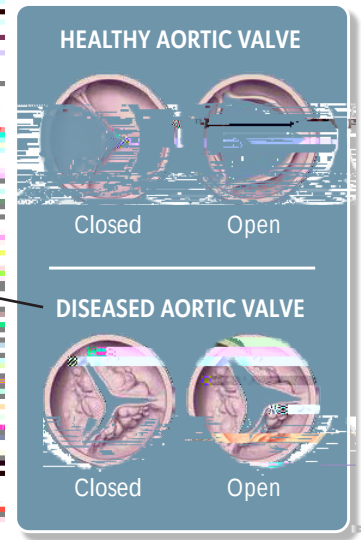
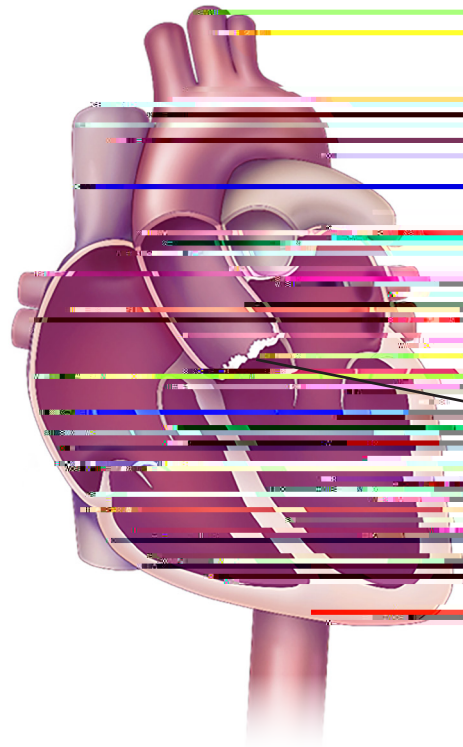




normal

blood flowing out of the left ventricle.



Who's at risk for aortic stenosis?

- Aortic stenosis mainly affects people 65 and older due to scarring and calcium buildup on the valve leaflets. Although age-related AS usually begins after age 60, symptoms may not develop for decades.
- AS may result from having rheumatic fever during childhood.
- The most common cause of AS in young people is a birth defect called a bicuspid aortic valve.

along with the heart. This makes the heart work harder to pump blood through the restricted opening. Over time the defective valve can become stiff and narrow because of calcium buildup.

What are the symptoms of AS?

Many people with aortic stenosis do not have noticeable symptoms until the amount of blood flow becomes greatly reduced. Those who develop aortic stenosis due to a birth defect may not have symptoms until adulthood.

Symptoms of aortic stenosis (AS) may include:

- Chest pain or discomfort, especially during exercise
- Shortness of breath, especially during exercise
- Lightheadedness or fainting, especially during exercise
- Fatigue or weakness
- Heart murmur (a whooshing sound that may be heard with a stethoscope)
- Swelling in the legs, ankles, or feet
- Rapid or irregular heartbeat
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Difficulty exercising
- Heart failure (fluid buildup in the lungs or other parts of the body)

(continued)

