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Essential information on surgical heart valve characteristics for optimal valve prosthesis selection: expert consensus document from the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS)–The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)–American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) Valve Labelling Task Force

Andras P. Durko ^a, Philippe Pibarot ^b, Pavan Atluri^c, Vinayak Bapat^d, Duke E. Cameron^e, Filip P.A. Casselman^f, Edward P. Chen ^g, Gry Dahle^h, John A. Elefteriades ⁱ, Patrizio Lancellotti^j, Richard L. Prager^k, Raphael Rosenhek ^l, Alan Speir ^m, Marco Stijnen ⁿ, Giordano Tasca ^o, Ajit Yoganathan^p, Thomas Walther^q and Ruggero De Paulis ^{r,*} (Task Force Chairman);
EACTS–STS–AATS Valve Labelling Task Force

^a Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands

^b Québec Heart and Lung Institute, Laval University, Quebec, QC, Canada

^c Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

^d Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, New York–Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, USA

^e Division of Cardiac Surgery, Department of Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

^f Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, OLV Clinic, Aalst, Belgium

^g Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA

^h Department of Cardiothoracic and Thoracic surgery, Rikshospitalet, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway

ⁱ Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA

^j GIGA Cardiovascular Sciences, Department of Cardiology, University of Liège Hospital, Liège, Belgium

^k Department of Cardiac Surgery, University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

^l Department of Cardiology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

^m Department of Cardiac Surgery, Inova Heart and Vascular Institute, Falls Church, VA, USA

ⁿ LifeTec Group, Eindhoven, Netherlands

^o Cardiac Surgery Unit, Heart Health Center, King Saud Medical City, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

^p Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology/Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA

^q Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, University Hospital Frankfurt and Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

^r Heart Surgery Division, European Hospital, Rome, Italy

* Corresponding author. Heart Surgery Division, European Hospital, Via Portuense 700, 00149 Rome, Italy. Tel: +39-6-65975224; fax: +39-6-65975112; e-mail: rdepaulis58@gmail.com (R. De Paulis).

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Abstract

Comprehensive information on the characteristics of surgical heart valves (SHVs) is essential for optimal valve selection. Such information is also important in assessing SHV function after valve replacement. Despite the existing regulatory framework for SHV sizing and labelling, this information is challenging to obtain in a uniform manner for various SHVs. To ensure that clinicians are adequately informed, the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS), The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) and American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) set up a Task Force comprised of cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, engineers, regulatory bodies, representatives of the International Organization for Standardization and major valve manufacturers. Previously, the EACTS–STS–AATS Valve Labelling Task Force identified the most important problems around SHV sizing and labelling. This Expert Consensus Document formulates recommendations for providing SHV physical dimensions, intended implant position and haemodynamic performance in a transparent, uniform manner. Furthermore, the Task Force advocates for the introduction and use of a standardized chart to assess the probability of

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prosthesis–patient mismatch and calls valve manufacturers to provide essential information required for SHV choice on standardized Valve Charts, uniformly for all SHV models.

Keywords: Labeling • ISO • Prosthesis–patient mismatch; PPM • Prosthetic heart valve • PHV • Regulation

INTRODUCTION

Comprehensive and reliable information on the characteristics of surgical heart valves (SHVs) is essential for optimal valve selection. This information is also important in assessing SHV function after valve replacement. Despite the existing regulatory framework [1, 2] and the efforts by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [3], the amount and quality of currently available information on SHV characteristics provided by manufacturers is not optimal and often not uniform, rendering intraoperative SHV selection challenging.

To ensure that clinicians are provided with the necessary information, the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS), The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) and American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) established the EACTS–STS–AATS Valve Labelling Task Force, composed of cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, engineers, regulatory professionals and representatives of major valve manufacturing companies.

The first document of the Task Force addressed the following issues around SHV sizing and labelling: (i) non-uniform or incomplete reporting of SHV materials and physical dimensions; (ii) non-uniform marking of SHV support structures (e.g. sewing rings); (iii) unclear definition of labelled valve size and inconsistencies between size dimensions and labelled valve size; (iv) lack of robust information to reliably predict SHV haemodynamic performance; (v) lack of uniform tools to predict and prevent prosthesis–patient mismatch (PPM); and (vi) lack of good-quality, robust clinical data on SHV thrombogenicity [4].

This second Expert Consensus Document of the Task Force provides recommendations on the information that should be provided together with an SHV, to ensure consistent comparability of different SHVs and to facilitate optimal intraoperative SHV selection.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS OF SURGICAL HEART VALVES

Defining uniform, standardized physical dimensions is necessary to objectively compare various SHVs. Current ISO standards for cardiac valves provide definitions only for ‘internal orifice diameter’, ‘profile height’ and ‘outflow tract profile height’ [3], and manufacturers often use non-uniform terminology to describe the physical dimensions of their SHVs. Furthermore, it is not always easy to find detailed information on the physical dimensions of an SHV [5].

The Task Force recommends that manufacturers provide the physical dimensions of SHVs using the terminology listed in Tables 1 and 2. Physical dimensions should be provided in millimetres, with preferably at least 1 decimal place precision. In addition, a pictogram of the SHV should be presented, clearly indicating the corresponding physical dimensions. Example tables and pictograms for standardized displaying of the physical dimensions of stented biological and mechanical SHVs in the aortic and mitral position are provided in Figs 1 and 2.

Although defined in the ISO 5840 standard [3], ‘internal orifice diameter’ (the minimum diameter within an SHV through which blood flows) is difficult to determine for certain bioprosthetic SHVs [6] and some manufacturers have refrained from reporting it. In specific bioprosthetic SHV designs, the orifice available for flow is encircled by the prosthetic leaflets and it is smaller than the internal stent diameter (Fig. 2A). Furthermore, the uneven surface created by the leaflets makes exact measurements difficult. Considering the inconsistency in the use and reporting of ‘internal orifice diameter’, the Task Force advocates the use of ‘minimum internal diameter’ to define the smallest diameter theoretically available for flow within an SHV orifice.

