



Informed Decision Question Guide

Today there are multiple options for heart valve replacement, that is why it is important to ask questions. Only in this way can the right decision be made about which valve best meets your needs for today and for years to come.

To help prioritize goals for surgery, here are some helpful questions to keep in mind when discussing valve replacement options with your physicians:

General Surgery Questions

- Why does my valve need to be replaced?
- Is valve repair a treatment option for me?
- Am I a candidate for open heart valve surgery?
- Am I a candidate for minimally invasive valve surgery?
- How long will it take me to recovery and return to my normal activities?
- What medication are necessary after valve replacement surgery?

Valve Selection Questions

- What are the advantages of a mechanical valve replacement compared to a tissue valve replacement?
- Which patients are candidates for a mechanical valve replacement over a tissue valve replacement?
- If I opt for a mechanical valve, can I have a minimally invasive valve surgery?
- Will I need another surgery if I opt for a mechanical valve replacement or will this valve last my lifetime?
- What is Structural Valve Deterioration (SVD) with a tissue valve and what are the symptoms?
- How long before tissue valves start deteriorating in younger patients?
- If I opt for a tissue valve, will I be a candidate for reoperation once the valve begins to deteriorate?
- What do the 2020 ACC/AHA Guidelines recommend for mitral valve replacement patients <65 years old?
- Why do mechanical valve patients need to be on blood thinner medication?
- Will tissue valve patients require blood thinner medication?
- What does INR mean and how do you test it?

On-X Valve Questions

- How is the On-X Heart Valve designed to last a patient's lifetime?
- What are the advantages of the On-X Heart Valve durability compared to reoperation with a tissue valve?
- Why does the durability of the On-X Heart Valve matter to my life expectancy?
- What are the advantages of having a lower INR* with the On-X Aortic Valve?
- What is the effect on my lifestyle to have a lower bleeding risk with the On-X Aortic Valve?
- What are the active clinical studies that include On-X Heart Valves?

Long, Active Lives Come From Thoughtful, Informed Decisions.

*After 3 months standard therapy. See On-X Prosthetic Heart Valve Instructions for Use, <https://www.onxlti.com/ifu/hv/>.

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Each patient's individual health risks should be evaluated by a health care professional. Potential risks associated with prosthetic heart valves are dependent upon the patient's age, overall health, heart function, and any additional medical conditions.