

# Addressing ethnic inequalities in treating aortic stenosis

Aortic Stenosis accrues mortality of 4% per month – meaning it is important that the pathway flows seamlessly and any opportunity to reduce time to treatment counts. We will work with GPs to increase F2F reviews of people with valve symptoms through education or virtual assessment. We will offer point of care scanning in the community to reduce delays to diagnosis.

The intervention rate in the white population is around 8 times higher than the intervention rate in the Black population. When reviewing the population treated with TAVI, only 4% of TAVI patients identified as Black, even though 20% of the target population (>75 years) identify as Black.

1. AS is one of the most common and serious valve disease problems. Mortality rates for untreated disease is high.



3a. AS is diagnosed using echo, but as a result of Covid, many patients (19-45%) wait more than 6 weeks.

3b. South London has been working to streamline the tertiary pathway, offering a single point of entry pathway and joint review by surgeons and cardiologists

5. BAME patients are under represented and rates of treatment for severe AS is disturbingly low.

7. We are proposing to work with local community leaders engage the community to understand these factors in greater depth



Education

Diagnosis in the community

Patient centred care

Understanding barriers

Improved communication



2. AS is detected in primary care by GPs listening to the heart, but since Covid there have been fewer face to face appointments and we have seen a reduction in referrals.

4. AS treatment rates vary significantly between boroughs – the borough of Lewisham has one of the lowest treatment rates in the country. The reasons for the marked disparity of provision are multiple, but social deprivation and ethnic diversity of the population are key components.



6. Studies suggest that Black individuals are more likely than White individuals to refuse invasive cardiovascular procedures when such interventions are indicated and recommended by healthcare providers

People living in Lewisham receive 23 TAVIs pmp (per million population), compared to a UK average of 78 pmp. The boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark also have rates below the UK Average (41 and 41 pmp respectively). This is in marked contrast to those more affluent adjacent boroughs including Bromley (106 pmp) and Dartford/Gravesend (129 pmp).

The reasons for this have yet to be fully elucidated, but may be attributable to differences in cultural preferences for procedural risk aversion or inability of providers to communicate risk to underrepresented racial and ethnic groups