The minimum internal diameter of a bioprosthesis, also termed as ‘true internal diameter (true ID)’, is important when a valve-in-valve procedure is planned [6]. Some have tried to determine this dimension of bioprosthetic SHVs by manually passing a circular sizing tool through the orifice of the SHV in 0.5 mm increments [6]. However, these results might not be always accurate since the force used for passing the sizers through the orifice is not standardized. A standardized method for determining ‘minimum internal diameter’ during bench testing should be developed, and this dimension should be made available by the manufacturers, for all bioprosthetic SHV models and sizes, along with the other physical dimensions of the prosthesis. It is important that these determinations of this dimension are calculated in a similar standardized manner across all manufacturers with accepted protocols with reproducibility amongst laboratories.

POSITION OF SURGICAL HEART VALVES RELATIVE TO THE ANNULUS

The intended position of an SHV related to the patient tissue annulus has important implications on the surgical technique and more importantly on the haemodynamic performance of the SHV following implantation [7, 8]. Manufacturers should provide clear guidance regarding the intended implant position of an SHV. Currently, the terminology and definitions provided by the ISO 5840:2015 standard (Table 3) are used for this purpose [3]. However, this terminology has certain shortcomings since it is unclear how certain aortic SHVs, primarily seated above but with partial extension into the annulus, should be classified [4].

An easy way to overcome the ambiguity of the current ‘supra-annular’ and ‘intra-annular’ terminology is that manufacturers provide a standardized pictogram, clearly indicating the intended position(s) of the SHV after implantation, related to the tissue annulus of the patient. Example pictograms indicating the position of an aortic SHV related to the annulus are provided in Fig. 3 for aortic and in Fig. 4 for mitral mechanical and bioprosthetic valves.

LABELLED VALVE SIZE AND INTRAOPERATIVE SIZING

The proper interpretation of ‘labelled valve size’ is one of the most challenging issues around SHV labelling, causing the most

Table 1: Physical dimensions of mechanical SHVs

Physical dimension	Definition	Label on Fig. 1	Reference
Overall profile height	Maximal axial dimension of an SHV in the open or closed position, whichever is greater	A	[3]
Outflow profile height	Maximum distance that the SHV extends axially into the outflow tract in the open or closed position, whichever is greater, measured from the valve structure intended to mate with the top (atrial or aortic/pulmonic side) of the patient's annulus	B	[3]
Minimum internal diameter ^a	The smallest diameter within an SHV orifice, which is theoretically available for flow	C	[3]
External housing diameter	The largest external diameter of the supporting frame (housing)	D	b
External sewing ring diameter	The largest diameter of the uncompressed sewing ring	E	b

^aDefined in the ISO 5840:2015 as 'internal orifice diameter'.

^bNot defined in the ISO 5840:2015.

ISO: International Organization for Standardization; SHV: surgical heart valve.

Table 2: Physical dimensions of bioprosthetic SHVs

Physical dimension	Definition	Label on Fig. 2	Reference
Overall profile height	Maximal axial dimension of an SHV in the open or closed position, whichever is greater	A	[3]
Outflow profile height	Maximum distance that the SHV extends axially into the outflow tract in the open or closed position, whichever is greater, measured from the valve structure intended to mate with the top (atrial or aortic/pulmonic side) of the patient's annulus	B	[3]
Minimum internal diameter ^a	The smallest diameter within an SHV orifice, which is theoretically available for flow	C	[3]
Internal stent diameter ^b	The smallest internal diameter of the supporting frame (stent), without fabric covering	D	c
External stent diameter ^b	The largest external diameter of the stent, with fabric covering	E	c
External sewing ring diameter ^b	The largest diameter of the uncompressed sewing ring	F	c

^aDefined in the ISO 5840:2015 as 'internal orifice diameter'.

^bNot applicable for stentless bioprosthetic SHVs.

^cNot defined in the ISO 5840:2015.

ISO: International Organization for Standardization; SHV: surgical heart valve.

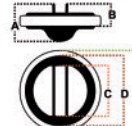
confusion in the surgical community [9]. Labelled valve size is defined as the 'tissue annulus diameter of the patient into which the SHV is intended to be implanted' in the ISO 5840:2015 standard [3]. In other words, labelled valve size reflects the manufacturer's recommendation into which annulus an SHV can be safely implanted. To emphasize that the actual meaning of 'labelled valve size' is 'patient tissue annulus diameter', manufacturers should always present 'labelled valve size' as a separate variable when presenting the physical dimensions of SHVs. Surgeons should similarly realize that the corresponding valve size is simply a label, and not a true measure of the valve size.

It is not possible to design valves for each annulus size. Therefore, labelled valve sizes are practically representing tissue annulus diameter ranges, where a specific SHV is recommended to be implanted according to the manufacturer [10, 11]. These ranges are defined by the valve-related tubular sizes. The lower margin of this range is the diameter of the largest valve-related tubular size that fits the annulus. The upper margin of this range is indirectly bordered by the diameter of the size 1 size larger (the size that does not fit).

It is sensible that the actual (numerical) labelled size of an SHV falls within these margins (Fig. 5) [12]. However, as the margins of these tissue annulus ranges were not defined in the corresponding ISO standards [3], they can vary for different SHV models having the same labelled valve size (Fig. 6). This historical lack of

A Mechanical valves, aortic position

Labelled valve size	Physical dimensions				
	Overall profile height	Outflow profile height	Minimum internal diameter	External housing diameter	External sewing ring diameter
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)



B Mechanical valves, mitral position

Labelled valve size	Physical dimensions				
	Overall profile height	Outflow profile height	Minimum internal diameter	External housing diameter	External sewing ring diameter
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)

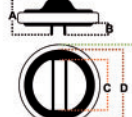
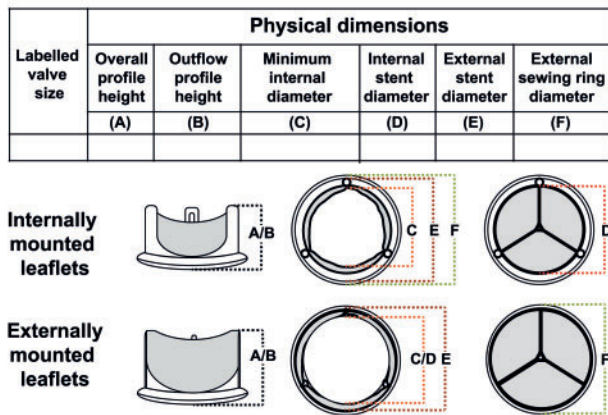


Figure 1: Standardized approach to present surgical heart valve physical dimensions: mechanical valves in the aortic (A) and mitral (B) position. The Task Force suggests that manufacturers use a complete, standardized set of physical dimensions and a standardized pictogram when describing their surgical heart valves.

standardization renders the direct comparison of different SHVs based on labelled valve size impossible, precludes the exclusive use of a universal sizing tool, limits standard sizing and ultimately causes confusion in the surgical community [13].

