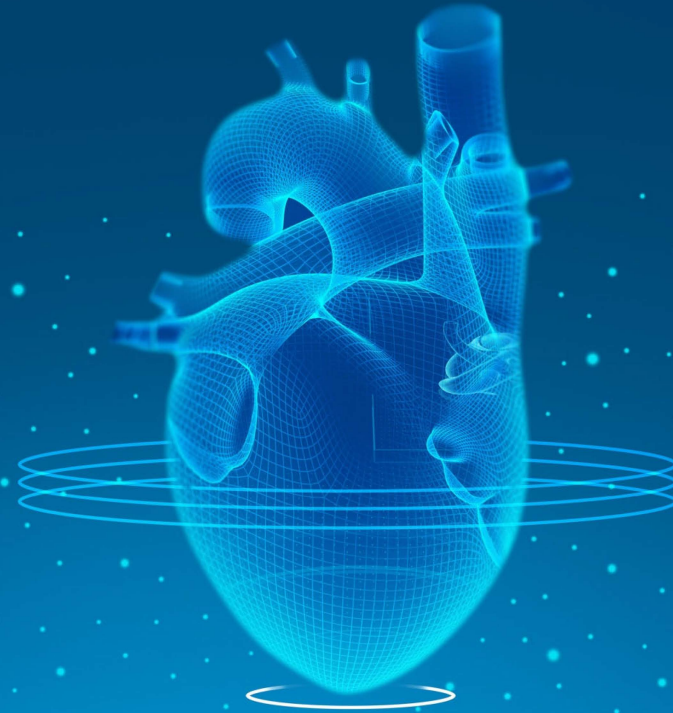




# GRAND ROUNDS



# Modern Definitions of Aortic Stenosis The Frontier

Nadira Hamid, MD  
Valve Science Center, Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation  
Abbott Northwestern Hospital



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## Disclosures

I, Nadira Hamid DO NOT have a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with one or more organizations that could be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of the subject of this presentation



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## Definitions for Severity of AS

### Conventional Criteria




Healthy      Mild  
 Moderate      Severe


**AVA <math>< 1 \text{ cm}^2</math>**

**PV  $\geq 4 \text{ m/s}$**

**Mean grad >40 mmHg**



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## Discordant Grading – Low Gradient AS

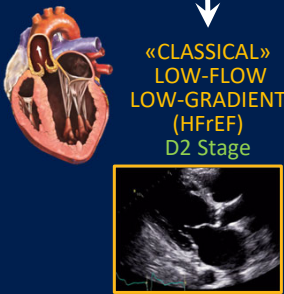
AVA  $\leq 1.0 \text{ cm}^2$     MG <math>< 40 \text{ mmHg}</math>

