

Standardized Echocardiography Reporting Improves Detection and Management of Aortic Stenosis

WHY NOW?

>12% of Adults 75+ Have Aortic Stenosis

Many patients with severe aortic stenosis remain undiagnosed or untreated, and delayed recognition or referral is associated with significantly worse outcomes.

Recent updates to the ASE Guidelines for Standardization of Adult Echocardiography Reporting emphasize the critical role of **standardized** echocardiography reporting in identifying clinically significant findings and facilitating timely clinical decision-making.

Clear, consistent echocardiographic reporting is essential to ensure:



Timely recognition of severe disease.



Accurate disease severity classification.



Appropriate referral for valve intervention.

WHAT THE ASE REPORTING GUIDELINES STANDARDIZE

The ASE reporting guidelines promote structured and standardized reporting to ensure that key parameters necessary for accurate assessment of aortic stenosis are consistently documented.

Aortic Stenosis: Standardized Echo Reporting

What to Document



Severity
Velocity;
gradient; valve area;
dimensionless
index



Flow
Stroke volume
index; low-
flow states



Context
LV function;
morphology;
calcification; prior
exams

For all abnormal valves, the presence or absence of stenosis or regurgitation should be reported along with 1 of 3 severity qualifiers: mild, moderate, or severe.



Severe Aortic Stenosis = Actionable Findings; Communicate Immediately



Standardized Reporting Enables



Earlier
detection of
severe aortic
stenosis



Identify
low-flow
low-gradient
aortic stenosis



Track
disease
progression



Timely
SAVR/TAVR
referral

The updated ASE reporting guidelines also emphasize that severe aortic stenosis should be treated as a critical finding, requiring timely communication and clinical follow-up.

WHY STANDARDIZED REPORTING IMPROVES PATIENT CARE

Consistent and structured echocardiographic reporting enables clinicians to:

- » Accelerate diagnosis of both severe and complex aortic stenosis.
- » Precisely track disease progression using consistent, longitudinal data.
- » Improve referral timing for SAVR/TAVR and enhance communication between labs and clinicians.

TIMELY AND COORDINATED COMMUNICATION

- » Severe aortic stenosis represents a clinically actionable finding that requires timely communication with the ordering clinician to ensure appropriate evaluation and referral for intervention.
- » Clear communication of echocardiographic findings supports coordinated care and helps ensure patients with severe aortic stenosis receive timely information, evaluation, and treatment.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY LABORATORIES

Implementation of ASE reporting recommendations can help echocardiography labs ensure reports are clinically actionable and aligned with best practices.

Echocardiography labs should consider:

- » Adoption of structured reporting templates.
- » Consistent documentation of all hemodynamic parameters relevant to aortic stenosis.
- » Use of standardized severity terminology.
- » Clear comparison with prior studies to identify disease progression.

EXAMPLE REPORTING LANGUAGE

"This patient has significant aortic stenosis that, according to the current American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association/ASE valvular heart disease guidelines, may warrant treatment. As clinically appropriate, further evaluation and/or referral should be considered."

The ASE Adult Echocardiography Reporting Guidelines provide a framework to standardize echocardiographic reporting and enhance communication between imaging specialists and treating clinicians.

Adoption of ASE reporting standards helps ensure that echocardiography moves beyond descriptive reporting to provide clinically actionable information that guides patient care.

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