Redefining these 'tissue annulus ranges' belonging to specific labelled sizes would demand major changes in existing SHV designs. For transparency, however, it is necessary to disclose the margins of these 'tissue annulus ranges'. This can easily be

A Bioprosthetic valves, aortic position



B Bioprosthetic valves, mitral position

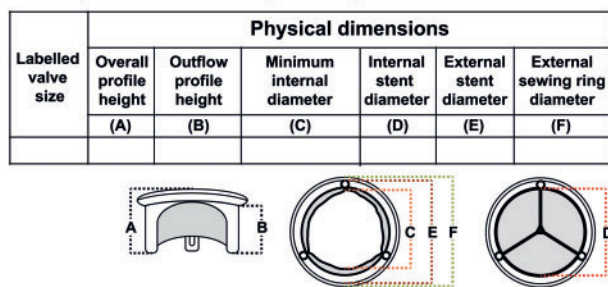


Figure 2: Standardized approach to present surgical heart valve physical dimensions: bioprosthetic valves in the aortic (A) and mitral (B) position.

accomplished by disclosing the actual diameters of the tubular ends of the valve-related sizers and would clarify into which patients a specific SHV is 'intended to be implanted'.

Besides sizing with the cylindrical end of the valve-related sizer, the replica end of the sizer helps to determine the final fit and position of the SHV. Of note, the size of the replica can slightly differ from the actual dimensions of the corresponding SHV. This is due to the different properties of the sizer and SHV materials (mainly different flexibility, with a stiff sizer corresponding to a flexible SHV), and this should be considered during intra-operative sizing.

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON PREDICTED HAEMODYNAMIC PERFORMANCE

Accurate and reliable information regarding the haemodynamic performance of an SHV after implantation is an important factor in optimal SHV choice. Also, comparison of measured and reference transprosthetic gradients and effective orifice area (EOA) values are used to assess SHV function during follow-up [14].

Information on SHV haemodynamic performance can be obtained by benchtop *in vitro* measurements, by *in vivo* large animal studies and by using *in vivo* data from reference patient populations. Benchtop mock circulatory loops used for *in vitro* testing and animal models are not perfect substitutes of the human circulation, and results can be influenced by differences in experimental protocols [15, 16]. Hence, *in vitro* hydrodynamic data or data from animal experiments should not be used

to characterize or predict haemodynamic performance of SHVs in a clinical setting. *In vivo* data, derived from Doppler echocardiography measurements, performed in a reference patient population, should be the primary source to predict the haemodynamic performance of an SHV after implantation [4, 17].

Transprosthetic gradients and EOA do not solely depend on the physical features of an SHV. Doppler echocardiography measurements are influenced by the anatomy (upstream and downstream of the prosthesis) and the physiological state (heart rate, myocardial function or cardiac output) of the individual patient receiving an SHV implant. Furthermore, surgical implantation technique and the timing between surgery and echocardiography [18, 19] can also potentially affect Doppler parameters [8], introducing variability into the results. *In vivo* EOA reference values follow a normal distribution (Fig. 7) [20] and should always be described with a mean value and its standard deviation (SD). Theoretically, the variability (described by the SD of the mean) can be reduced by increasing the number of patients, standardizing Doppler echocardiography protocols and performing measurements in independent reference laboratories (core laboratories).

To characterize the haemodynamic performance of a specific SHV model, 'mean transprosthetic gradients' and 'EOAs' determined by Doppler echocardiography should be used. Echocardiography used to determine normal reference values should be performed between 30 days and 1 year after implantation and in a minimum of 30 patients for each labelled size. Data should be presented as mean \pm SD for each SHV model and labelled size, along with source study details [e.g. study characteristics, number of patients investigated, mean \pm SD age, mean \pm SD body mass index (BMI) and mean \pm SD body surface area (BSA) of patients, per labelled size], indicating whether the measurements were performed in an independent core laboratory or not. Whenever possible, only core laboratory adjudicated data should be used.

PREDICTING THE PROBABILITY OF PROSTHESIS-PATIENT MISMATCH AFTER AORTIC VALVE REPLACEMENT

PPM is manifested by high transprosthetic gradients through an otherwise normally functioning SHV. PPM results from the orifice of the implanted SHV being too small to fulfil the patient's cardiac output requirements [21]. The size of the SHV orifice relative to the patient is characterized by the 'indexed EOA', which is calculated by dividing the EOA of the SHV by the BSA of the patient:

$$\text{Indexed EOA (cm}^2\text{/m}^2\text{)} = \frac{\text{EOA (cm}^2\text{)}}{\text{BSA of the patient (m}^2\text{)}}.$$

PPM is associated with a higher risk of poor outcomes after aortic valve replacement [22, 23], and its prevention is of paramount importance when selecting an SHV for implantation [24]. Cut-off levels of indexed EOA have been introduced to define moderate and severe PPM after aortic valve replacement [14].

To predict PPM after SHV implantation, valve manufacturers provide 'indexed EOA charts'. The main principle of these charts is that by using a 'reference EOA' and the BSA of the patient, the

Table 3: Current terminology used to describe annular attachment of SHVs, according to the ISO 5840:2015 standard

Term to describe sewing ring configuration	Definition provided in the ISO 5840:2015 standard [3]
Intra-annular sewing ring	Sewing ring designed to secure the SHV 'wholly or mostly' within the patient's tissue annulus
Supra-annular sewing ring	Sewing ring designed to secure the valve 'wholly' above the patient's tissue annulus

ISO: International Organization for Standardization; SHV: surgical heart valve.

A Mechanical valves**B Bioprosthetic valves**

Figure 3: Example of standardized pictograms indicating the intended implant positions of mechanical (A) and bioprosthetic (B) surgical heart valves (SHV) in the aortic position. Considering the ambiguity of the current terminology used to describe the annular position of SHVs, the Task Force suggests that manufacturers use standardized pictograms to indicate the 'intended position(s)' of their SHVs related to the tissue annulus of the patient.

