Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR)

This procedure is done to replace the aortic valve in people who are not candidates for open heart valve replacement. Also known as a transcatheter aortic valve implantation or TAVI, this is a new procedure. You need to have some tests to screen you to be sure you are able to have this procedure.

How is the procedure done?

Your doctor will talk to you about the procedure and explain the risks and benefits. You will be asked to sign a consent form.

This procedure is done in surgery. It will take 2 to 3 hours.

- You may be given medicine called general anesthesia and you will be asleep during the procedure.
- If you do not have a pacemaker, you may have a temporary pacemaker put in. This is often put in through a blood vessel in your neck. It will stay in place for at least 48 hours after the procedure.
- You will also have a special IV called an arterial line in place to measure pressure in your heart during and after the procedure.
- The site used may be your upper leg or groin, or your chest near the breast bone. A small cut, about 1 to 2 inches long, is made to make an opening in the artery.
A thin tube called a catheter is guided into artery to the heart and to the aortic valve.

A balloon on the end of the catheter is expanded in the aortic valve to open the valve. This makes room for the placement of the new aortic valve.

The new artificial valve is guided over the catheter and into the aortic valve.

The new valve is opened in the heart inside the old valve and it starts to work.

The catheter will be removed and the cut will be closed with stitches and covered with a dressing.

**After the procedure**

- You will be moved to your room and you will be closely checked. Your heart rate, blood pressure and breathing will be watched.
- You will be helped to get up within the first day after the procedure.
- Expect to stay in the hospital for 3 to 5 days after the new valve is placed.

**Your care at home**

- You will be taught about the care of your site.
- Take all of the medicines your doctor ordered.
- You will need to have follow up care with your doctor to check that the valve is working. Be sure to keep these appointments.
• Be sure you tell your dentist and all of your doctors that you have had a heart valve replaced. You may need to take antibiotics to reduce the risk of infection before any dental or medical procedures.

• If you are scheduled for a magnetic resonance imaging scan or MRI, be sure the staff knows you have a heart valve replacement.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.