

# Same-day discharge after transcatheter mitral valve repair using MitraClip in a tertiary community hospital: a case series

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Background	Due to the current Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, there is a realization for innovation in pro- cedures and protocols to minimize hospital stay and at the same time ensure continued evidence-based treatment delivered to the patients. We present a same-day discharge protocol for transcatheter mitral valve repair (TMVR) using MitraClip under general anaesthesia in a six-patient case series. This protocol aims to reduce the length of hospital stay, thereby minimizing potential for nosocomial COVID-19 infections and to promote safe discharge with cautious follow-up.
Case summary	Six patients with severe symptomatic mitral valve (MV) regurgitation underwent successful transfemoral MV repair using standard procedures. Following repair, patients were monitored on telemetry in the recovery area for 3 h, ambulated to assess vascular access stability and underwent post-procedural transthoracic echocardiogram to as- sess for any pericardial effusion or post-procedural prosthetic mitral stenosis.
Conclusion	Same-day discharge after TMVR is possible when done cautiously with close follow-up, can minimize hospital stay, improve resource utilization, and reduce risk of nosocomial COVID-19 infection.
Keywords	Transcatheter mitral valve repair • MitraClip • Same-day discharge • Day case procedure • Case series • Case report • COVID-19

#### **Learning points**

- Patients with stable heart failure symptoms, low bleeding risk, and without intraprocedural complications can be considered for same-day discharges (SDDs) following transcatheter mitral valve repair.
- SDD to selected patients might be of benefit in preventing potential exposure during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic.

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#### Introduction

Mitral valve disease is the most common valvular disease in the USA with moderate or higher mitral regurgitation (MR) present in  $\sim$ 2% of the US adult population.<sup>1</sup> Transcatheter mitral valve repair (TMVR) using MitraClip is an effective treatment option with low complication rates for severe symptomatic primary MR patients at high risk for open-heart surgery or severe secondary MR patients who remain symptomatic despite optimization of medical therapy.<sup>2,3</sup> Over the past year, elective procedures and surgeries were initially cancelled to mitigate exposure to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).<sup>4</sup> Later on, they were rescheduled after implementing rules and restrictions using local, state, and federal guidelines to prevent exposure to patients and healthcare personnel.<sup>5</sup> There is a dire need for innovation in procedural protocols to adapt to this change, which experts believe will remain relevant even after the pandemic.<sup>6</sup> Given the potential risk of delaying treatment for patients with severe symptomatic MR, we developed a protocol for same-day discharge (SDD) for TMVR using MitraClip in the form of a case series with the goal of reducing the length of stay, resource utilization, and risk for nosocomial COVID-19 infection.

### **Case series and timelines**

Thirty-seven patients were evaluated for TMVR in the outpatient office between 19 February 2020 and 2 December 2020. All patients evaluated were considered for SDD. Based on volume status, bleeding risk and frailty, risks and benefits of SDD were discussed and six patients consented to SDD. Patients generally underwent the procedure  $\sim$ 1–2 months following initial evaluation. A detailed description of the individual characteristics of each patient is presented in Timeline. All patients considered tested negative for COVID-19 prior to the procedure, they were ambulatory and independent with adequate social support at home or from supervised facilities.

- 80-year-old male with severe symptomatic MR due to degenerative mitral valvular disease who underwent uncomplicated placement of one MitraClip XTR attached to the middle segment (A2) and the middle scallop (P2) of the mitral leaflet.
- 89-year-old male with severe symptomatic primary MR secondary to degenerative mitral valvular disease who underwent uncomplicated MitraClip XTR placement to the middle segment (A2) and posterior scallop (P3) of the mitral leaflet.
- 91-year-old male with history ischaemic cardiomyopathy and severe functional MR who underwent uncomplicated MitraClip XTR placement to the A2–P2 scallops.