'expected indexed EOA' after implantation can be calculated and compared to the pre-defined PPM cut-off levels.

$$\text{Expected indexed EOA (cm}^2\text{/m}^2\text{)} = \frac{\text{Reference EOA (cm}^2\text{)}}{\text{BSA of the patient (m}^2\text{)}}.$$

Theoretically, this would make the selection of a large enough SHV, and thereby the prevention of PPM, possible. In 'indexed EOA charts' provided by valve manufacturers, expected indexed EOA values are typically colour-coded as follows: 'green—above PPM cut-off level', 'yellow—moderate PPM' and 'red—severe PPM'. However, PPM charts provided by valve manufacturers have been severely criticized for their inaccuracy [25]. Due to the lack of standardization, the use of different PPM cut-offs and the questionable quality of their reference EOAs, these charts are regarded by many as marketing tools rather than useful clinical assets [26].

Standardized PPM charts, however, would (i) help surgeons in objectively assessing the probability of PPM before SHV implantation; (ii) facilitate optimal SHV choice; and (iii) prevent biased comparisons between different SHVs [26]. Therefore, the Task Force proposes that manufacturers provide standardized charts for their aortic SHVs to predict the probability of severe PPM after implantation.

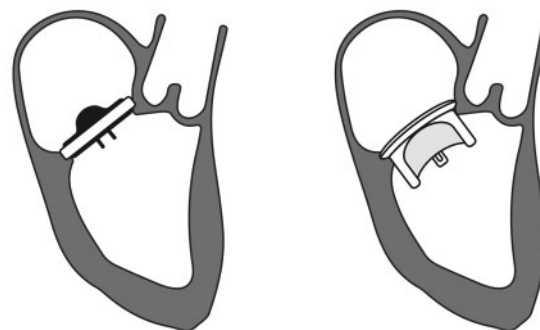
A Mechanical valves **B Bioprosthetic valves**

Figure 4: Example of standardized pictograms indicating the intended implant positions of mechanical (A) and bioprosthetic (B) surgical heart valves in the mitral position. Knowing the intended implant position of mitral surgical heart valves is important as these valves can potentially interfere with the mitral subvalvular apparatus, the left ventricular wall or the left ventricular outflow tract.

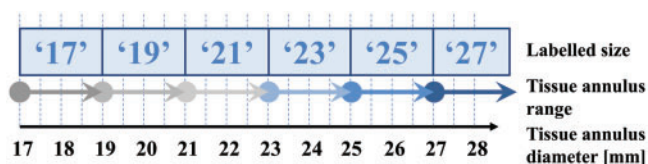


Figure 5: Ideal situation: well-defined, uniform relationship between labelled sizes and tissue annulus ranges. Comparing different surgical heart valve (SHV) models starts with selecting the valves that can be fitted into the same tissue annulus. A well-defined, uniform relationship between 'labelled valve size' and the 'tissue annulus range' where an SHV fits would allow direct comparison of SHVs based on labelled valve size.

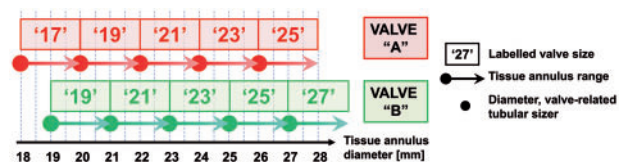


Figure 6: Actual situation: the margins of 'tissue annulus ranges' belonging to specific labelled valve sizes are not defined. The margins of 'tissue annulus ranges' are not standardized and can be different for similarly labelled surgical heart valve models. This lack of standardization precludes direct comparability based on labelled valve size and the use of a universal sizing tool.

To create a 'standardized PPM chart', the following is required: (i) high-quality reference EOA values for all SHV models and sizes from a reliable source; (ii) the use of uniform PPM cut-off levels; and (iii) a tool to accurately predict the probability of PPM after SHV implantation.

The use of reliable, high-quality reference EOA values is of paramount importance. In PPM charts, reference EOA values derived from large prospective multicentre clinical studies with standardized core laboratory echocardiography assessment should be used, if possible. Data from at least 30 patients should be available to determine the mean \pm SD reference EOA, for each SHV model and labelled size. In addition, the following study details should be provided on the standardized PPM chart: sample size per labelled SHV size, study characteristics (prospective or retrospective, period of patient inclusion, single or multicentre, regulatory study or not) and whether echocardiography was assessed in a core laboratory.

The use of uniform indexed EOA cut-offs is mandatory to define PPM after aortic valve replacement. Recent guidelines

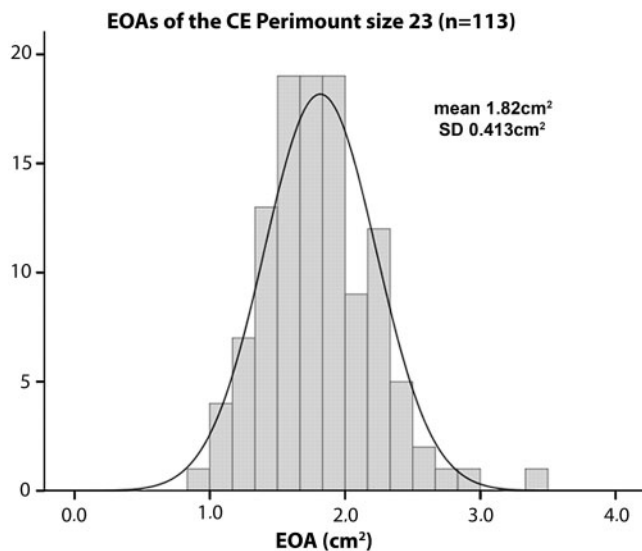


Figure 7: Distribution of the 'reference EOA' of a 23-mm bioprosthetic valve. *In vivo* reference EOAs of surgical heart valves (SHVs) are determined in reference patient populations and are influenced not only by SHV characteristics but also by patient anatomy and physiology. Reference EOAs have a normal distribution, described by a mean EOA and its SD. Reproduced from Ref. [20] with permission from BMJ Publishing Group Ltd. EOA: effective orifice area; SD: standard deviation.

advocate adjusting PPM cut-offs for the BMI of the patient [14]. In the standardized charts, the following PPM cut-off values should be used: for non-obese (BMI <30 kg/m²) patients, severe PPM should be defined as an indexed EOA of <0.65 cm²/m²; while for patients with BMI ≥30 kg/m², severe PPM should be defined as an indexed EOA of ≤0.55 cm²/m² [14].

