What is MitraClip?
MitraClip is a treatment option for patients diagnosed with mitral regurgitation (a leaky mitral valve). It is a less-invasive option that helps patients avoid open-heart surgery. The device is delivered to the heart via catheter, usually through a vein in the groin. It is attached to the two leaflets of the mitral valve to help them close more completely and reduce the amount of blood flowing backward into the lungs.

St. Luke’s Heart Care team introduced MitraClip to Cedar Rapids in 2021, and St. Luke’s is the only hospital in the area offering the procedure.

MitraClip Eligibility
Individuals with severe secondary mitral regurgitation (due to a problem in the left lower chamber or ventricle of the heart) are candidates for the minimally invasive procedure. MitraClip is also recommended for patients with primary mitral regurgitation (due to a problem with one of the valve’s leaflets) who are too high risk for open-heart surgery. Patients meet with an interventional and/or general cardiologist and a cardiovascular surgeon to determine if MitraClip is the best approach.

Patient Benefits
Patients spend less time in the hospital, usually one night. They typically recover faster, return to their usual activities more quickly, and experience a better quality of life.

When to Refer to a Cardiologist
Mitral regurgitation often progresses slowly and may occur with mild or no symptoms. However, acute cases can develop suddenly. Patients with mitral regurgitation may present with symptoms similar to congestive heart failure.

If you have a patient with one or more of the following symptoms, contact St. Luke’s Heart Care Clinic to refer to a cardiologist:

- Shortness of breath with activity or when lying down
- Fatigue
- Inability to keep up with usual activity level
- Irregular heartbeat
- Sensation of rapid, pounding or fluttering heart
- Heart murmur

To refer a patient to St. Luke’s Heart Care Clinic, please call our provider referral number at (319) 739-2036.

St. Luke’s Heart Care Clinic
PCI Medical Pavilion
202 10th St. SE Suite 225 | Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
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