Introduction: Re-intervention for bioprosthetic valve failure: Is less more, or just less?

Richard Lee, MD, JD, MBA

Drs Malaisrie and Greason provide expert insight into management of bioprosthetic aortic valve failure through different lenses. They both examine the same data and acknowledge similar pros and cons of open replacement versus transcatheter valve-in-valve insertion. The core difference is how they weigh the value of the trade off between short-term morbidity and mortality versus long-term benefit. Dr Malaisrie supports valve-in-valve insertion, whereas Dr Greason supports reoperation. This is an age-old dilemma that is particularly relevant in cardiac surgery. We have seen it in coronary artery disease and atrial fibrillation. We are now seeing it with aortic valve disease. The reality is the answer will change over time and conditions, including the view of the surgeon. What we all agree with is that it will always depend on the patient and her preference. Sometimes, a less-invasive approach is more beneficial to the patient; other times, it is worse than a more-invasive approach. It is up to the reader to carefully review both views and decide what his or her own approach should be today and re-evaluate it as more data emerge. The only certainty is that it will always change.

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CENTRAL MESSAGE

Drs Malaisrie and Greason provide expert insight into management of bioprosthetic aortic valve failure through different lenses.

See Article on page 940.

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