

New expert consensus pathway for mitral regurgitation

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(HealthDay)—Identification of mitral regurgitation (MR) should prompt

evaluation of its etiology, mechanism, severity, and indications for treatment, according to an expert consensus decision pathway published online Oct. 18 in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Patrick T. O'Gara, M.D., from Harvard Medical School in Boston, and colleagues developed an expert consensus pathway to provide guidance for [decision making](#) in MR management.

The researchers note that the etiology, mechanism, and severity of MR should be defined after its identification; quantitative echocardiography and other testing should be used as necessary. For effective patient management, standardized echocardiographic reporting and timely access to accurate information are critical. To enable shared decision making, a heart valve team consensus treatment recommendation should be discussed with the patient and family; ongoing communication between members of the heart team and the referring provider is strongly endorsed. Use of transcatheter edge-to-edge repair is currently limited in the United States and is used in symptomatic patients with primary, severe MR who are poor operative candidates. Long-term follow-up of patients is essential for assessment of durability, functional outcomes, and survival.

"This expert consensus decision pathway provides the clinician with additional tools to improve the care of MR [patients](#)," the authors write. "It can serve as a guide to patient assessment and individualized [decision making](#)."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical and medical device industries.

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