The UK population is ageing – doubling the number of over 65s to 19 million by 2050 – that means heart valve disease is going to increase in the UK.

If severe aortic stenosis, a particular type of heart valve disease, is left untreated, there is a 50% chance of dying within two years of developing symptoms.

The European Heart Health Survey, commissioned by Heart Valve Voice, found few people in the UK (less than 3% of people over the age of 60 years) are concerned by heart valve disease.

**Background**

Over 1 million people are affected by heart valve disease in the United Kingdom today.

**History**

**Innovation in heart valve disease surgery**

- **1953**
  - Invention of heart-lung machine
  - Allowed development of open heart surgery, and for the first time it was possible to tackle the aortic valve

- **1960s**
  - First mechanical valve created and implanted in 1960
  - First valve replacement from a human patient in 1962
  - Development of tilting disk valves in 1967

- **1970s and 1980s**
  - Development of bioprosthetic valves

- **2000s and 2010s**
  - Throughout 2000s and 2010s development of biologic sutureless valves
  - 2002 saw the first TAVI offering treatment to those who would previously not been able to have surgery

This evidence shows the UK persistently lags behind other European countries.

The UK had the lowest proportion reporting that their doctor checks their heart every visit out of all ten countries; just 10% of respondents said this was their experience in the UK versus over 70% for France.

Evidence also demonstrates the differences in treatment according to where patients live within England.

*Source: Heart Valve Voice drawing on Braunwald (2000), British Heart Foundation (2013), Carrell, Englberfger and Stalder (2013) and Cardiovascular News (2012)*
That positions the UK in ninth place out of ten European countries. Inadequate use of the stethoscope, leading to under-diagnosis and late diagnosis in primary care, can limit treatment options – which can effect patients’ lives.

Heart Valve Voice Key Calls to Action

Heart valve disease to be included in current strategies for cardiovascular disease.

The same level of surgical and transcatheter valve replacement as other leading European countries.

A wide reaching awareness campaign on the symptoms of heart valve disease and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.

The same access to heart valve replacement treatment wherever a patient lives within the UK.

Sports Sector

Heart Valve Voice will be delivering heart valve disease check-ups at major sporting venues across the UK; including fixtures in the Premier League and for the England Cricket tours.

To volunteer and for further information, contact:
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