

Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon



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Medical School

Baylor College of Medicine

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Q: MY MITRAL VALVE IS IN NEED OF REPAIR, BUT I WORRY ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF OPEN-HEART SURGERY – ESPECIALLY THE LENGTHY RECOVERY TIME. CAN A SURGEON REPAIR THE VALVE USING MINIMALLY INVASIVE TECHNIQUES?



For many patients, minimally invasive cardiac surgery is the right choice. Every year, more and more patients request it and for good reason.

Unlike traditional open-heart surgery, which requires a 10 to 12-inch incision that separates the breastbone, minimally invasive approaches can be performed through a small, two-inch incision between the ribs that provides access to the mitral valve. Through this approach, the mitral valve can be successfully

repaired or replaced and often times pathology in the other valves can be addressed and surgically repaired during the same procedure. By limiting the extent of the incision, the surgery becomes less traumatic for the body and can offer more benefits than traditional cardiac surgery, such as quicker recovery time and shorter hospital stays.

In fact, patients who underwent minimally invasive surgery experienced less pain, blood loss and risk of infection. In addition, they experienced less scarring, leading to better cosmetic results, and they recovered more quickly, returning to work and everyday activity sooner after surgery. Amazingly, patients may be able to go home three to five days after minimally invasive heart surgery. There appears to be no difference in other factors such as associated complications and mortality.

As an experienced minimally invasive cardiac surgeon, I can determine if this innovative and life saving procedure is right for you. The minimal incision approach can be applied to all ages and to most cardiac surgical procedures, including aortic valve repair or replacement, mitral valve repair or replacement, tricuspid valve repair or replacement, double-valve procedures, congenital heart defects and multi-vessel coronary bypass grafting. Because this technique is rather new, I recommend setting up a consultation with a surgeon who has successfully performed many of these procedures.



Practice specializing in: Minimally invasive cardiac surgery, Complex aortic/mitral valve repair, Off pump beating heart surgery, Endovascular stent graft for thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysms, peripheral vascular surgery