Characteristics		Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3	Patient 4	Patient 5	Patient 6
Age		80	89	92	83	62	74
Sex		Male	Male	Male	Male	Male	Male
Hypertension		Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Coronary artery disease		Non-obstructive disease	None	Mild	none	Mild	Present
Chronic kidney disease		None	None	Ш	none	Ш	Ш
Atrial fibrillation present?		Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Symptoms		Exertional dyspnoea	Exertional dyspnoea	Progressive dyspnoea	Exertional dyspnoea	Dyspnoea lower ex- tremity swelling orthopnoea	Exertional dyspnoea
Katz score		6	6	6	6	6	6
Exam		best heard at the apex without radi- ation to the axilla	best heard at the apex with radiation to the axilla	r 3/6 holosystolic murmul best heard at the apex with radiation to the axilla 2+ pit- ting oedema	best heard at the apex with radiation to the axilla	best heard at the apex without radi- ation to the axilla	mur best heard at the apex without diation to the axil
New York Heart Association/American Heart Association		IIIC	IIIC	IIID	IIIC	IV	Ш
Brain natriuretic peptide		186	119	2752	191	189	79
Ejection fraction (%)		65	70	45	55	30	50
Society of Thoracic Surgeons	Repair	1.4	2	7.7	2.5	3.4	3.5
score (%)	Replacemen	t 2.4	2.3	12.9	3.4	6.4	4.6
Regurgitation type		Primary	Primary	Functional	Primary	Functional	Functional
Regurgitation jet		Eccentric	Eccentric	Eccentric	Central	Eccentric	Eccentric
Mitral valve mean gradient (mmHg)	Pre-clip	1	2	2	2	2	2
	Post-clip	1	1	1	3	2	3
Mitral regurgitation grade	Pre-clip	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+
	Post-clip	Trace	Trace	Trace	2+	1+	1+
Left ventricular end-systolic diameter (cm)		3.5	6.4	3.48	3.4	6.73	5.46
Left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (cm)		5.2	3.4	4.67	4.8	7.07	6.38
Effective regurgitant orifice area (cm <sup>2</sup> ) Pre-clip Post-clip		0.62	1.31	0.50	0.40	0.37	0.27
		0.09	0.15	Indeterminate	0.19	0.05	Not available

## Timeline

Characteristics	Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3	Patient 4	Patient 5	Patient 6
Procedure performed	XTR to A2–P2	XTR to A2–P3	XTR to A2–P2	XTR to A2–P2	XTW to A2–P2	XTW to A2–P2 DES to mid-left anterior descending artery
Anaesthesia	General	General	General	General	General	General
Access site	Right femoral vein	Right femoral vein	Right femoral vein	Right femoral vein	Right femoral vein	Right femoral vein Right femoral artery
Procedural time (min)	120	124	95	91	91	174
Number of clips	1	1	1	1	1	2
Anticoagulation on discharge	Aspirin Apixaban	Aspirin	Aspirin	Aspirin	Aspirin	Aspirin Plavix Coumadin
HAS-BLED score	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	3
Electrocardiogram on discharge	Normal sinus rhythm	Sinus rhythm with first degree AV block	Sinus rhythm with old left bundle branch block	Normal sinus rhythm	Paced rhythm (A-sensed. V-pace	Atrial fibrillation d)
Readmission or emergency department visits post-discharge	None	None	None	None	None	Readmitted 6 days later for acute gastro- intestinal bleeding secondary to gastric arteriovenous malformation