↓

LVEF

<math>< 50\%</math>

↓



«CLASSICAL»  
 LOW-FLOW  
 LOW-GRADIENT  
 (HFrEF)  
 D2 Stage

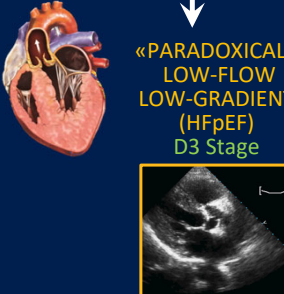
>50%

↓

SVi

<math>< 35 \text{ mL/m}^2</math>

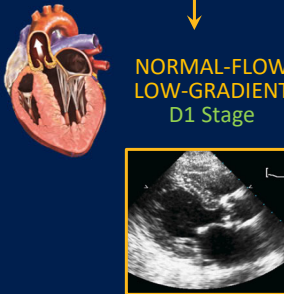
↓



«PARADOXICAL»  
 LOW-FLOW  
 LOW-GRADIENT  
 (HFpEF)  
 D3 Stage


>35 mL/m<sup>2</sup>

↓




NORMAL-FLOW  
 LOW-GRADIENT  
 D1 Stage

**Courtesy of Philippe Pibarot**



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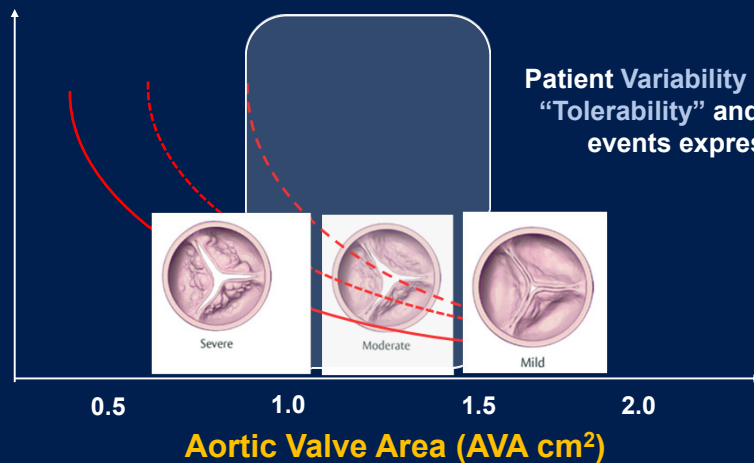


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# What is the Threshold For Adverse Events?

Adverse Events  
Mortality  
Valve-related symptoms  
Cardiac damage



Patient Variability in AS load  
“Tolerability” and adverse events expression



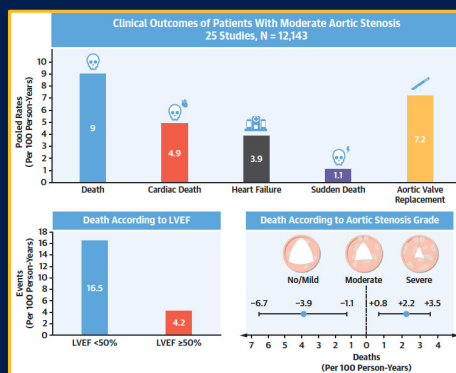
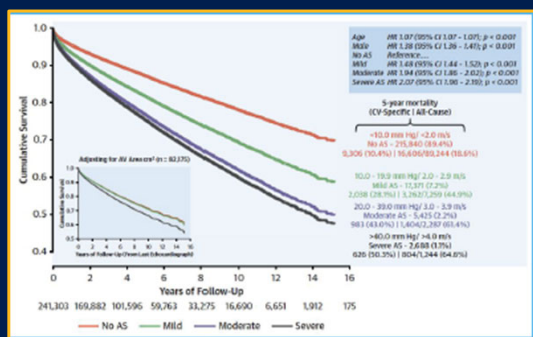
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# Is Moderate AS Bad?



Strange et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019 Oct 15, 74(15):1851-1863

Coisne et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. Inter 2022;15(16): 1664-74



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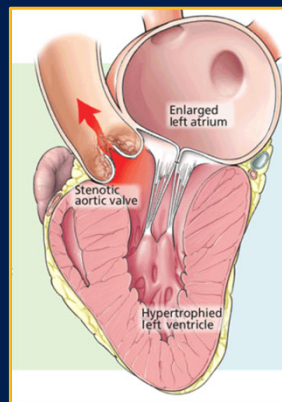
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## Why Moderate AS is Bad

### Cardiac Consequences

- ECHO diagnostic challenges
- Rapid undetected progression
- Subclinical cardiac damage
- Late presentation
- Failure to intervene timely



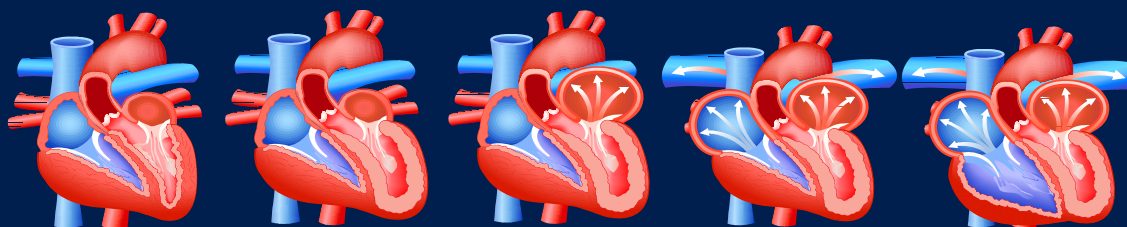
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## Cardiac Damage in AS Impairs Survival Often Silent



Stage 0 No damage	Stage 1 LV damage	Stage 2 LA/Mitral damage	Stage 3 PA/Tricuspid damage	Stage 4 RV damage
	Increased LV Mass Index >115 g/m <sup>2</sup> Male >95 g/m <sup>2</sup> Female	Indexed left atrial volume >34mL/m <sup>2</sup>	PAS ≥60mmhg	Moderate-Severe RV dysfunction
	E/e' >14	Moderate-Severe MR	Moderate-Severe TR	
	EF <50%	Atrial Fibrillation		

