
Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Heart Valve Disease

Use the following questions as a tool to help you talk to your physician about your heart valve disease. Print them out and take them with you to your next appointment. Take notes to help you remember your discussion when you get home.

1. If I have a valve problem, do I need to take **antibiotics** before I have my **teeth cleaned**?
2. What happens to my old valve when you **replace** it with a new one?
3. Why does my valve need to be **replaced**? Why don't you **repair** it instead?
4. I would prefer **less invasive treatment** so I can be back on my feet more quickly. Why can't I have **TAVR** instead of **open-heart surgery**?
5. How can I expect to feel if my treatment is a success?
6. Do I have to take **medication**? For how long?
7. What will happen if I don't receive treatment for my valve disease?
8. If I have **valve replacement**, should I get a **man-made valve** or one made from **animal tissue**?
9. If my valve problem is not serious, what do we need to do to **monitor** it over time?
10. What **symptoms** should I watch for that may indicate that my valve disease is getting worse?
11. What conditions or symptoms should trigger an **immediate phone call to my doctor**?
12. What **types of surgery** is it safe for me to have with my valve disease?