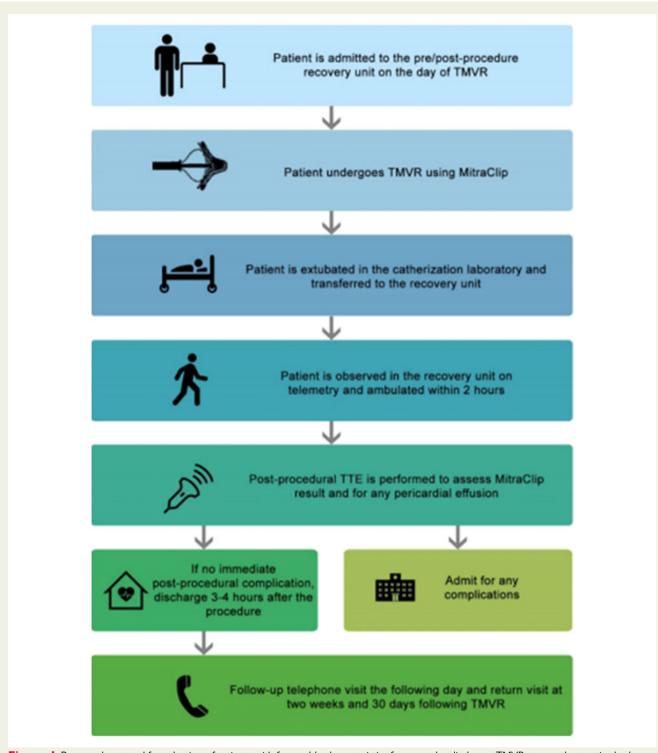
- 83-year-old male with severe symptomatic MR with prolapsed posterior mitral leaflet consistent with primary MR, underwent uncomplicated MitraClip XTR placement to the A2–P2 scallops.
- 62-year-old male with a history of non-ischaemic cardiomyopathy and severe functional MR with symptoms despite maximal guideline-directed medical therapy, underwent MitraClip XTW placement to the A2–P2 scallops.
- 74-year-old male with symptomatic primary MR, underwent both coronary angioplasty with percutaneous intervention to mid-left anterior descending artery with 4 mm × 20 mm synergy drugeluting stent and two MitraClip XTW placement to the A2–P2 scallops. The patient was readmitted a week later for anaemia secondary to gastrointestinal bleeding through a gastric arteriovenous malformation (AVM) that was photocoagulated.

In all patients, the procedure was performed under general anaesthesia and vascular access was obtained using a micropuncture technique through the right femoral vein that was closed with perclose sutures after completion of the procedure. Procedure time was estimated from administration of sedation to extubation and on average was 115 min. The patients were observed on telemetry in the post-anaesthesia care unit. Two hours following the procedure, the patients were ambulated multiple times and a post-procedural transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) was then completed. All patients were noted to have MitraClip in the appropriate position, without any significant regurgitation and absence of pericardial effusion. All patients were discharged home within 3-4h after the MitraClip procedure. No changes were made in medical therapy prior to discharge. A tele-visit was conducted the following day focused on three key questions, (i) access site pain or bleeding, (ii) follow-up of prior symptoms or any new symptoms, and (iii) general well-being. A virtual visit was performed at 2 weeks and 30 days with the structural heart disease team.

### Discussion

Transcatheter mitral valve repair using MitraClip is an effective minimally invasive procedure for patients with symptomatic severe MR.<sup>7</sup> With the cost of 30-day hospital readmissions reaching up to 41.3 billion US dollars, the focus is not only on early discharge but also for preventing readmissions in such patients.<sup>8</sup> The 30-day readmission rates in patients undergoing TMVR vary from 11.7% to 15%.<sup>8-10</sup> The leading cause of early readmissions (<30 days) includes heart failure, infections, cardiac arrhythmias, bleeding, and other post-procedural complications.<sup>11</sup> Recently Case *et al.*<sup>10</sup> reported that early discharge (<48 h) was actually associated with lower readmission rates (10.1% vs 13.5%). Operator experience and procedural success may also be contributing factors. Same-day discharge is increasingly being adopted in larger centres, as demonstrated by an observational study by Marmagkiolis et al.<sup>12</sup> in which 89 patients who underwent uncomplicated MitraClip placement under moderate conscious sedation were discharged the same day without any major complications. The feasibility of SDD in tertiary centres and with general anaesthesia remains uncertain, especially given operator experience and procedural success are contributing factors to minimal complications.<sup>8</sup> Tamburino et al. retrospectively determined factors associated with late discharge (defined as >72 h), including the presence of atrial fibrillation, elevated N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) levels, reduction in glomerular filtration rate, and a higher STS score. The late discharge cohort also had increased bleeding events compared to the early discharge cohort.<sup>13</sup>