Généreux et al. Eur  
Heart J 2017 Jul 21

Patients hierarchically classified based on the presence of at least one variable in the highest stage (independent, not additive)



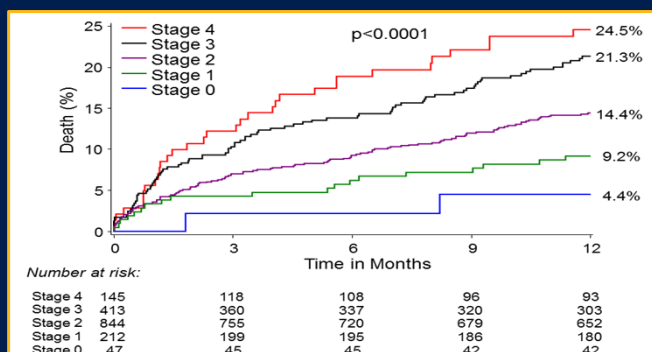
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## Extent of Cardiac Damage Severe AS with Symptoms



1 Year Death After  
 AVR  
 N = 1661 patients

Généreux et al. Eur Heart J 2017 Jul 21



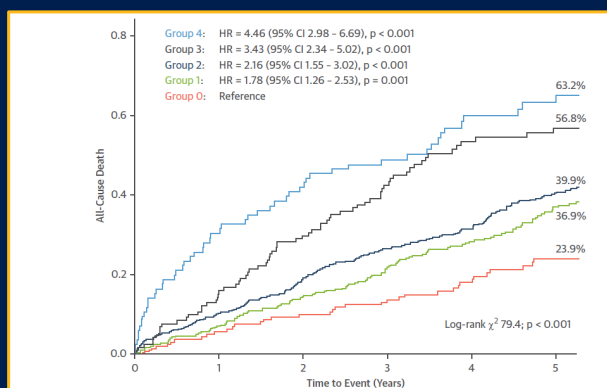
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## Extent of Cardiac Damage Moderate AS



5 Year Death  
 N = 1245 patients

Amanullah et al. JACC Imaging 2021



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## How do we improve detection of AS patients at risk?



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## Follow-up in Patients With Aortic Stenosis

### Aortic Severity

Mild ( $V_{max}$  2.0–2.9 m/s)

**Moderate ( $V_{max}$  3.0–3.9 m/s)**

Severe Asymptomatic ( $V_{max} \geq 4$  m/s)

$V_{max}$  = peak aortic velocity. Adapted from Otto et al.

Otto, Nishimura, Bonow et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2021 Feb, 77 (4) e25–e197

### Follow-up Recommendation

Every 3-5 years

**Every 1-2 years**

Every 6-12 months



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## Predictors of Mortality in Moderate AS

- Low EF (<60%)
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Diastolic Dysfunction
- Fast Progression of AS (>0.3 m/s/year)
- Low stroke volume index (<35 cc/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Elevated BNP
- Elevated AV Calcium Score by CT

Lancelotti et al. JAMA Cardiol. 2018; 3 (11):1060-8  
Strange et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2019;74:1851-63  
Delesalle et al. JAHA 2019;8

Murphy et al. Am J Cardiol.2019;124:1924-1931  
Benfari et al. JASE; 2019;34 ;3:237-244  
Ito et al. JASE 2021; 34(3):248-256

Samad et al. EHJ; 2016; 37, 2276-2286  
Van Gils et al. JACC 2017;69:2383-92  
Moon et al. KGJ; 2020 50(9):791-800



