HLS-26

Structural Heart Imaging Capacity From Bottleneck to Breakthroughs

Strategies to Expand TAVR Access by Optimizing Imaging Resources

Imaging is not just a support function – it is a gatekeeper to structural heart care

By addressing imaging bottlenecks with innovative workflows, and team-based models, we can increase the number of patients who move from referral to TAVR

THE IMAGING BOTTLENECK: WHERE CAPACITY GETS CONSTRAINED

Imaging can limit TAVR access at multiple points in the pathway

1 Acquisition Capacity

- Limited slots
- Scanner availability
- Outside imaging quality and completeness

2 Specialty Capacity

- Not enough imagers
- Limited CT specialists
- Training and credentialing gaps

3 Implementation / Timing

- CT measurement workload
- Lack of reporting standards
- Report turnaround time

4 Workflow Friction

- Scheduling delays
- Image transfer & integration
- Sequential (vs. parallel) testing

5 Duplication

- Unnecessary repeat studies
- Lack of imaging bundles
- Non-standardized protocols

SOLUTIONS TO RELEASE IMAGING CAPACITY

1 Imaging Fast Lane

Dedicated pathway for structural heart patients

- ✓ **Early identification at referral**
- ✓ **Standardized TAVR imaging protocol**
- ✓ **Parallel scheduling (echo + CT)**
- ✓ **Outside imaging integration**
- ✓ **CT interpretation before Heart Team**
- ✓ **CT added to an existing admission (e.g., pre-TAVR cath)**

Result: Shorter time to imaging and decision for patients.

2 Standardized Imaging

Right test, right patient, right time

TAVR Bundle (example)

Required:

-TTE
-CT
-Coronary assessment CTA or angiography

Conditional:

-TEE
-Invasive angiography
-Additional CT

Result: Elimination of unnecessary tests and reduces duplicate imaging.

3 Standardized Workflow

Smarter queues, less friction

Order & schedule → Acquire → Interpret → Heart Team

- ✓ **Prioritize TAVR cases**
- ✓ **Avoid unnecessary repeat imaging**
- ✓ **Track key performance metrics**
- ✓ **Train additional system locations in structural heart imaging**

Result: Less waiting, higher throughput, better resource utilization, better access



The Power of Data

Data doesn't just show us the problem – **it helps us solve it.**

1 Help uncover the bottleneck and its magnitude

Measure, understand, quantify

- ✓ Measure delays – how many and how much
- ✓ Track repeat image tests
- ✓ Identify high-impact referring practices
- ✓ Quantify the overall impact

2 Help make the case for additional resources

Show the impact and justify what's needed

- ✓ Is it impacting access & outcomes?
- ✓ Justify additional capacity
- ✓ Show the value
- ✓ Drive sustainable change – quality

Imaging capacity isn't just about machines – it's about people, processes, outcomes, and smart design.

By tackling the true bottlenecks, programs can expand TAVR access, improve efficiency, and deliver better outcomes – for more patients sooner.

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