Optimal imaging for guiding TAVR: transesophageal or transthoracic echocardiography, or just fluoroscopy?

THE FOLLOWING FORUM DEBATE FEATURES 3 VIEWPOINTS related to the most practical and effective imaging strategy for guiding transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). Kronzon, et al. provide evidence that enhanced analysis of aortic valve anatomy and improved appreciation of complications mandate the use of transesophageal echocardiography as front-Line imaging modality for ALL patients undergoing TAVR. On the other hand, Saric and colleagues compare and contrast the approach of performing TAVR under transthoracic guidance. Lastly, Kasel and co-workers provide preliminary evidence that TAVR could be performed under fluoroscopic guidance without the need for additional imaging technique. Although the use of Less-intensive sedation or anesthesia might reduce the procedural time, we need more randomized data to establish the most cost-effective approach in guiding TAVR.