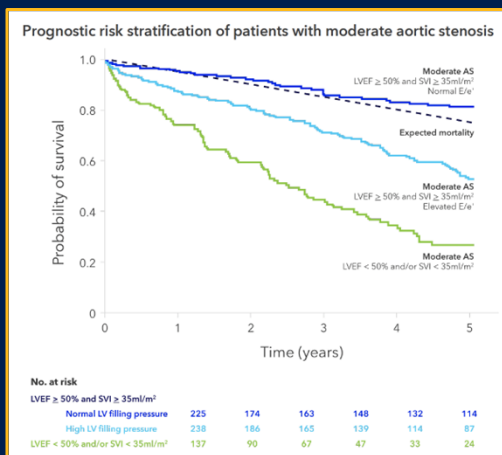
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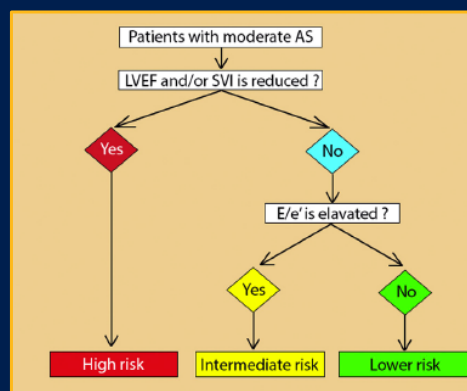
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## Beyond LVEF ...



Ito S et al. JASE 2020



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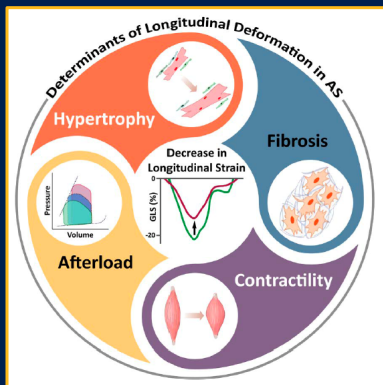


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## Global Longitudinal Strain



Speckle Tracking Echocardiography  
Gatekeeper for AS  
Prognostic value  
Early Intervention

Lakatos et al. Circ Cardiovascular Imaging 2020;13:e010711



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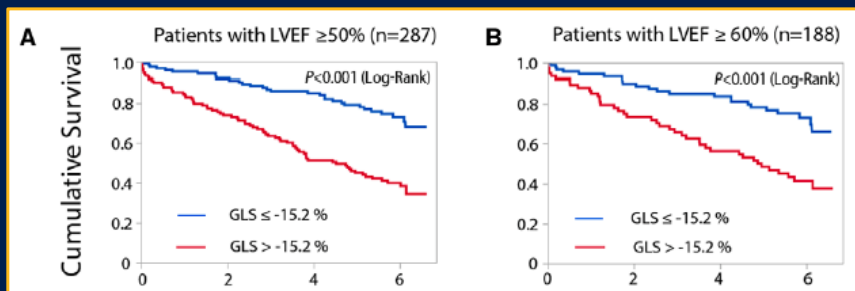


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## Global Longitudinal Strain

### Moderate AS



Higher Mortality  
GLS  $> -15.2\%$   
Including AVR  
pts

Zhu et al. Circ Cardiovascular Imaging 2020;13:e009958



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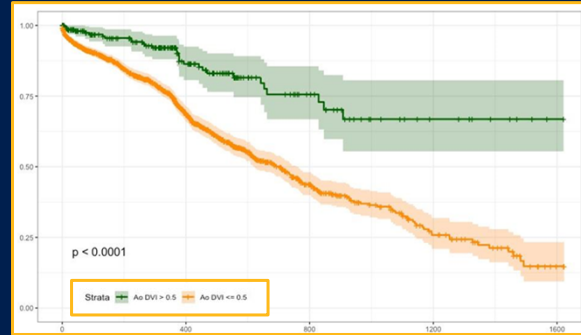
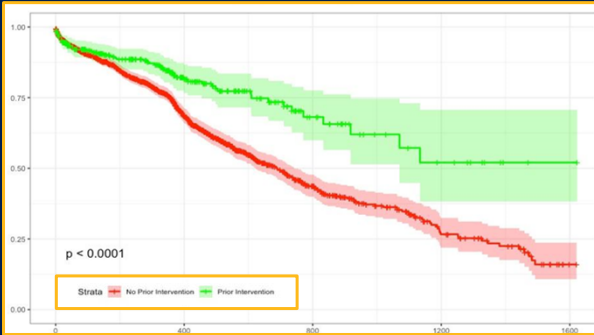


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# Artificial Intelligence for Disease Monitoring

Personalized Timely Surveillance For Evaluation and Treatment



Courtesy of Mpirik



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# Redefining Aortic Stenosis

## Key Points

- Accurate diagnosis and follow-up
- Key echocardiographic parameters
- New clinical pathways being established
- More timely intervention
- Artificial intelligence



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# Thank you!

