Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Tricuspid Valve Repair

This handout explains what tricuspid valve regurgitation is. It also explains what to expect if you have a tricuspid valve repair procedure.

Tricuspid Valve Regurgitation
Tricuspid regurgitation happens when the three leaflets (flaps) of the tricuspid valve in your heart do not fully close. This causes blood to flow backward into the right atrium of the heart.

When you have tricuspid regurgitation, your heart must work harder. This can increase your risk of irregular heartbeats and heart failure. Symptoms of tricuspid regurgitation include:

- Shortness of breath
- Swelling or bloating in your belly
- Fatigue
- Swelling of the feet or ankles

Treatment
Valve surgery is the standard treatment but, it is not always an option.

Tricuspid Clip Procedure
A tricuspid clip procedure will help reduce how much your tricuspid valve leaks. It will also help improve symptoms. It is a less invasive option than surgery.

The procedure is done through a blood vessel in your groin. You **do not** need open heart surgery. It is done in the Cath Lab, and you will be asleep for it.

Before the Procedure
To see if a tricuspid clip is an option for you, you will have a test done. The test will look at your tricuspid valve and the rest of your heart.

If it is an option, you will be scheduled to see at least two of the doctors on our team.

An **Interventional Cardiologist** is the doctor who will do the tricuspid clip procedure.

You may also see an **Echocardiologist** to have a heart ultrasound (echo) test.

Some people also need to see a **Heart Failure Cardiologist**.

During the Procedure

- You will have patches on your chest to monitor your heart.
- You will have a breathing tube in place and a camera in your throat to guide the procedure.
- You will get medicine to make you sleep during the procedure.
- You will have a plastic clip on your finger to watch your oxygen levels.
- You will have a small tube (IV) in your vein to give medicine.
- You will have a small tube in your wrist for us to watch your blood pressure.
- You will be put to sleep for the procedure.
- You will have a catheter placed (thin tube) in a large vein in your groin. It will go all the way up to the heart. This assures it is in the correct position to clip the tricuspid valve. Once in the right spot, the doctor will place the clip on your tricuspid valve. The clip is left in place.

After the Procedure
You will spend at least one night in the hospital. We will watch you closely and help control your pain. Before you leave, you will learn how to care for yourself.

Going Home
A family member or friend **must drive** you home. It would be helpful for that person to stay with you for the first day or two. Have them be present the day you go home, so they can hear the instructions.

Medicines
You will get prescriptions for medicines. Please bring your insurance card with you. It will be helpful if you plan to fill them at the hospital pharmacy.

Always tell other doctors (including dentists) that you have a tricuspid valve clip before any future procedures.

You will need to take an antibiotic 1 hour before any dental work. This will need to be done for the rest of your life to prevent an infection on the clip.

Follow-Up Visits
- You will have an echocardiogram in 30 days and one year after your procedure. This is done to see how the clip is working.
- You will see the doctor who did the procedure.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 2/2025 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF# 8403.