Instead of classifying PPM simply into a 'yes/no' (binary) variable, knowing the exact probability of severe PPM is more useful in clinical decision-making. The standardized PPM chart should therefore provide the 'probability of severe PPM' for a given patient in percentages, based on the reference EOA of the corresponding SHV (described as mean ± SD) and on the BMI and BSA of the patient.

Expected indexed EOAs are derived from reference EOAs. Hence, expected indexed EOA values follow the same distribution as reference EOA values. When applying the above-mentioned severe PPM cut-offs to this distribution, the exact probability of PPM can be calculated (Fig. 8). Dividing the area under the curve below the PPM limit by the area under the curve of the whole 'expected indexed EOA distribution' gives us the probability of severe PPM:

$$\text{PPM probability} = \frac{\text{AUC 'below PPM limit'}}{\text{AUC 'expected indexed EOA distribution'}}$$

In standardized PPM charts, the probability of PPM should be provided using this method. PPM probability should be provided in percentages, for BSA ranges between 1.3 and 2.6 m², in 0.1 m² increments [27].

To emphasize that PPM after aortic valve replacement is not only dependent on the characteristics of the SHV or on the BMI and BSA of the patient, the standardized PPM chart should contain the following disclaimer: 'This chart is a support tool to estimate the probability of PPM in patients undergoing aortic valve

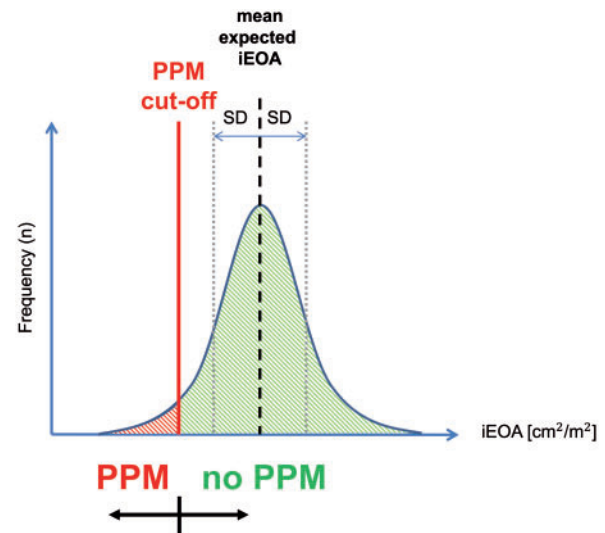


Figure 8: Applying PPM cut-off to the 'expected indexed EOA' distribution, to calculate PPM probability. Applying a PPM cut-off value to the 'expected indexed EOA' distribution helps assessing the 'percentage probability' of PPM after surgical heart valve implantation. This method can provide a better understanding of the actual PPM risk and avoid the shortcomings of classifying predicted PPM into a 'yes/no', binary variable. iEOA: indexed effective orifice area; PPM: prosthesis-patient mismatch; SD: standard deviation.

replacement with a particular prosthetic heart valve, but the actual risk further depends on specific patient characteristics and operative technique'. An example of the proposed standardized PPM chart is provided in Fig. 9.

PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR AN OPTIMAL SURGICAL HEART VALVE CHOICE

To facilitate SHV choice, the Task Force identified the following essential information regarding SHV characteristics that should be made easily available by valve manufacturers, for all SHV models and sizes: (i) SHV 'physical dimensions', presented in a complete and standardized way; (ii) 'tissue annulus ranges' in which SHVs can be implanted, characterized by the diameters of the valve-related tubular sizes; (iii) a standardized 'pictogram indicating the intended position of the SHV' after implantation, related to the patient tissue annulus; (iv) 'high-quality reference EOA values'; and (v) for aortic SHVs, a 'standardized chart to display the probability of severe PPM', based on high-quality *in vivo* reference EOAs, using standardized, BMI-adjusted PPM cut-offs, for realistic patient BSA ranges.

Although final SHV choice is typically made in the operating theatre, surgeons should be provided with all necessary information required for optimal SHV choice well before the operation. Currently, medical literature, marketing materials provided by valve manufacturers, package labels and instructions for use booklets are the primary sources of information regarding SHV characteristics [4]. The main purpose of package labels is to allow easy identification of the product for the end-user, and throughout the whole supply chain. Furthermore, labels must contain essential information regarding sterility, manufacturing and the intended use of the product. However, it is not possible to provide all information regarding SHV characteristics required for valve selection on package labels. On the other hand, instructions

Probability of severe* Prosthesis-Patient Mismatch "MANUFACTURER" - "VALVE MODEL"													
Labelled valve size		19		21		23		25		27		29	
Patient BMI [kg/m ²]		<30	≥30	<30	≥30	<30	≥30	<30	≥30	<30	≥30	<30	≥30
Patient BSA [m ²]	1.2	9%	3%	7%	4%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
	1.3	16%	7%	12%	7%	7%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%
	1.4	25%	12%	18%	10%	11%	7%	6%	3%	3%	2%	0%	0%
	1.5	34%	18%	24%	15%	15%	10%	8%	5%	5%	3%	0%	0%
	1.6	43%	25%	29%	19%	19%	13%	12%	8%	7%	5%	0%	0%
	1.7	51%	31%	35%	24%	23%	16%	15%	10%	10%	7%	0%	0%
	1.8	58%	38%	40%	28%	28%	20%	19%	13%	13%	9%	0%	0%
	1.9	64%	44%	45%	33%	32%	23%	23%	16%	15%	11%	0%	0%
	2.0	69%	50%	50%	37%	35%	27%	27%	19%	18%	14%	1%	0%
	2.1	74%	55%	54%	41%	39%	30%	30%	22%	21%	16%	1%	0%
	2.2	77%	60%	58%	45%	42%	33%	34%	25%	24%	18%	2%	1%
	2.3	80%	64%	61%	48%	45%	36%	37%	28%	27%	21%	3%	1%
	2.4	83%	68%	64%	51%	48%	39%	40%	31%	30%	23%	4%	2%
2.5	85%	71%	67%	54%	51%	41%	43%	34%	32%	25%	6%	3%	
Study details	EOA, mean±SD [cm ²]	1.1 ± 0.2		1.3 ± 0.3		1.6 ± 0.4		1.8 ± 0.4		2.2 ± 0.5		2.8 ± 0.3	
	Patients per valve size (n)	25		52		79		65		43		32	
	Prospective	yes		yes		yes		yes		yes		yes	
	Centers per valve size (n)	3		3		3		3		3		3	
	Pooled data	no		no		no		no		no		no	
	Regulatory	no		no		no		no		no		no	
	Echo core lab	yes		yes		yes		yes		yes		yes	
	Period of data collection	2012 - 2014		2012 - 2014		2012 - 2014		2012 - 2014		2012 - 2014		2012 - 2014	
	Timing of postop echo	3 months		3 months		3 months		3 months		3 months		3 months	
*severe PPM is defined as iEOA: ≤0.65 cm ² /m ² , in patients with BMI <30 kg/m ² ; and as iEOA: ≤0.55 cm ² /m ² in patients with BMI ≥30													
COLOR CODING: yellow indicates that the percentage probability of severe PPM is greater than or equal to 50%, meaning that the mean indexed EOA is below the severe PPM cutoff level.													
DISCLAIMER: This chart is a support tool to estimate the probability of PPM in patients undergoing surgical aortic valve replacement with a particular valve, but the actual risk further depends on specific patient characteristics and operative technique.													

