



CLINICAL INSIGHTS

Achieving Low Permanent Pacemaker Implantation (PPI) with the Abbott TAVI Valve

Performance of the Abbott TAVI Platform

Current ACC (American) and ESC (European) guidelines propose that patients with severe AS at high/extreme risk should go TAVI, patients at intermediate risk can go either SAVR or TAVI depending on patient suitability and choice, and patients at low risk are still recommended to pursue SAVR given long-term durability data (>5 years) for TAVI is limited.^{2,3}

When post-TAVI permanent pacemaker implantation (PPI) is needed, it is associated with longer hospitalizations, more repeat hospitalizations, and adverse results such as higher mortality rates.^{4-7,16}

This Clinical Insights will present PPI rates for Abbott THVs, as well as examine factors that can reduce the need for PPI post-TAVI.

UNDERLYING CONDUCTION SYSTEM DISEASE

Studies show that the strongest electrocardiographic (ECG) predictors of post-TAVI PPI are:⁴⁻¹⁶

- Pre-existing right bundle branch block (RBBB)
- Pre-existing first degree atrioventricular (AV) block

Clinicians should also consider several factors:⁸

- Anatomic structure, the likelihood of implanting deeper than the membranous septum is higher when the membranous septum is shorter, which is predictive of high-degree AV block⁹
- Implant depth, since there's an increase in PPI with valve implantation depth^{10-13,17}

Post-TAVI PPI can be predicted by certain baseline conduction abnormalities.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

Because there is intervariability in post-TAVI PPI rates among centers, as well as clinical studies, a JACC Scientific Expert Panel published guidelines for a more uniform strategy:¹³

- Assess pre-procedure ECGs since conduction issues are often present pre-TAVI.
- Position Transcatheter Heart Valves (THVs) higher in the native valve since this is associated with fewer conduction disturbances post-TAVI; for Abbott TAVI valves maintain an implant depth of 3 mm.¹⁷
- Know the most recent THV PPI rates since some newer devices have lower PPI rates.
- Avoid valve oversizing.

Importantly, many TAVI studies report the incidence of new PPI as a proportion of the entire study population, which includes patients with preexisting PPI.⁷ This reduces the true rate of new PPI following TAVI since patients with preexisting PPI would be ineligible to receive a new pacemaker.

Clinical studies suggest that a single-digit rate of new PPI with Abbott TAVI valves is achievable when implanting at a target depth of 3 mm following a straightforward implant technique.^{1,10,11,18,19}

PPI RATES AND IMPLANT TECHNIQUE RELATED TO RAO & LAO VIEWS¹

Evaluating: PPI rates when using right anterior oblique (RAO)/caudal and left anterior oblique (LAO) views with the Abbott TAVI valve.

Study Type: Retrospective study of consecutive TAVI patients, with 183 patients propensity matched in each group—RAO view and LAO view.

30-Day Findings: When using the right-left (R-L) cusp overlap (RAO) view vs the conventional LAO view, there was a clear trend toward a lower PPI rate: 12.6% PPI with RAO vs 18.0% PPI with LAO. And when using guideline-directed PPI indications, the PPI rate was lower: 8.2% PPI with RAO vs 15.3% PPI with LAO.

12.6% RAO
PPI at 30 Days
(N=183)

18% LAO
PPI at 30 Days
(N=183)

8.2% RAO
PPI at 30 Days
(N=183)

15.3% LAO
PPI at 30 Days
(N=183)

All PPI

Guideline directed PPI*

NAVITOR US IDE REGULATORY APPROVAL STUDY: TARGET IMPLANT DEPTH FOR LOWER RISK OF PPI¹⁸

Evaluating: PPI rates with the Navitor valve in the Navitor IDE Study.

Study Type: Prospective, global, multi-center study with 260 patients at high or extreme surgical risk.

30-Day Findings: PPI rates are influenced by implant depth (target depth is 3 mm) and preexisting AV conduction abnormalities (noted in 34% of subjects). Implantation depth less than MS length reduces risk of new PPI.

14.1%
PPI at 30 Days
Overall for Implant Depth
2-4 mm
(N=85)

~50% reduction in PPI in subjects at optimal depth without AV block or RBBB



7.5%
PPI at 30 Days
Subjects without 1st degree AV block and/or RBBB for Implant Depth 2-4 mm
(N=66)

50.0%
PPI at 30 Days
Overall for Implant Depth >7 mm
(N=24)

Deep implant drives high PPI rate despite no presence of conduction abnormalities known to be associated with new PPI



47.6%
PPI at 30 Days
Subjects without 1st degree AV block and/or RBBB for Implant Depth >7 mm
(N=21)

CONFIDENCE REGISTRY¹⁰

Evaluating: The first-generation Abbott TAVI valve with the first-generation Delivery System (DS) vs the second-generation FlexNav™ DS.

Study Type: Prospective, multi-center, nonrandomized, real-world study at 28 centers; of the 1,001 patients, half were implanted using the second-generation FlexNav DS.

30-Day Findings: Data on the first-generation Abbott TAVI valve, with the second-generation FlexNav DS, reveal that an implant depth of 2-4 mm produced the lowest PPI rates, and PPI increased with greater implant depth.

12.6%
PPI at 30 Days
For 2-4 mm Implant Depth
(N=261)

* Guideline-directed PPMI indication was defined as third degree AVB, second-degree AVB type 2, and severe bradycardia/junctional rhythm.

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OPTECH RESULTS: OPTIMAL IMPLANT DEPTH¹¹

Evaluating: Valve sizing, implant depth of the first-generation Abbott TAVI valve.

Study Type: OpTech is a substudy of a first-generation Abbott TAVI valve registry with 277 patients.

30-Day Findings: PPI at optimal implant depth as follows:

6.3%
PPI
for 3-5 mm Implant Depth
(N=49)

MULTI-CENTER AUSTRALIAN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY: FIRST-GENERATION ABBOTT TAVI VALVE¹⁹

Evaluating: The safety and efficacy of the first-generation Abbott TAVI valve at 30 days; comparative data for Abbott's first-generation DS and second-generation FlexNav™ DS.

Study Type: Retrospective, real-world cohort of 269 all comer patients (mean age 82.1).

30-Day Findings: PPI data on 265 patients.

9.2%†
**PPI for first-generation Abbott TAVI valve
with 2nd generation FlexNav™ DS**
(N=65)

10.5%†
**PPI for first-generation Abbott TAVI valve
with 1st generation DS**
(N=200)

EXPERIENCE WITH THE “NOVEL NAVITOR™ [VALVE]²⁰

Evaluating: The Navitor Valve

Study Type: Prospective observational study (data from the ongoing RISPEVA registry) from 39 consecutive patients.

2.9%
PPI at 30 Days
(N=39)

CONCLUSION

Clinicians can often minimize the need for post-TAVI PPI by evaluating factors such as the following.

Technique: Since data show the following:

- Lower PPI rates are associated with shallower implant depth^{10,11,18}
- When implanting a Navitor™ valve, an RAO view—vs the LAO view—results in a guideline directed PPI rate in the single digits¹

Anatomic Structure: The likelihood of implanting deeper than the membranous septum is higher when the membranous septum is shorter, which is predictive of high-degree AV block⁹

Choice of THV: Since different THVs are associated with differing rates of PPI

As TAVI continues to expand into younger and lower risk patient populations, it is important to examine ways to reduce PPI, and to be cognizant of the PPI rates of currently used THVs.

† Includes patients with pacemakers at baseline

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