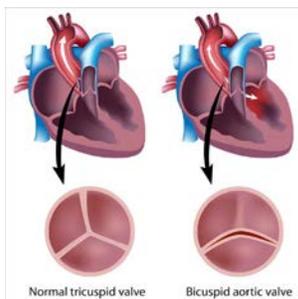


## Patient Information Bicuspid Aortic Valve

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A bicuspid valve is an aortic valve with two leaflets rather than the normal three leaflet valve (see image below.)
- This condition can lead to early onset aortic valve stenosis. It can also be associated with aortic valve insufficiency (leaking of the aortic valve) and aneurysms of the aorta.
- Bicuspid aortic valve is the most common cardiac valve abnormality present from birth, with 1-2% of all people having this abnormality (more common in men than women.)



### SYMPTOMS

- Initially patients are asymptomatic
- If the valve becomes more significantly narrowed the most common symptoms are:
  - Shortness of breath with exertion
  - Dizziness
  - Leg swelling
  - Chest pain (Angina)
  - Fainting or “passing out” (syncope)

### DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

- Echocardiogram (cardiac ultrasound)

### TREATMENT

- No particular medical treatment has been shown to slow progression of the process.
- Ultimately, affected patients may need valve replacement and/or repair of an aortic aneurysm.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** or to make an appointment at URMC Cardiology at Highland Hospital, please call (585) 341-6780 or visit us online at [www.highlandheart.urmc.edu](http://www.highlandheart.urmc.edu)