Figure 9: Standardized PPM chart for surgical heart valves in the aortic position. Standardized PPM charts provide the percentage probability of severe PPM after implantation of an aortic surgical heart valve into a specific patient. Different cut-offs of severe PPM are used for non-obese (BMI) and obese (BMI) patients. The probability of severe PPM is calculated using the distribution of 'reference EOAs', 'patient BSA' and the 'BMI-adjusted severe PPM cut-off'. The yellow colour indicates that the 'mean expected indexed EOA' is under the PPM cut-off (percentage probability is larger than 50%). BMI: body mass index; BSA: body surface area; EOA: effective orifice area; iEOA: indexed effective orifice area; PPM: prosthesis-patient mismatch; SD: standard deviation.

for use booklets are typically only accessible after opening the packaging of the SHV and, from a practical standpoint, it is not possible to study these booklets in detail in the time-pressured environment of an operating theatre, during intraoperative SHV implantation.

Therefore, instead of changing existing package labels, the Task Force suggests the introduction and the use of a standardized Valve Chart, to provide comprehensive information regarding SHV characteristics. Standardized Valve Charts should be provided by manufacturers and should contain the

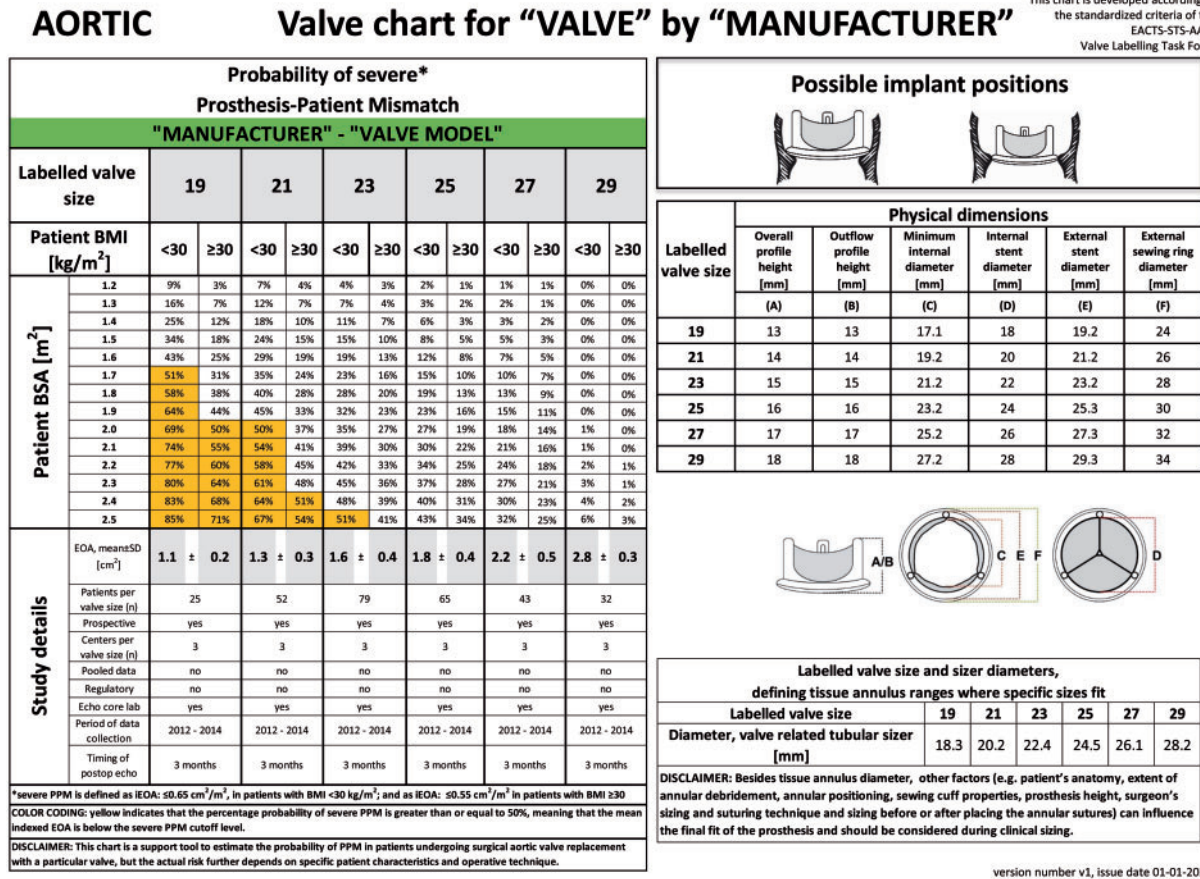


Figure 10: Standardized Valve Chart: aortic valves. Standardized Valve Charts provide essential information on surgical heart valve (SHV) characteristics in a uniform manner and allow for comparability between different SHV models without demanding radical changes in current SHV designs or labelling. Furthermore, Valve Charts highlight the necessity of considering multiple factors when selecting an SHV for implantation. BMI: body mass index; BSA: body surface area; EOA: effective orifice area; iEOA: indexed effective orifice area; PPM: prosthesis-patient mismatch; SD: standard deviation.

following information: (i) manufacturer name and type of the SHV; (ii) standardized table and pictogram to present SHV physical dimensions; (iii) sizer dimensions to indicate the tissue annulus ranges where the SHVs can be fitted; (iv) standardized pictogram indicating the intended implant position of the SHV; and (v) standardized PPM chart to predict the probability of PPM, for SHVs used in the aortic position (vi) issue date and version number. Valve Charts should have a standardized, uniform layout. Furthermore, to ensure easy access, Valve Charts should be made available online on a designated website endorsed by EACTS, STS and AATS, and in a smartphone application. Valve Charts should be regularly revised and updated if new evidence becomes available. An example of standardized Valve Chart is provided in Fig. 10 for aortic valves and in Fig. 11 for mitral SHVs.

