Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVR) is a treatment option for mitral valve regurgitation. It involves placing a MitraClip™ device on the mitral valve of the heart.

The mitral valve is located on the left side of the heart between the upper and lower chambers. Mitral valve regurgitation occurs when the mitral valve's two leaflets or flaps do not close completely. This allows some of the blood in the ventricle or lower chamber to flow back into the left atria or upper chamber. This backflow is called regurgitation. It results in less blood going out to the body and the heart may try to pump harder. This may lead to heart failure.

Medications are used to treat the symptoms of mitral valve regurgitation, but when symptoms such as shortness of breath occur and the heart becomes enlarged or functions poorly, the mitral valve may need to be repaired or replaced. If your doctors have determined that you are too sick for mitral valve replacement through open heart surgery, you may be helped with TMVR.

MitraClip™ Device
The MitraClip device is a small metal clip covered with fabric that is implanted on your mitral valve. It treats regurgitation by clipping together a small part of the mitral valve allowing it to close more completely.

The valve continues to open and close on either side of the clip. Blood flows on both sides of the clip, but the amount of backflow or regurgitation is decreased. This helps restore normal blood flow through the heart.

Before the Procedure
Your doctor will do testing and decide whether you are able to have a MitraClip procedure and if it is likely to benefit you. Your doctor will also discuss the risks and benefits and explain how it is done. Be certain to ask any questions you have.

During the Procedure
TMVR is performed under general anesthesia and takes about 2 to 3 hours. A special type of ultrasound called a color echocardiogram is used throughout the procedure to view the blood flow in the heart.
A thin hollow tube called a catheter is inserted into a large vein in the groin.

Using a guide wire, the doctor threads the catheter up to the mitral valve.

The guide wire is removed and the clip is threaded into place at the valve.

Before opening the clip "arms" to secure it in place, the doctor will find the precise placement to best reduce the regurgitation.

**After the Procedure**

You will be in an Intensive Care Unit until your doctor feels you can be moved to a regular hospital room.

You should have relief of your symptoms soon after the procedure. You will not feel or be aware of the MitraClip device.

Most patients stay 2 to 3 days after the procedure. While you are in the hospital, you will be closely monitored and have tests to check your heart function.

You will likely be on blood thinning medication to prevent clots from forming. Your doctor will monitor your medicine and advise you when or if you can stop taking this medicine – do not make any changes to it on your own.

You will be given special instructions to help you in your recovery. These may include a special diet, exercise, and other medicine. Unless you have other health issues that require you to have help at home, you will not need any special assistance after you are discharged.

**For your safety:**

- Follow your doctor’s instructions carefully and be certain to keep all of your follow-up appointments.
- You will receive an Implant Identification Card to carry with you at all times. Show the card if you go to the hospital or emergency room or when you have surgery.
- Tell all of your doctors and dentists about your MitraClip™ device. You will need to take antibiotics before dental appointments and before certain tests and procedures.
- Before having an MRI – always tell the doctor or technician that you have a MitraClip device and show your implant ID card.

Talk with your doctor about your questions and concerns.

**Resources**

These resources offer more information about mitral valve regurgitation and the Mitraclip™ device:

American Heart Association
800-242-8721
www.heart.org

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
301-592-8573
www.nhlbi.nih.gov

MitraClip Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair
www.mitraclip.com/can_the_mitraclip_procedure_help_me

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