

REFERRAL WATCH-OUTS WHEN SCREENING FOR AORTIC STENOSIS (AS)

A “SCREEN. DETECT. ACT.” RESOURCE

Use the key considerations below to guide evaluation of patients with suspected severe AS. Promptly refer appropriate patients to specialist care.

Patient Profiling: Questions to Consider With Your Patient

Does your patient have:

A new or worsening systolic murmur?

For some patients, a heart murmur is the first and only clinical sign of severe AS.

Risk factors for AS?

If they have even 1 criterion, they should be carefully evaluated for heart valve disease. Common risk factors include:

- Age 65+
- Metabolic risk factors (including a family history of CVD)
- Bicuspid aortic valve
- History of chest radiation

Worsening symptoms?

According to the ACC/AHA Guideline, all patients for whom valve intervention is a consideration should be evaluated by a Heart Valve Team.



Don't wait to refer!

Up to 50% of moderate-to-severe AS cases go undetected until symptoms are severe—or it's too late to intervene. **Your timely referral may reduce the risk of complications** and may increase the chance for lifesaving outcomes.



Partnering for success

Early detection and collaboration can lead to better outcomes. By partnering with your local Heart Valve Team, you ensure your patients receive the right treatment at the right time.

Scan this QR code for help finding a local Heart Valve Team.

Know What to Share

Be sure to include the following information with your patient referral to a cardiologist:

1

Reasons for referral

- ☐ Symptoms
- ☐ Risk factors
- ☐ Murmur
- ☐ Other findings _____

2

Echocardiogram report and recording if possible

3

Any other pertinent test results

- ☐ ECG
- ☐ CMR
- ☐ Chest x-ray

The Critical Importance of Staying Connected

How you engage patients through follow-up communications is equally important as your prompt referral

- Even at Centers of Excellence, **about 50%** of patients with a class I or potential class IIa indication for AVR did not receive treatment (n=6150, 2000-2017)
- In a retrospective study assessing AVR rates, the findings of 1 nationwide network show that nearly 60% of symptomatic severe AS patients did not receive treatment (n=6859, 2011-2016)



Keeping in touch can be life-changing

Download the “Follow-Up Email Template” offered as part of this Clinical Resource Kit for help drafting your patient correspondence.

Scan this QR code or visit ScreenHeartValveDisease.com/HCP to download.