

- **Clinical:** ≥65 years, Male, carpal tunnel syndrome
- **ECG:** Low-voltage despite LVH, Pseudo-infarction pattern
- **Biomarkers:** Disproportionate elevation of troponin and BNP
- **TTE:** Severe biventricular hypertrophy, Myocardial granular sparkling, Severe LV longitudinal systolic dysfunction with apical sparing
- **CMR:** Extensive LV LGE and elevated ECV values

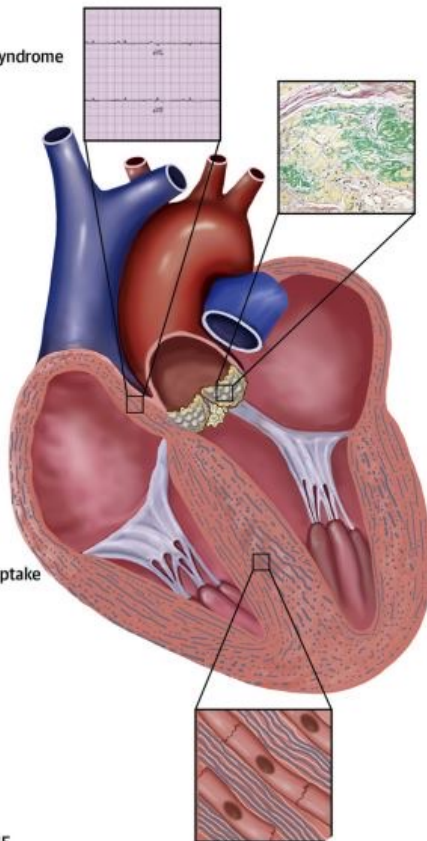
Confirm Diagnosis of CA

- **Confirm TTR-CA:** Grade 2 or 3 cardiac uptake on bone scintigraphy with negative blood or urine monoclonal light chain
- **Exclude CA Diagnosis:** Grade 0 cardiac uptake on bone scintigraphy with negative blood or urine monoclonal light chain
- **Prevalence of TTR-CA in AS:** up to 15%

Therapeutic Management of CA

- **AL-CA:** Chemotherapy
- **TTR-CA:** TTR stabilizer in patients with HF
- **Heart Management:** CHAD-STOP

5-32% ←



Aortic Stenosis

AS Features in Patients with CA

- High prevalence of paradoxical low-flow, low-gradient AS
- Aortic valve amyloid infiltration
- Faster AS progression?