Our series included patients with both primary and functional regurgitation, all of whom were underwent an elective TMVR with the MitraClip. All patients were discharged the same day after a postprocedural TTE noted no pericardial effusion, absence of prosthetic



**Figure I** Proposed protocol for selection of patients with favourable characteristics for same-day discharge. TMVR, transcatheter mitral valve repair; TTE, transthoracic echocardiography

stenosis, and significant residual regurgitation. Of the patients discharged, one of the patients was readmitted within a week for symptomatic anaemia from a gastric AVM requiring transfusion support. The reason for major bleeding was likely due to triple anticoagulation therapy in the setting of stent placement and concomitant atrial fibrillation. This is consistent with the findings noted by Tamburino et *al.*,<sup>13</sup> who attributed the prolonged length of stay in patients with atrial fibrillation to be due to anticoagulation management. Hence, patients with atrial fibrillation requiring anticoagulation and with a HAS-BLED score  $\geq$ 3, may require extended stay for serial

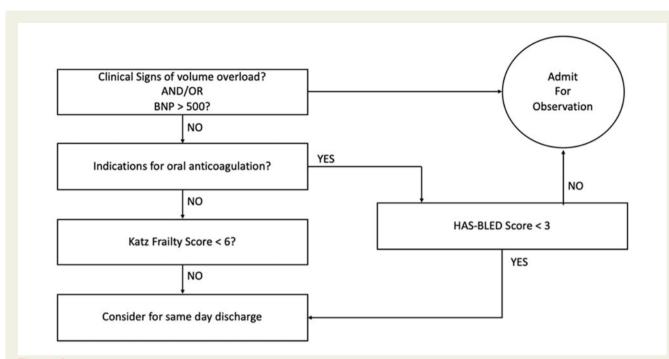


Figure 2 Pre- and post-procedural protocol for same-day discharge following transcatheter mitral valve repair. BNP, brain natriuretic peptide.

haemoglobin and haematocrit monitoring and should be excluded from this protocol. In patients with functional MR, one of the three patients had markedly elevated BNP and clinical findings indicative of decompensated congestive heart failure. Despite the favourable outcome in the patient included in our series, outcomes of MitraClip in patients with decompensated heart failure is not well established<sup>14</sup> and further studies are necessary to investigate short outcomes prior to considering SDD in these patients. Hence, our protocol is primarily directed towards patients with functional MR and stable heart failure symptoms with a BNP <500 ng/L. While repair using MitraClip is directed towards frail high-risk surgical patients, frailty in itself has been linked to prolonged recovery and increased susceptibility to complications.<sup>15</sup> All patients in our case series were independent with their activities of daily living as demonstrated by a score of 6/6 on the Katz index, a pragmatic measure that has shown to be a good predictor of early adverse outcomes in patients undergoing transaortic valve implantation<sup>16</sup> and cardiac surgery.<sup>17</sup>

Figure 1 shows a proposed protocol for selection of patients with favourable characteristics for SDD. Based on the patients described in the case series, the protocol is applicable to electively admitted patients with primary or functional MR, without any clinical findings for decompensated congestive heart failure, with a KATZ score <6 and in patients on aspirin alone or on oral anticoagulants with a HAS-BLED score of <3 and with good social support. *Figure 2* provides an overview of the temporal events on the day of the procedure to guide safe discharge. To qualify for safe discharge, patients are to undergo uncomplicated MitraClip placement without any local access site vascular complications and should not have any arrhythmias or pauses on telemetry or electrocardiogram post-procedure while at rest and ambulation. Post-procedural TTE is necessary to confirm MitraClip position, residual regurgitation or prosthetic stenosis, and absence of pericardial effusion.

Our case series highlights that SDD can be safely performed following MitraClip and has the potential to reduce exposure to COVID-19. This can potentially translate to better resource utilization and likely improved patient satisfaction as demonstrated in other percutaneous procedures with SDD protocol such as percutaneous coronary intervention<sup>18</sup> and more recently valvular procedures such as transcatheter aortic valve replacement.<sup>19</sup> Same-day discharge following MitraClip appears to be safe and maybe included among these procedures. However, further studies are needed prior to considering this as a standard of care.