SELECTION AND COMPARISON OF SURGICAL HEART VALVES USING THE VALVE CHART

Valve Charts can be used preoperatively, intraoperatively or post-operatively, when comparing different SHVs, when selecting SHVs for implantation or when assessing SHV function. Possible uses of the Valve Charts in various clinical scenarios are summarized in Fig. 12.

DISCUSSION

Easy access to comprehensive information regarding SHV characteristics is required for an optimal SHV choice: in addition to determining which SHV would fit into the patient and knowing the intended annular position of the prosthesis, knowledge of the predicted haemodynamic performance of the SHV and the probability of PPM after implantation are matters of the uttermost importance.

On the standardized Valve Charts, this information could be provided for all SHV models in a uniform manner, without demanding radical changes in current SHV designs or labelling. As most of the required information is readily available, it should be possible to create these Charts relatively quickly and easily. Standardized Valve Charts highlight the necessity of considering multiple factors when selecting an SHV for implantation. The ability to consult such charts during the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative periods makes objective comparison of different SHVs and optimal SHV selection possible, and it helps in the proper assessment of SHV function during patient follow-up.

Besides the information provided on the Valve Chart, individual patient characteristics, comorbidities, life expectancy and preference, local resources and expertise and predicted *in vivo* prosthesis durability and thrombogenicity should be considered

MITRAL Valve chart for "VALVE" by "MANUFACTURER"

This chart is developed according to the standardized criteria of the EACTS-ST5-AATS Valve Labelling Task Force

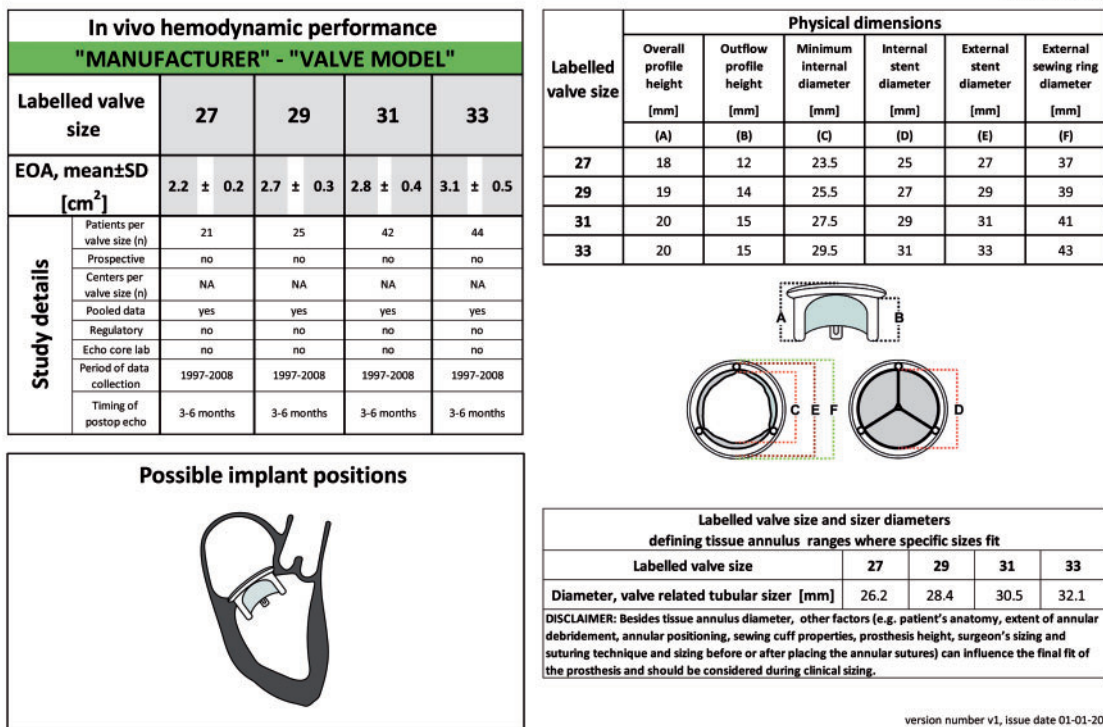


Figure 11: Standardized Valve Chart: mitral valves. Information on *in vivo* hemodynamic performance, physical dimensions, intended implant position and size dimensions should be made available for surgical heart valves in the mitral position. EOA: effective orifice area; SD: standard deviation.

