

Valvular Heart Disease

Valvular heart disease is any abnormality of one of the four valves in the heart. Heart valves keep blood flowing in one direction. They act as a door that swings open allowing blood to flow through the sections of the heart. The valve or door tightly shuts to prevent blood from backing up to where it came from. Valves can become thick and stiff and result in narrowing. This makes it difficult for blood to get through the door. Valves can become floppy, just like a door that doesn't shut tightly, and blood leaks backward.

When heart valves are not working like they should, blood flow can become slowed and clots can form.

Coumadin®/warfarin:

- Lowers the chance of clot formation.
- Helps blood flow easier.