→ 78% HFpEF/paradoxical LF LG AS

→ Coexistence of CA not assessed

Audet et al, Histopathology, 2012

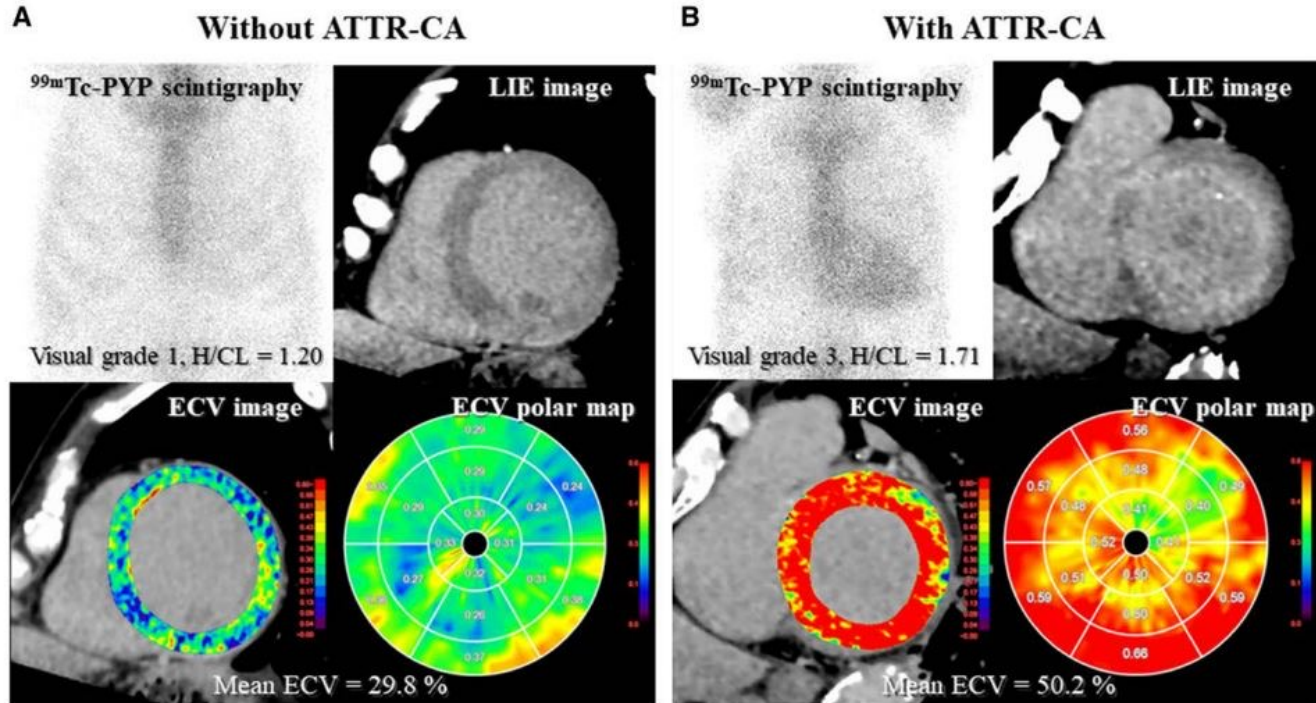
Confirm AS Severity

- **AV Calcium Score by Non-Contrast CT**
 - ≥ 1,200 AU in women
 - ≥ 2,000 AU in men

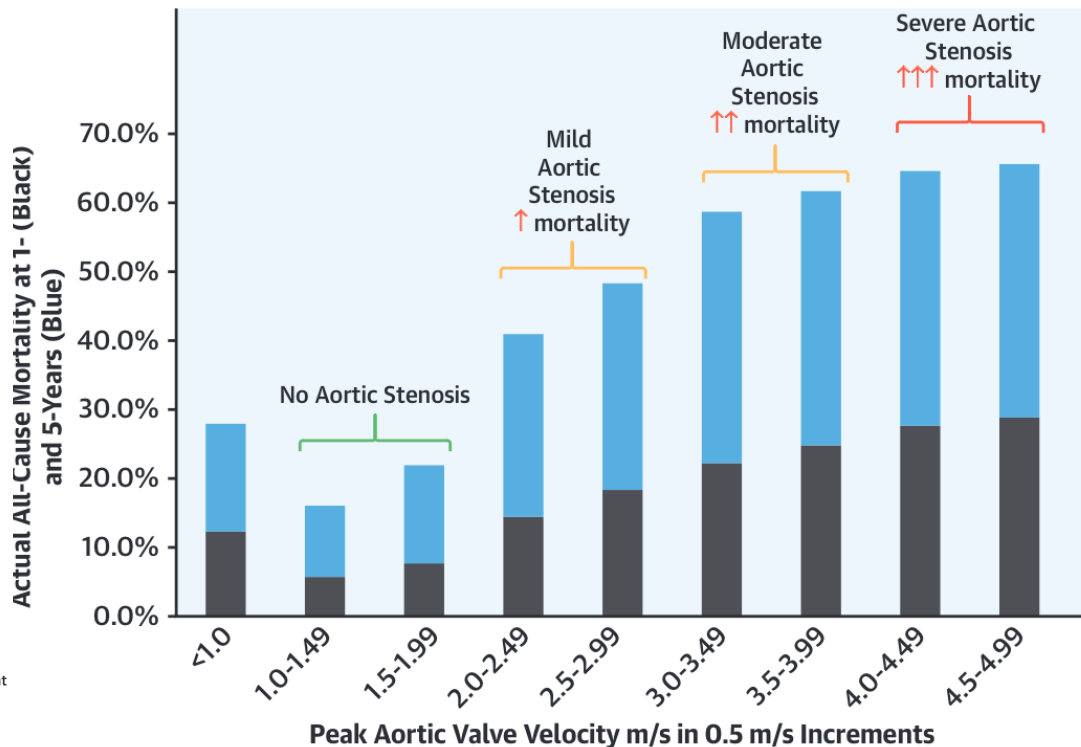
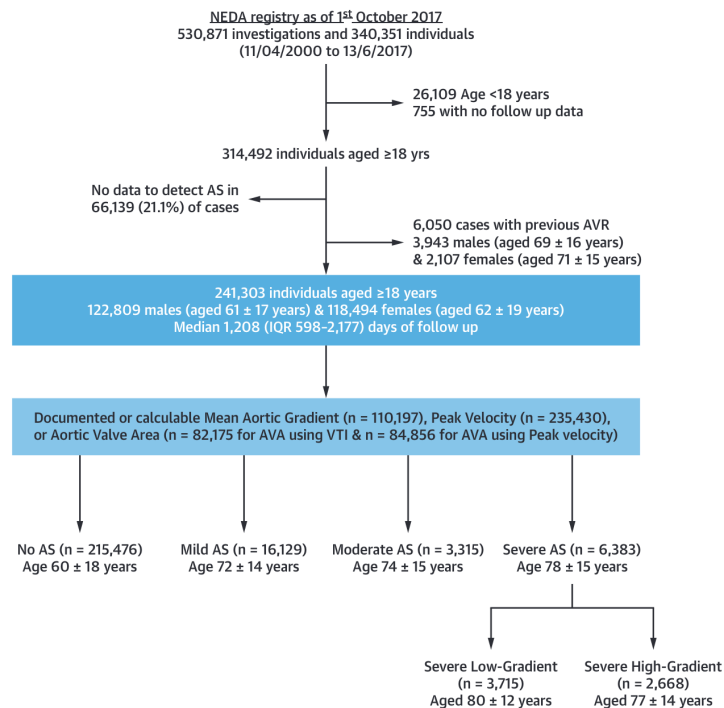
Therapeutic Management of AS

