

# Early Structural Heart Evaluation Leads to Timely Intervention in Aortic Stenosis

Peggy DiMatteo BSN, RN



## Background

Aortic Stenosis is a degenerative disease pathology that is often undertreated. Many patients are not evaluated by a Structural Heart Specialist until they are experiencing significant symptoms. Delay in evaluation can potentially lead to poor outcomes making early identification and referral to a Structural Heart Team an essential part of the process.

## Objective

By using software for early patient identification, dedicated schedule blocks, provider and patient outreach, and collaborating with our Joint Venture Facility, we have reduced the time from echocardiogram to evaluation by approximately 30 days

## Methods

- Early identification of patients utilizing the CardioCare software platform.
- Established process for outreach to providers after a patient is identified (*Figure 1*).
- Reserved designated scheduling blocks specifically for Structural Heart evaluations.
- Structural Heart Nurse Navigator outreach to the patient once determined patient is appropriate for intervention.
- Close communication with our Joint Venture Facility.

## Results

By using software for early patient identification, dedicated schedule blocks, provider and patient outreach, and collaborating with our Joint Venture Facility, we have reduced the time from echocardiogram to evaluation by approximately 30 days (*Figure 2*).

## Conclusions

Early identification of patients with Severe Aortic Stenosis by utilizing a tool such as CardioCare was essential in reducing time to treatment, potentially improving patient outcomes.

### Outreach Example:

Dear Dr [PROVIDER NAME]

[PATIENT NAME, DOB]

The above patient has been identified by CardioCare as having Severe Aortic Stenosis based on Echocardiogram completed at Inspira on [DOS]. Please see attached report for details.

Per ACC/AHA Guidelines, patient may benefit from a referral to a Structural Heart Specialist.

Please feel free to contact me if any assistance is needed with Care Coordination.

Thank you

Structural Heart Nurse Navigator

Figure 1

### Days From TTE to Structural Heart Evaluation IMG Cardiology

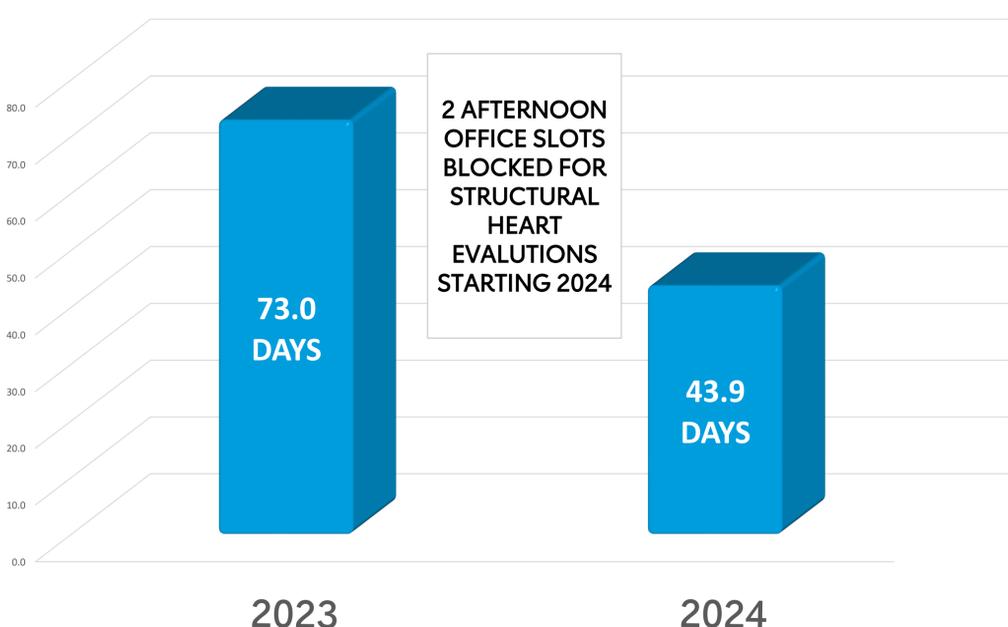


Figure 2