



PATIENT PROFILE

Name	Carlos V.
Age	71 years old
DOB	October 25, 1945
Home	Lima
Diagnosis	Severe aortic valve stenosis
Surgical procedure	Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) December 5th, 2016
Discharged from ICU	December 6th, 2016
Discharged from hospital	December 9th, 2016

Based on an interview conducted by Albina Popova, Heart to Heart staff, with the aid of a volunteer interpreter.

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Carlos and his wife live in Lima. Both of their daughters live in Peru with their families; both of their sons live in Houston, Texas, with their families. Carlos and his wife have six grandchildren, ranging in age from seven to 15. Carlos continues to work; he is a business consultant in Lima. He attended high school in Chicago and still speaks some English.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Carlos has suffered from cardiac issues for some time. In July 2016, Carlos had a stent placed at a private hospital elsewhere in Lima. A month later, Carlos was diagnosed with aortic insufficiency, a condition where the narrowing of the valve opening leads to blood flow restriction. His symptoms progressively worsened. Carlos experienced shortness of breath, and was no longer able to exercise comfortably. Overall, he had very low energy.

Carlos has health insurance through ESSALUD, one of Peru’s two principal healthcare providers. ESSALUD administers a nationwide network of medical institutions for workers and their families. Through his ESSALUD insurance, Carlos can receive cardiac care at the National Cardiovascular Institute (INCOR) in Lima. Carlos was very pleased to learn that in four months he could undergo a relatively new life-saving surgery – a state-of-the-art procedure to replace his failing heart valve.

In the U.S., more than 13% of people aged 75 and older are diagnosed with some form of valvular disease. Some can undergo open heart surgery to repair or replace their compromised heart valves; others are not able to, as their cases are too high-risk. Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) technology now offers a less invasive treatment option – and Carlos proved to be an excellent candidate for this procedure.

CURRENT CONDITION

Carlos’ procedure was performed by the joint Heart to Heart-INCOR TAVR team on December 5, 2016. Carlos responded well—he was awake and alert just hours after the operation. By the next day, he feels even better and announces that he is ready to go home. He is discharged from the ICU and spends only three days on the ward before he is released from the hospital. Carlos says there are no words that can fully express his gratitude, first to the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, which donated his new heart valve, and then to the team of highly-trained medical specialists who implanted it. But Carlos’s eyes convey his deep gratitude.