

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOCUSED UPDATE DOCUMENT PROVIDES NEW CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR AORTIC STENOSIS

Morrisville, NC – Aortic stenosis (AS), a narrowing of the aortic valve, is a common and serious heart valve problem. The incidence of aortic stenosis, which primarily affects people over 65 years of age, has increased in recent years especially as our population is living longer. Due to the wide variability in the severity of the disease and the need for treatment, echocardiography is the main tool physicians use to diagnose and evaluate AS. A new document, [Recommendations on the Echocardiographic Assessment of Aortic Valve Stenosis: A Focused Update from the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging \(EACVI\) and the American Society of Echocardiography \(ASE\)](#), aims to update guidance for how best to use echocardiography to assess the growing number of patients with this often debilitating condition.

The paper, a joint project between EACVI and ASE, will appear in the April issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography* (JASE). ASE's co-chair of the writing group, Judy W. Hung, MD, FASE of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, commented, "The prior valve stenosis document was published in 2009; since that time there have been a considerable number of new studies published on aortic stenosis as well as technical improvements in ultrasound equipment. We felt that it was essential to integrate this new information into clinical practice, especially in light of the exponential growth of treatment options such as Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) in the past several years. Importantly, this document provides a new classification scheme for aortic stenosis that focuses on gradient, stroke volume flow, and LVEF in an integrated, stepwise algorithm."

The document outlines in detail both basic and advanced echocardiographic measures of severity, incorporating key technical aspects and new research about how to evaluate the difficult subgroup of patients with low flow aortic stenosis. It synthesizes all these relevant details into a step-by-step approach that can help deal with the challenge of defining severe AS, including multiple tables and figures to illustrate various concepts.

In conjunction with the publication of the guideline document, Dr. Hung will conduct a live webinar, including a question and answer section, on June 13 at 4:00 PM ET. The webinar will be available for free to all ASE members and open to all other clinicians for just \$25; registration for the webinar will open in mid-April. This webinar, and all ASE-hosted guideline webinars, are available on ASEUniversity.org to facilitate education for those who cannot attend the live webcast.



The full guideline document is available on the *Journal of American Society of Echocardiography* (JASE) website (OnlineJASE.com). This document and all ASE Guideline documents are also available to the medical community at ASEcho.org/guidelines.

As the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging, the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines. Comprised of over 17,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, and scientists, ASE is a strong voice providing guidance, expertise, and education to its members. The Society has a commitment to improving the practice of ultrasound and imaging of the heart and cardiovascular system for better patient outcomes. For more information about ASE, visit ASEcho.org or ASE's public information site, SeeMyHeart.org.

###