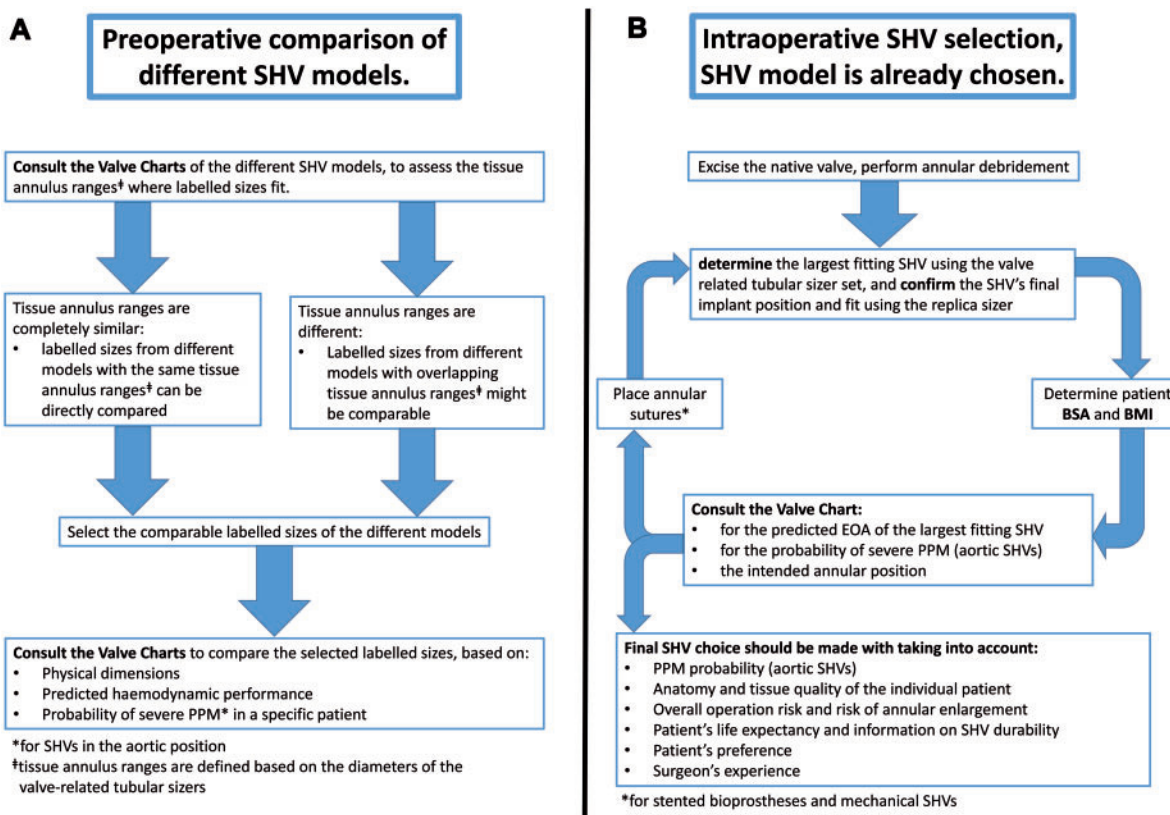


Figure 12: Comparison and selection of SHVs using the Valve Chart. Valve Charts can be used in various settings: when comparing SHVs from different manufacturers preoperatively (A) or when selecting SHVs for implantation (B). BMI: body mass index; BSA: body surface area; EOA: effective orifice area; PPM: prosthesis-patient mismatch; SHV: surgical heart valve.

when selecting an SHV for implantation. Due to the suboptimal quality and quantity of the currently available data on *in vivo* SHV durability and thrombogenicity and considering the significant heterogeneity of the definitions used to describe these important clinical end points [28–30], data regarding SHV durability and thrombogenicity are not provided on the Valve Charts.

Problems around SHV sizing and labelling can only be solved by the cooperation and joint effort of all stakeholders. The EACTS–STS–AATS Valve Labelling Project was set up with this intention. This Consensus Document can serve as a guide for regulatory bodies, when developing future standards or when refining the framework of surgical heart valve labelling. In the future, continuous dialogue and close collaboration of clinicians (represented by professional societies), engineers, regulatory bodies, the ISO Cardiac Valves Working Group and valve manufacturers are mandated to ensure that clinicians are provided with the necessary information regarding SHV characteristics all times.

CONCLUSIONS

This joint EACTS–STS–AATS Valve Labelling Task Force suggests the use of standardized Valve Charts to present essential information on SHV characteristics. Valve Charts should present information on the physical dimensions, implant position and haemodynamic performance of an SHV in a uniform, standardized manner. For valves used in the aortic position, Valve Charts should include a standardized PPM chart to assess the probability of PPM after implantation.

Continuous dialogue and collaboration of clinicians, engineers, regulatory bodies, the ISO Cardiac Valves Working Group and valve manufacturers are essential to ensure that clinicians are provided with the necessary information regarding SHV characteristics.

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Conflict of interest: Vinayak Bapat is a consultant for Medtronic, Boston Scientific and Edwards Lifesciences; Edward P. Chen is a speaker and consultant for Medtronic; Gry Dahle is a proctor for Tendyne; John A. Elefteriades is a member of the Data and Safety Monitoring Boards of Jarvik Heart and Terumo, a founder and principal of CoolSpine and a consultant for DuraBiotec; Alan Speir is on the Medtronic North America Cardiac Surgery Advisory Board; Giordano Tasca received lecture fees from Abbott Medical Italia SpA. All other authors reported no conflict of interest regarding the content of this manuscript.

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APPENDIX: TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Cardiac surgeons

Ruggero De Paulis, European Hospital, Rome, Italy—Task Force chairman

Pavan Atluri, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
 Vinayak Bapat, New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, USA
 Duke E. Cameron, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA
 Filip P.A. Casselman, OLV Clinic, Aalst, Belgium
 Edward P. Chen, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA
 Gry Dahle, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway
 Andras P. Durko, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
 John A. Elefteriades, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA
 Richard L. Prager, University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
 Alan Speir, Inova Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, Falls Church, VA, USA
 Giordano Tasca, King Saud Medical City, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 Thomas Walther, Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

Cardiologists

Patrizio Lancellotti, University of Liège Hospital, Liège, Belgium
 Philippe Pibarot, Laval University, Quebec, QC, Canada
 Raphael Rosenhek, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Engineers

Jurgen de Hart, LifeTec Group, Eindhoven, Netherlands
 Marco Stijnen, LifeTec Group, Eindhoven, Netherlands

ISO

Ajit Yoganathan, Georgia Institute of Technology/Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA

US food and drug administration

Nicole Ibrahim
 John Laschinger (until June 2019)
 Changfu Wu

Notified body

Giovanni Di Rienzo, TÜV SÜD, Munich, Germany (until September 2019)

Competent authorities

Alexander McLaren, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, London, UK
 Hazel Randall, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, London, UK

Industry representatives

Lisa Becker, Abbott, Chicago, IL, USA
 Scott Capps, CryoLife, Kennesaw, GA, USA
 Brian Duncan, LivaNova, London, UK
 Chad Green, Abbott, Chicago, IL, USA
 John C. Hay, Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, USA
 Stuart J. Head, Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, USA
 Ornella Ieropoli, LivaNova, London, UK
 Ashwini A. Jacob, Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA, USA
 A. Pieter Kappetein, Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, USA
 Eric Manasse, Abbott, Chicago, IL, USA
 Salvador Marquez, Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA, USA
 William F. Northrup III, CryoLife, Kennesaw, GA, USA
 Tim Ryan, Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, USA
 Wendel Smith, Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA, USA