



MITRAL ACADEMY

The Excellence in Mitral Valve Surgery

THE

Mitral Academy is an independent organization based on the pillars of

passion for **mitral surgery** and a will to pursue and **share excellence in the field of valve repair surgery.**

State-of-the-art technology and minimally invasive techniques will be the main tools through which the Academy wishes to attain these goals.



MISSION



WHO WE ARE



THE Mitral Academy is a scientific board which consists of surgeons and cardiologists of excellence in the field of mitral surgery.

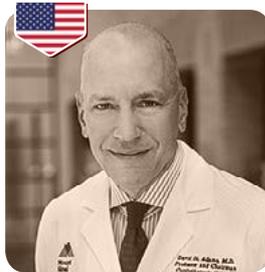
Mitral Academy was conceived and is presided over by *Giuseppe Speziale*.

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MITRAL REFERENCE CENTER: A HUB OF EXCELLENCE FOR MITRAL VALVE SURGERY

There is a linear correlation between the number of mitral valve surgical interventions (performed by each surgeon and within each center) and the success of the procedure.

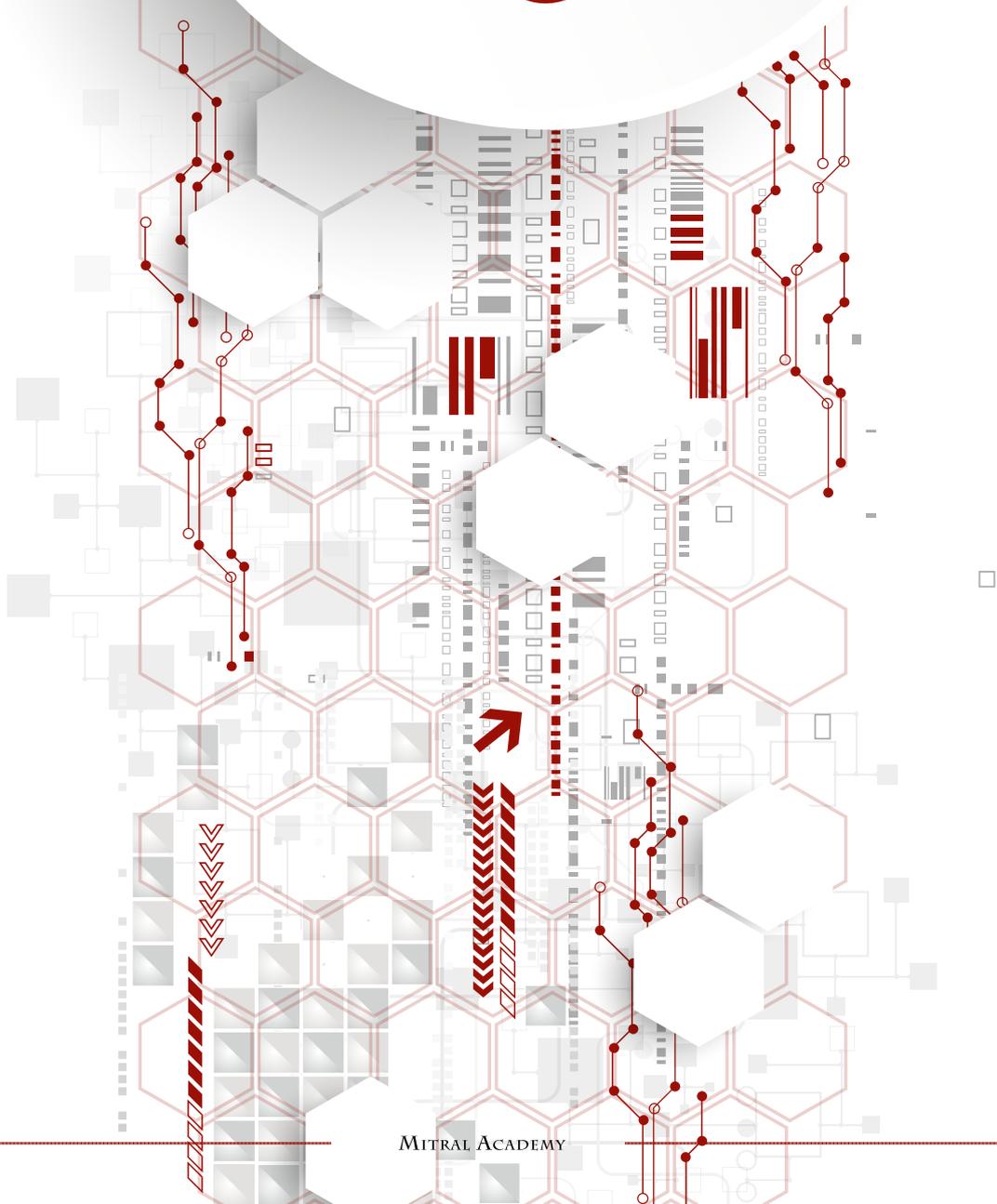
A '**Mitral Reference Center**' is characterized by a high volume of procedures performed by surgeons, who are able to attain **controlled and validated results** both on the short term (mortality/complications), and on the long term (even after some years following mitral valve repair).