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# The Rationale for TAVR in Moderate Aortic Stenosis



Paul Sorajja, MD

Roger L. and Lynn C. Headrick Family Chair

Valve Science Center, Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Abbott Northwestern Hospital



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## Disclosures

- **Consulting or Advisory Board:** Abbott Structural, Anteris, Boston Scientific, Edwards Lifesciences, Foldax, Medtronic, Shifamed, VDyne, WL Gore
- **Institutional Research:** Abbott Structural, Boston Scientific, Edwards Lifesciences, Medtronic
- **National P.I.:** EXPAND II, HighLife (US), SOAR EFS, SUMMIT MAC, TRILUMINATE II, VDyne



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# Why TAVR for “moderate” AS?



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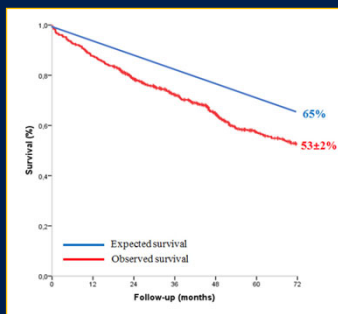


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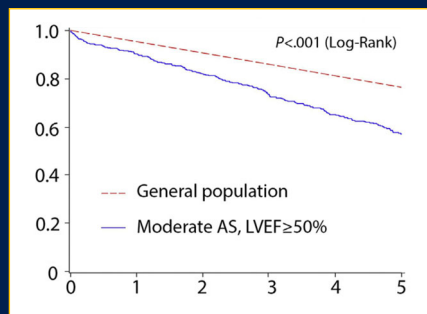
## Moderate Aortic Stenosis and Survival

AMIENS UNIVERSITY



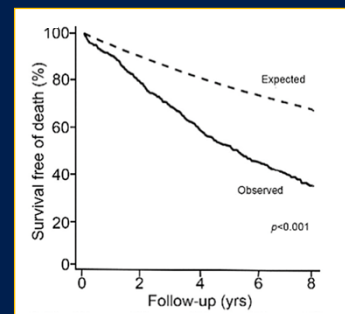
All Comers

MAYO CLINIC



Preserved EF

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Normal EF, no morbidities

**7 to 8% annual mortality**

Itō S et al. JASE 2020; Delesalle G., et al. JAHA 2019; Du Y et al. BMC Cardiovasc Dis 2021



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# Prevalence of Moderate Aortic Stenosis Allina Health System



10x more than severe



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# Moderate Aortic Stenosis and HF 2020 Valve Guidelines for AVR

COE	LOE	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	A	1. In adults with severe high-gradient AS (Stage D1) and symptoms of exertional dyspnea, HF, angina, syncope, or presyncope by history or on exercise testing, AVR is indicated (1-7).
1	B-NR	2. In asymptomatic patients with severe AS and an LVEF <50% (Stage C2), AVR is indicated (8-11).
1	B-NR	3. In asymptomatic patients with severe AS (Stage C1) who are undergoing cardiac surgery for other indications, AVR is indicated (12-16).
1	B-NR	4. In symptomatic patients with low-flow, low-gradient severe AS with reduced LVEF (Stage D2), AVR is recommended (17-24).
1	B-NR	5. In symptomatic patients with low-flow, low-gradient severe AS with normal LVEF (Stage D3), AVR is recommended if AS is the most likely cause of symptoms (25-27).
2a	B-NR	6. In apparently asymptomatic patients with severe AS (Stage C1) and low surgical risk, AVR is reasonable when an exercise test demonstrates decreased exercise tolerance (normalized for age and sex) or a fall in systolic blood pressure of ≥10 mmHg from baseline to peak exercise (13,28-30).
2a	B-R	7. In asymptomatic patients with very severe AS (defined as an aortic velocity of ≥5 m/s) and low surgical risk, AVR is reasonable (15,31-35).
2a	B-NR	8. In apparently asymptomatic patients with severe AS (Stage C1) and low surgical risk, AVR is reasonable when the serum B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) level is >3 times normal (32,36-38).
2a	B-NR	9. In asymptomatic patients with high-gradient severe AS (Stage C1) and low surgical risk, AVR is reasonable when serial testing shows an increase in aortic velocity ≥0.3 m/s per year (39,40).
2a	B-NR	10. In asymptomatic patients with severe high-gradient AS (Stage C1) and a progressive decrease in LVEF on at least 3 serial imaging studies to <60%, AVR may be considered (8-11,33).
2a	C-EO	11. In patients with moderate AS (Stage B) who are undergoing cardiac surgery for other indications, AVR may be considered.

