



RE: Aortic Valve Work Up

Dear Patient and family,

Thank you for choosing Kootenai Heart Clinics to be a part of your cardiovascular care. We look forward to working with you during this process. We'll try to make sure this process is efficient. We know times are challenging and this can be overwhelming. Your patience, understanding, and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Our mission is to treat patients with aortic stenosis (a diseased heart valve) with the **BEST POSSIBLE OPTION**, whether it is Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) or continued medical management. Enclosed is a brochure with details that should help you in understanding more about the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement, otherwise known as TAVR.

TAVR is an FDA approved procedure. There are guidelines, multiple types of testing, and appointment needed **with a cardiologist as well as cardiothoracic surgeon** to deem you fit for this procedure. As a team, the physicians meet weekly at a conference to help determine the best possible option for each candidate. The following list is a group of offices and individuals that you might come in contact with during this process.

Kootenai Heart Clinics & Cardiothoracic Surgeons

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| • Jenny Socci, RCS | Program Coordinator Direct Line: 208.416.9153 |
| • Eric L. Wallace, DO | Interventional Cardiologist |
| • Donald F. Engles, MD | Interventional Cardiologist |
| • Mark A. Troiano, DO | Interventional Cardiologist |
| • Tiffany Dollar | Outpatient Specialist Phone:208.625.4120 |
| • Heidi Brooks, RN | Cardiothoracic Surgery RN |
| • Erick L. Montero, MD | Cardiothoracic Surgeon |
| • Tori C. Lennox, MD | Cardiothoracic Surgeon |

As always, we will take care in maintaining confidentiality and privacy about your health care. We may share your health information with the previous groups mentioned so that they may carry out their duties related to this procedure.

Feel free to visit our website:

<https://www.kh.org/heart-services/kootenai-heart-clinics/services/tavr/>



The following is a list of **testing and appointments you may or may not need.**

Each test is a stepping-stone to ensure you are a good candidate for having your heart valve replaced and to help determine which **option** is the best for you.

All testing will be authorized through your insurance before proceeding, some insurances take longer than others. Please make sure we have the correct insurance.

- Echocardiogram or Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- PFTS—Pulmonary Function Test (lung test)

- Heart Cath or Angiogram (unless one has been done w/in 1yr)—done by cardiologist.
- CTA—Computed tomography angiography – specific to TAVR only done at KH

- Consult w/TAVR cardiologist, Dr. Wallace, Dr. Engles, or Dr. Troiano
- Consult with Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr. Montero or Dr. Lennox

Important

- Recent Dental Exam &/or cleaning – to insure no active infections are currently in the mouth. This is needed prior to the Valve Replacement Procedure, we encourage you to make an appointment as soon as you can, as this can create delays in your care. **Please have a Dental clearance letter faxed to 208.769.8623.**

We want to thank you for choosing Kootenai Heart Clinics to be a participant in your health care. **Please feel free to contact Jenny, Structural Heart program Coordinator directly at 208.416.9153 or the office at 208.625.5250** with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Jenny Socci, RCS,
Structural Heart Program Coordinator 208.416.9153, fax: 208.769.8623
Kootenai Heart Clinics on Ironwood 208.625.5250
Kootenai Heart Center at the hospital 208.625.680