



Minimally invasive mitral valve surgery

Minimally invasive mitral valve surgery is one of the most difficult procedures to learn. The learning curve is steep. This steep learning curve has “partially” to do with the fact that the operation is done with long-shafted instruments and that there are multiple layers of complexity to this procedure.

It has been well-established across many surgical specialities that minimally invasive procedures are beneficial to patients by reducing the surgical trauma. Additional to this there are plethora of studies across many cardiovascular and oncological procedures that hospital volume and individual surgeon volume significantly influences the surgical outcome, including for mitral valve surgery. The surgical volume is in fact a surrogate marker of surgical skills and cumulated experience to address the variability in individual anatomy of patients subjected to the same surgical procedure. Indeed, even experienced surgeons acknowledge that the most routine surgical procedure can exhibit variable difficulties based on individual anatomy of the patients.

There is a need for centralization and subspecialization to enhance the quality of care for our patients. All of this starts with compiling the world foremost experts on minimally invasive surgery to provide their expertise, insights and knowledge regarding the minimally invasive mitral valve surgery for our community.

I am honored to present to you in this special issue a comprehensive review of all aspects of minimally invasive mitral valve surgery by the world foremost experts and hope their insights would help you to adapt this procedure for your patients.

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