- **Evaluation by Heart Team**
- **TAVR** in low-flow, low-gradient severe AS
- **TAVR** in high-gradient AS with depressed LV systolic function
- **SAVR or TAVR** according to surgical risk in high-gradient AS with preserved LV systolic function
- **Medical treatment** alone in patients with high risk of AVR futility

TAVI CT can be used to detect cardiac amyloidosis



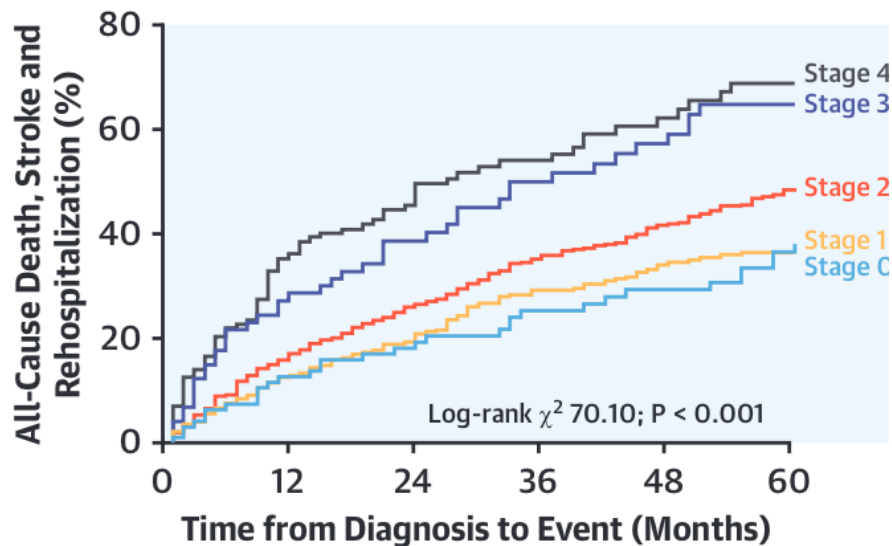
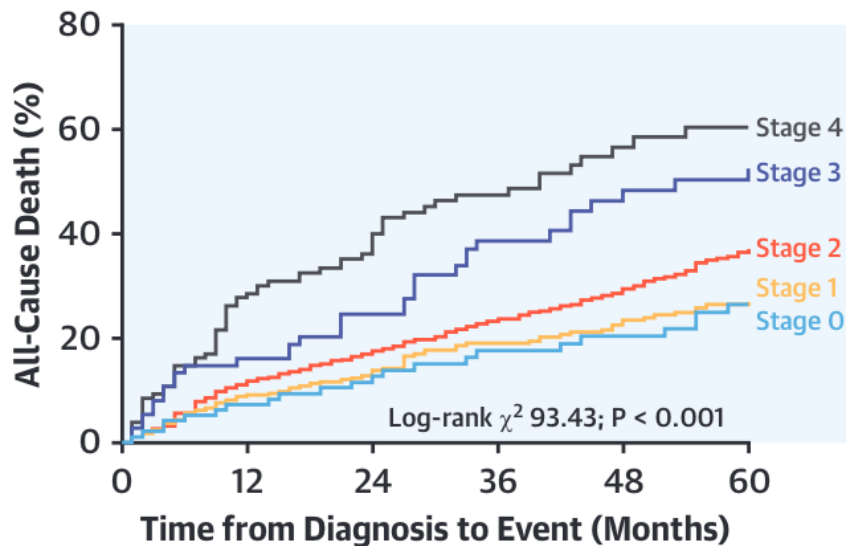
Moderate Native Valvular Aortic Stenosis and Long-Term Survival: 1- and 5-Year Mortality per Increment in Peak Aortic Valve Velocity



Strange, G. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;74(15):1851-63.

Cardiac damage drives outcomes

Outcomes According to Stages of Cardiac Damage



Vollema, E.M. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;74(4):538-49.

Combination of the newly **proposed** cardiac damage staging classification and the valvular grading severity ...

Aortic Stenosis Grading and Staging Classification

Grade/Stage	Stage 0 No cardiac damage	Stage 1 LV damage	Stage 2 LA-Mitral damage	Stage 3 PA-Tricuspid damage	Stage 4 RV damage
Grade 0 ($V_{max} < 2$ m/s)					
Grade 1 (V_{max} 2.0-2.9 m/s; MG <20 mm Hg)					
Grade 2 (V_{max} 3.0-3.9 m/s; MG 20-39 mm Hg)					
Grade 3 (AVA ≤ 1.0 cm ² or AVAi ≤ 0.6 cm ² /m ² ; $V_{max} \geq 4.0$ m/s, MG ≥ 40 mm Hg)					

Genereux et al, Eur Heart J, Volume 38, Issue 45, 01 December 2017, Pages 3351–3358

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