None for isolated moderate AS



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## Moderate Aortic Stenosis

Many patients + Poor survival + No guidelines

Rationale for Therapeutic Trials



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## Transcatheter AVR

Clinical Trials of TAVR vs. Surveillance for “moderate” AS

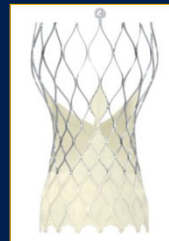
### PROGRESS (n=750)

P.I.'s: Philipp Généreux, Raj Makkar,  
Jeroen Bax



### EXPAND II (n=650)

P.I.'s: Josep Rodes-Cabau, Paul Sorajja,  
Stephan Windecker



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## TAVR Trials in Moderate AS

### Enrollment Criteria for EXPAND II

Moderate AS	Symptomatic	At Risk
V <sub>max</sub> , ≥3.0 to <4.0 m/s Grad, ≥20 to <40 mmHg AVA, >1.0 to 1.5 cm <sup>2</sup>	Dyspnea Angina Fatigue Syncope	HF hosp. past 1 yr NT proBNP ≥600 GLS ≤ -15% E/e' ≥14.0

Notable exclusions: Sievers 0 or 2, CAD, amyloidosis

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## TAVR Trials in Moderate AS

### Treatment Plan


Moderate AS  
Symptomatic  
At Risk



1:1  
Randomization

TAVR  
vs.  
GDMT

Clinical endpoints for  
10 years

Not natural AV progression

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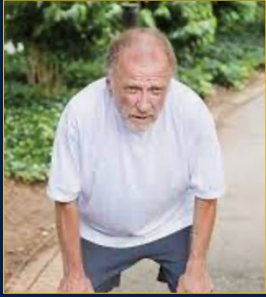
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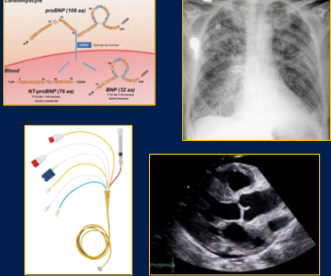
# Medical Instability Requiring Treatment

## Part of the Clinical Effectiveness Endpoint for EXPAND II


### Worse symptoms




### Laboratory decompensation




### Intervention





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# TAVR Trials in Moderate AS

## What We Will Learn From Scientific Study

**USUAL**

Safety

KCCQ QOL

Survival

HF events

Unplanned CV hosp.

**NOVEL**

LV mass

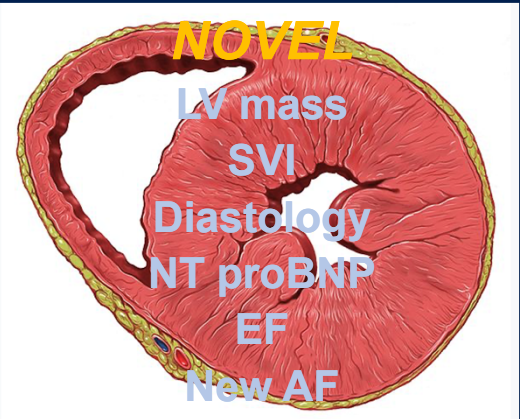
SVI


Diastology

NT proBNP


EF

New AF





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## MHIF Leadership in EXPAND II



**Dr. Paul Sorajja**  
U.S. National P.I.



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## Transcatheter AVR

Clinical Trials of TAVR vs. Surveillance for “moderate” AS

### PROGRESS (n=750)

P.I.'s: Philipp Généreux, Raj Makkar,  
Jeroen Bax



2-yr composite of death, stroke,  
unplanned cv hospitalization

### EXPAND II (n=650)

P.I.'s: Josep Rodes-Cabau, Paul Sorajja,  
Stephan Windecker



30-day MACE

2-yr composite of death, unplanned  
procedure/AV-related hospitalization



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## Key Points for Moderate AS

- Rate of progression is variable
- May cause cardiac damage
- Associated with (or may cause) poor survival
- Randomized trials will determine benefit of AVR



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