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Producers can download mp3 versions of the packages, and are free to edit the pieces and/or use the actualities as best suits their stations' needs.

This week's package, embargoed until: 11a.m. (ET) Tuesday, March 10 2015 is:

## "Outcomes for Non-Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement"

Radio script (TRT:60)

EMBARGO: 11 a.m. (ET) Tuesday, March 10, 2015

VO: OPEN-HEART SURGERY IS THE STANDARD WAY TO REPLACE A NARROWED OR CALCIFIED AORTIC VALVE. FOR HIGH-RISK PATIENTS WHO MAY BE OLDER OR HAVE OTHER SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS, SURGERY MIGHT NOT BE AN OPTION. NEWER TECHNOLOGY NOW ALLOWS DOCTORS TO REPLACE A POORLY FUNCTIONING AORTIC VALVE THROUGH A CATHETER. A NEW STUDY EXAMINED HOW PATIENTS UNDERGOING THIS PROCEDURE ARE DOING ONE YEAR LATER.

"In this group of patients at one year, the mortality was 24 percent. Stroke occurred in about 4 percent of the patients in a year. If you were to look at that combined incidence of stroke and mortality at one year it was about 26, 27 percent."

VO: DR. DAVID HOLMES FROM THE MAYO CLINIC AND CO-AUTHORS REVIEWED THE RECORDS OF MORE THAN 12 THOUSAND PATIENTS WHO UNDERWENT THE TRANSCATHETER AORTIC VALVE PROCEDURE. ON AVERAGE, PATIENTS WERE 84 YEARS OLD, AND HALF WERE WOMEN. AS A GROUP, MANY OF THE PATIENTS HAD OTHER HEART PROBLEMS ALONG WITH POOR LUNG AND KIDNEY FUNCTION. THE STUDY APPEARS IN JAMA, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

"The need for repeat hospitalizations appears to be decreased at one year in those patients that have these successful procedures. That's a good quality of life indicator."

CATHERINE DOLF, THE JAMA REPORT.