

# Local anesthetic as safe as general anesthetic for TAVR

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(HealthDay)—For patients undergoing transcatheter aortic valve

replacement (TAVR), local anesthetic (LA) is as safe as general anesthetic (GA), with shorter procedure time and number of days in the hospital, according to a study published in the Dec. 1 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

Avais Jabbar, M.B.B.S., from the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K., and colleagues described their experience in patients undergoing TAVR under LA who were subsequently transferred to a low dependency unit. Overall, 145 patients had the TAVR procedure under GA and 71 under LA.

The researchers found that the [procedure](#) time, as measured from time in room to skin closure, was significantly shorter in the LA group (108 versus 143 minutes; P skin closure [time](#) did not differ between the groups (78 versus 79.4 minutes; P = 0.57). No differences were seen between the groups in 30-day: aortic regurgitation > mild (P = 0.67), need for permanent pacing (P = 0.32), and disabling cerebrovascular accidents (P = 1.0). There was no significant difference in 30-day survival (95.9 percent in GA versus 100 percent in LA; P = 0.17), while the LA group had a significantly shorter number of days in the [hospital](#) (two, versus four in the GA group; P

"In conclusion, performing a TAVR under LA is at least as safe as GA," the authors write.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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