

Developing a regional mitral valve service

Mitral valve regurgitation is the most common form of valve disease worldwide. With the aging population increasing **the number of patients being diagnosed is on an upward trajectory.**

There is growing evidence that early intervention decreases the incidence of permanent changes to the heart leading to atrial fibrillation, pulmonary hypertension and ventricular failure which can subsequently lead to heart failure.

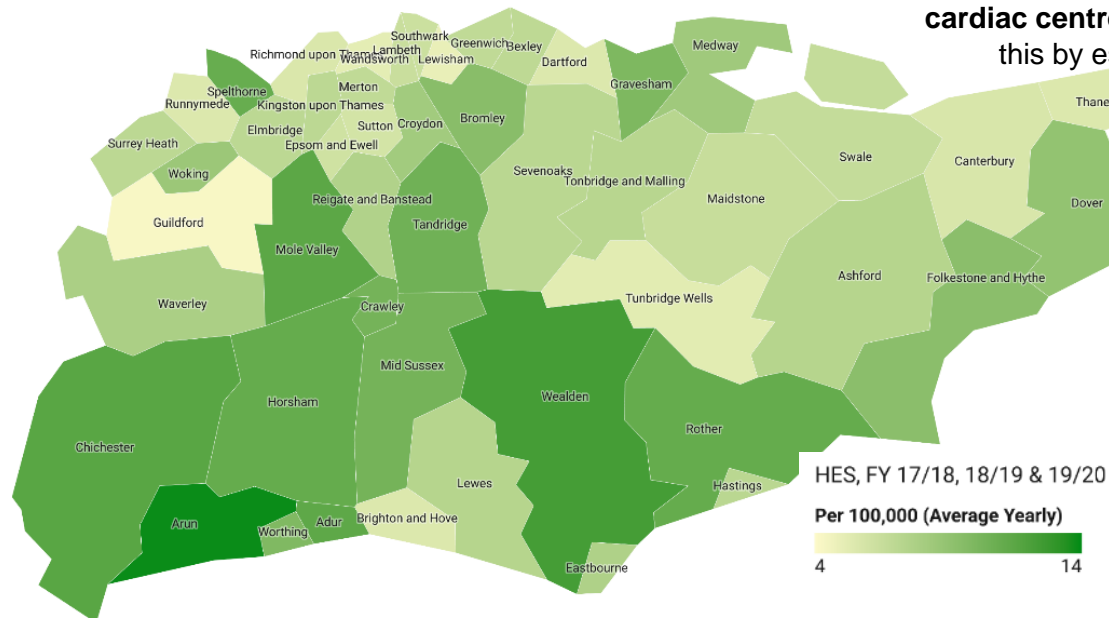
There is **variation in mitral valve treatment rates** – demographic factors (mainly age) account for 44% of variation, but 56% is not explained by these characteristics.

Surgery remains the gold standard intervention and NICE guidance advises **all patients should be considered for minimal access surgery.**

Increasingly, **patients** are being referred **with co-morbidities** making them too high risk for conventional surgery and instead these patients **may be offered** catheter based interventions such as **MitraClip.**

Provider	Mitral & Tricuspid surgery	Minimally invasive surgery	Mitral and tricuspid percutaneous repair
St Thomas Hospital			
King's College Hospital			
St George's Hospital			
Royal Brompton Hospital			
Harefield Hospital			
Barts Heart Centre			
Hammersmith Hospital			

Annual Treatment Rate – Mitral Valve



Neither minimal access surgery or catheter interventions **are available at all south London cardiac centres,** and this project aims to address this by establishing a single clinical pathway and regional subspecialty team for all patients.

Considerable expertise exists in south London however the volume of these procedures remains relatively low.

To ensure equity of access and adequate institution and operator experience and learning **there is a need to develop a network to deliver this specialist care,** which incorporates expertise across multiple centres.

Combining the existing programmes and expanding the service through a collaborative **would enable the equitable delivery of advanced bioengineering solutions across the system.**

This would ensure patients have access to all currently available percutaneous and surgical treatment options, including new innovative treatment options undergoing assessment in early feasibility studies and international multicentre trials.