

# Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR)



Jim Dallas, Age 95  
NKCH's First TAVR Patient

*North Kansas City Hospital is the first Northland hospital to perform the transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure, an innovative alternative for people in need of a heart valve replacement.*

Approximately 500,000 people in the U.S. live with severe aortic stenosis (AS), and an estimated 250,000 people have severe symptomatic AS. TAVR is an innovative, minimally invasive procedure that offers a possible alternative to open heart surgery for higher risk patients diagnosed with severe AS.

## Severe Aortic Stenosis

An aortic stenosis diagnosis means the opening in your aortic valve is too narrow to allow blood to flow properly from your heart to the rest of your body. Calcium build-up on the aortic valve's tissue flaps causes this narrowing. When your aortic valve is obstructed, your heart must work harder to pump blood. Over time, the extra work may weaken your heart muscle. Surgery is usually needed to replace the valve and restore normal blood flow.

## TAVR Qualifications

When you are diagnosed with severe AS, our heart team evaluates your condition to determine if you are a candidate for TAVR. Currently, TAVR is approved in the U.S. for aortic valve replacement for high risk patients who meet specific criteria.

## TAVR Procedure

TAVR is a minimally invasive procedure during which a TAVR-trained cardiovascular specialist inserts a new aortic valve inside the damaged one using a catheter. The procedure lasts approximately 1.5 hours, and you will be under general anesthesia.



## TAVR Benefits

TAVR reduces your length of stay in the hospital, shortens your recovery period and relieves your AS symptoms. Most patients are mobile the same day as their procedure. With TAVR, you can avoid many of the risks associated with open heart surgery. In the long term, the procedure can improve your quality of life.

## Your Heart Team

Should you be a candidate for TAVR, a dedicated team of interventional cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, anesthesiologists and clinical staff members will be with you every step of the way. Our cardiovascular specialists trained at the German Munich Center, where heart surgeons perform more than 500 TAVR procedures each year. Your heart team evaluates and monitors you in our valve clinic before and after your TAVR procedure.

## TAVR Risks

The most serious risks of the TAVR procedure include death from any cause, stroke, and vascular or bleeding complications.

*For more information about TAVR, contact your cardiologist, who can refer you to a member of our TAVR team. If you do not have a cardiologist, call Meritas Health Cardiology at 816.221.6750.*



2800 Clay Edwards Drive  
North Kansas City, MO 64116

816.691.2000  
nkch.org

*Where your care is personal.*