



# Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair

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To find a physician in your community, call 855-UMASS-MD (855-862-7763).



## Heart Care

### TMVR Program

UMass Memorial Medical Center  
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**Transcatheter mitral valve repair can significantly reduce mitral regurgitation resulting in fewer hospitalizations and improvement in symptoms and quality of life.**

### ***What Is Mitral Regurgitation?***

The mitral valve is located on the left side of your heart. When the valve is open, blood passes from the top left chamber to the main pumping chamber of the heart. Regurgitation is the name for leaking heart valves. Mitral valve regurgitation occurs when the mitral valve flaps don't close all the way, causing blood to flow backwards towards the lungs. As a result, oxygen-rich blood moving through the heart to the body is reduced, and extra workload is placed on the heart. Pressure and fluid can build up in the lungs, and the pumping chamber of the heart may fail.

### ***What Are the Symptoms of Mitral Regurgitation?***

With mild mitral regurgitation, you may not have any symptoms. You may have palpitations or a sensation of a fast, fluttering heartbeat.

Mitral regurgitation could lead to heart failure, which causes symptoms such as coughing, shortness of breath, and swollen legs and feet.

### ***How Is Mitral Regurgitation Treated?***

If the mitral valve regurgitation is mild, medications may help. However, if the regurgitation is severe and the heart's ability to pump blood is affected, the valve will probably

need to be repaired or replaced. Of those needing surgery, some may be at high risk for open heart surgery. In those cases, transcatheter mitral valve repair (TMVR) may be an option.

### ***What Is TMVR?***

This minimally invasive procedure may be offered to those who are not good candidates for open heart surgery. TMVR decreases the back flow of blood and reduces the extra work on the heart.

TMVR, using the FDA-approved MitraClip device, is unlike surgery in that it doesn't require opening the chest and temporarily stopping the heart. Instead, doctors access your heart through a vein in your leg. A catheter (a hollow tube) is inserted up through the vein and, using ultrasound guidance, the doctor can clip the valve flaps together reducing the amount of regurgitation.

Many patients experience a significant reduction in mitral regurgitation following TMVR, which results in fewer hospitalizations and improvement in symptoms and quality of life. It's important to discuss your treatment options with your cardiologist. Your physician will determine if this therapy is an option for you.

### ***About Our Treatment Program***

UMass Memorial Medical Center is one of only a few hospitals in Massachusetts offering TMVR. Our team works with your doctor to determine whether this procedure is a good option for you.

For more information, call our program coordinator at 508-713-5877.