Catheterization Lab
MitraClip Procedure

Cardiac Catheterization:
Important things to know that will help you get ready

Your doctor will tell if you need to stop eating or drinking before your procedure. Your doctor also will tell you if you must stop taking any medications before the procedure.

In the Pre-Operative (Pre-Op) Room before your Cardiac Catheterization

- You will put on a hospital gown and take off all your clothing (even underwear), jewelry, dentures, glasses, hearing aids, etc.
- An intravenous line (IV) may be put into a vein in your arm
- We will prepare and clean the catheter site (where the catheter goes into your body). We will clean your skin with a special wash that kills germs. We may need to trim body hair.
- We will ask you to empty your bladder (pee) before your procedure

After Your Cardiac Catheterization

- You may be on bed rest (lying flat) for 2 to 6 hours. To lower the risk of bleeding, we do not want you to bend your body at the catheter site (where the catheter went into your body)
- Your nurse will often check your vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, temperature) and catheter site
- You must use a urinal or bed pan until you can safely stand and walk to the bathroom
- While you are healing, do not do strenuous exercise (such as running or lifting weights). Your doctor will tell you when it is safe to exercise.
- **Call your doctor** or go to the Emergency Department if:
  - You have any pain
  - You have bleeding that soaks a bandage in less than 30 minutes
  - You have a fever
  - The catheter site feels hard or stiff when you touch it

- **Tell your dentist that you have a valve implant.** You will need to take antibiotics before the dentist works on your teeth. This is very important in the first six months after your MitraClip procedure.

The MitraClip is safe for use in MRI exams and will not set off airport scanner alarm.
Heart Blood Flow

The heart is a muscled organ in your chest that is about the size of a fist. Its main job is to pump blood to the rest of your body.

Blood carries oxygen to every part of the body. If there is a problem with blood flow, the body may not work the right way.

Blood flows through the heart through four chambers and four valves. Also, blood is pumped through the lungs and the rest of the body.

Heart Anatomy
How blood flows through the heart

FOUR CHAMBERS:
- **Right atrium** – gets blood from the body.
- **Right ventricle** – gets blood from the right atrium and sends blood to the lungs.
- **Left atrium** – gets blood from the lungs.
- **Left ventricle** – gets blood from the left atrium and sends to the body.

FOUR VALVES:
- **Tricuspid valve** (gate between the right atrium and right ventricle)
- **Pulmonary valve** (opening from the heart to the lungs)
- **Mitral valve**, also called the bicuspid valve (gate between the left atrium and left ventricle)
- **Aortic valve** (opening from the heart to the rest of the body)

Heart Valve Diseases

There are two common problems with heart valves: some do not close the right way and some do not open the right way. Regurgitation and Stenosis are two diseases that doctors most often see and treat.

**REGURGITATION**
A health problem of the heart valve when blood leaks backward.

**STENOSIS**
A heart valve that does not open all the way.

What Is Mitral Regurgitation?

Mitral regurgitation happens when blood leaks and flows in two directions when a heart chamber squeezes closed. Leaks can make blood pressure go up. The picture below shows blood flowing backwards through the mitral valve.

What Is Mitral Stenosis?

Mitral stenosis is the narrowing of the mitral valve opening. Mitral stenosis can happen as a person gets older. Calcium and scarring can harm the valve and then less blood can flow through the valve. The pictures below show the difference between a normal valve and one with mitral valve stenosis.
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Used to treat mitral valve regurgitation. A device is put in the valve to help the valve close the right way. This device is placed in the heart by using a catheter that goes through a vein in the groin.

The picture above shows the mitral valve being pinched together to stop mitral valve regurgitation.

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Heart Valve Procedures for the Mitral Valve

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- You have a fever
- The catheter site feels hard or stiff when you touch it
- Your wound doesn’t feel well

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