

St. Luke's Complex Valve Clinic

In recent years, advances in surgical and catheter-based treatment options for complex valve patients have allowed dramatic improvement in management of symptoms, the quality, and even quantity of life for patients previously deemed inoperable or as having high/excessive risk for more-traditional valve intervention or replacement.

Complex heart valve patients provide a unique challenge to evaluation and treatment because of their significant burden of both advanced age and often numerous comorbid medical conditions, as well as their lack of sustained improvement from medical management alone. Due to their complexity, heart valve patients often benefit from a formal, multidisciplinary approach to their evaluation and subsequent discussions of treatment options.

St. Luke's Complex Valve Clinic allows cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons to coordinate the evaluation requirements and treatment discussions for patients with severe valvular heart disease. Once testing is complete, the patient is discussed in a multidisciplinary heart valve meeting. Both open surgical and catheter-based treatment options are discussed. Appropriate treatment strategies can be planned and coordinated along with patient education and a discussion of expectations.

Complex Valve Clinic staff will coordinate pre-appointment testing and a one day assessment. Patients will then come back to see a cardiologist and a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Continued on reverse.

Medical Staff



Mary Boylan, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon



Scott Mikesell, DO
Interventional Cardiologist



James Mohn, MD, MS
Interventional Cardiologist

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Complex Heart Valve Disease

Complex heart valve disease is severe stenosis or regurgitation of any heart valve, complicated by one or more of the following:

- Advanced age
- Severe COPD or other lung disease
- Severe aortic calcification (“porcelain aorta”)
- Renal failure
- Frailty and deconditioning
- Severe PAD
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Hostile mediastinum (fibrosis, scarring, prior open heart surgery)
- Early cognitive decline or mild dementia
- Morbid obesity
- Other chronic medical illness complicating consideration of surgery

Signs and Symptoms:

- Heart murmur
- Progressive exertional dyspnea or breathlessness
- Chest pain/tightness/pressure
- Syncope or near syncope
- Progressive fatigue
- Decline in exertional capacity
- Palpitations or new or worsening atrial fibrillation
- Syndrome of CHF; congestion, edema, weight gain, orthopnea or PND

Referrals

To make a referral, call
St. Luke’s Complex Valve Clinic,
218.249.3057.

St. Luke’s Clinics can also make a P2P referral through eCW by selecting: Referral, Valve Clin. Traditional referrals may still be made for uncomplicated valve problems as well.

Stan Sadenwasser, our clinical coordinator, is an additional resource. He can be reached at 218.249.5652, or by emailing stan.sadenwasser@slhduluth.com.

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ABOVE ALL ELSE.®



St. Luke’s
Regional Heart Center

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