#### Conclusion

Same-day discharge after TMVR is possible when done cautiously with close follow-up, it has the potential to improve resource utilization and improve patient satisfaction.

## Lead author biography



Jeremiah P. Depta is the Director of the Advanced Valvular and Structural Heart Disease Program at Sands-Constellation Heart Institute at Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, New York. He serves as a proctor for TAVR instructing physicians across the USA and abroad. He completed his residency at Cleveland Clinic, General Cardiology Fellowship at Washington University in St Louis, and Interventional Cardiology/ Structural Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He serves as the principal site investigator for several multicentre randomized controlled trials with multiple publication in peer-reviewed journals.

### Supplementary material

Supplementary material is available at European Heart Journal - Case Reports online.

**Slide sets:** A fully edited slide set detailing this case and suitable for local presentation is available online as Supplementary data.

**Consent:** The authors confirm that written consent for submission and publication of this case report including images and associated text has been obtained from the patient in line with COPE guidance.

Conflict of interest: J.P.D. discloses the following relationships-Consultant/Advisory Board: Edwards Lifesciences, Boston Scientific, WL Gore & Associates. D.L.B. discloses the following relationships-Advisory Board: Cardax, Cereno Scientific, Elsevier Practice Update Cardiology, Level Ex, Medscape Cardiology, PhaseBio, PLx Pharma, Regado Biosciences; Board of Directors: Boston VA Research Institute, Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care, TobeSoft; Chair: American Heart Association Quality Oversight Committee; Data Monitoring Committees: Baim Institute for Clinical Research (formerly Harvard Clinical Research Institute, for the PORTICO trial, funded by St. Jude Medical, now Abbott), Cleveland Clinic (including for the ExCEED trial, funded by Edwards), Duke Clinical Research Institute, Mayo Clinic, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (for the ENVISAGE trial, funded by Daiichi Sankyo), Population Health Research Institute; Honoraria: American College of Cardiology (Senior Associate Editor, Clinical Trials and News, ACC.org; Vice-Chair, ACC Accreditation Committee), Baim Institute for Clinical Research (formerly Harvard Clinical Research Institute; RE-DUAL PCI clinical trial steering committee funded by Boehringer Ingelheim; AEGIS-II executive committee funded by CSL Behring), Belvoir Publications (Editor in Chief, Harvard Heart Letter), Duke Clinical Research Institute (clinical trial steering committees, including for the PRONOUNCE trial, funded by Ferring Pharmaceuticals), HMP Global (Editor in Chief, Journal of Invasive Cardiology), Journal of the American College of Cardiology (Guest Editor; Associate Editor), Medtelligence/ReachMD (CME steering committees), Level Ex, MJH Life Sciences, Population Health Research Institute (for the COMPASS operations committee, publications committee, steering committee, and USA national co-leader, funded by Bayer), Slack Publications (Chief Medical Editor, Cardiology Today's Intervention), Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (Secretary/Treasurer), WebMD (CME steering committees); Other: Clinical Cardiology (Deputy Editor), NCDR-ACTION Registry Steering Committee (Chair), VA CART Research and Publications Committee (Chair); Research Funding: Abbott, Afimmune, Amarin, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Cardax, Chiesi, CSL Behring, Eisai, Ethicon, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Forest Laboratories, Fractyl, Idorsia, Ironwood, Ischemix, Lexicon, Lilly, Medtronic, Pfizer, PhaseBio, PLx Pharma, Regeneron, Roche, Sanofi Aventis, Synaptic, The Medicines Company; Royalties: Elsevier (Editor, Cardiovascular Intervention: A Companion to Braunwald's Heart Disease); Site Co-Investigator: Biotronik, Boston Scientific, CSI, St. Jude Medical (now Abbott), Svelte; Trustee: American College of Cardiology; Unfunded Research: FlowCo, Merck, Novo Nordisk, Takeda.

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