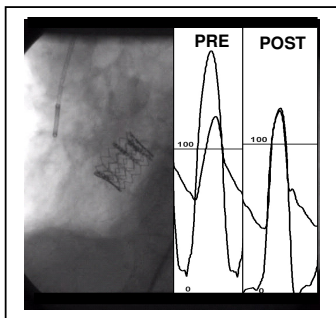
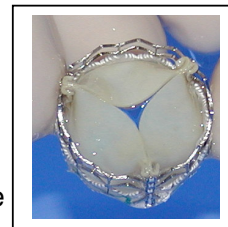


Percutaneous Aortic Valve Replacement for patients not considered good candidates for the traditional surgical procedure and affected by severe stenosis of the aortic valve

Degenerative aortic valve stenosis is the most common valve pathology in the adult population and surgical valve replacement is the treatment of choice for patients affected by aortic valvular disease. When surgical procedure is considered at high risk or is contraindicated for a severe co-morbidity, patients can be referred to balloon aortic valvuloplasty. However, this technique is complicated by a high percentage of restenosis of the valve itself at the mid-term follow-up.

Today for patients considered not eligible for the surgical procedure, it is available a new, percutaneous technique of aortic valve replacement. This procedure is performed in the Catheterization Laboratory and does not require general anesthesia. The valve implant can be performed either by an anterograde approach, by transeptal puncture and positioning of the valve throughout the left ventricle, or by a retrograde approach throughout the aorta.



Dr. Cribier, who is a pioneer of this technique, has performed about 20 implants up to now obtaining immediate improvement of the hemodynamic conditions in 70% of the cases and a 7-months free events survival around 40%.

In our Center, starting from June 2004, we have performed three aortic valve replacements in patients that would have died otherwise since they were at extremely high risk for traditional surgical intervention.

The ideal candidate for this procedure should be a patient who is at high risk for surgery as judged by at least one cardiothoracic surgeon or a group of two cardiologist and one surgeon; with a life expectancy of more than one year; and finally with an aortic anulus between 19 mm and 24 mm evaluated by echocardiography.

If you need further information regarding the procedure or the modality of enrolment please do not hesitate in calling our Center at San Raffaele Hospital asking for Dr. Sangiorgi or Dr. Airoldi at the following phone number: +39-02-2643.7331.

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