Mitral Academy, in fact, aims to establish the minimum quality criteria that a cardiac unit would need in order to qualify as a "**Mitral Reference Center**".

Such **quality criteria** include volume of procedures (mitral valve repairs), success of repair, mortality/morbidity, long-term performance (e.g. 5 years freedom from events), presence of cardiologists with ESC accreditation, imaging review and back-up services.

Why choose a Mitral Reference Center endorsed by the Mitral Academy:

- National and international professionals of excellence in the mitral valve field.
- Proven mitral valve experience through constant training programs dedicated to surgeons and the specialists' team.
- Quality assessment of results thanks to a strict certification process.
- Clear and in-depth patient information about the results attained by the Mitral Center, in order to allow patients to make an informed choice.



COMMUNICATION AND SHARING

THE national and international, clinical and academic *Faculty* organizes theoretical and practical meetings on a regular basis throughout the year and in several locations.

Projects and programs

Mitral valve experience is built through different **phases and modules**:

1 -

Meeting (MICS): these are conferences that offer crucial points of view on the current status of mitral surgery by means of videos, live surgery sessions, *boxing rings* and a *discussion arena*. All this aims at acquiring guiding principles to follow in terms of *critical thinking* and *decision making*. MICS is a **biennial congress**.

2 -

Course on surgical anatomy, mitral physiopathology and physiology, surgical indications, evidence and guidelines, critical review of literature, definition of quality in cardiac surgery.

3 -

Short visiting inside the main hubs, in order to discover the most innovative, minimally-invasive mitral surgery techniques and to take part in hands-on sessions during complex repair procedures.

4 -

Advanced course: there is a possibility to stay (30 days or more) in a mitral hub with a high volume of procedures. Participants will actively take part in the mitral surgery program, from diagnosis to the *Mitral team's* decision-making process and up to the surgical treatment, which could be isolated or complex. The main focus will be minimally-invasive surgical set-up, robotic surgery, as well as state-of-the-art technology. At the end of the course, participants will receive a **certificate of attendance**.

MITRAL REFERENCE CENTER: ENDORSEMENT

THE Mitral Academy aims at identifying the criteria of excellence that a potential mitral reference center should meet. These criteria include: **volume of procedures, short-term and long-term results, the center's structural prerequisites** and, last but not least, **patient perspective**. These criteria will be useful to offer quantitative as well as qualitative assessment and evaluation parameters for each center, thus leading both patients and doctors to make an informed choice.







MITRAL VALVE SURGERY:

AN INFORMED CHOICE

One of the main tasks of the Mitral Academy will be **to inform the community in an unbiased way** about results and volume of procedures of a potential Mitral Reference Center.

Mitral Academy's endorsement process was conceived to **recommend reliable centers of excellence** to which patients can turn.

The objective is to assess the quality of a center's mitral surgery and to **correctly inform the patients so they can make a knowledgeable choice** and be directed objectively to their center of reference.

Anyone turning to the Academy will be informed about certified centers that are able to offer:

- The **best surgical results** achieved
- The proven **professionalism of surgeons and staff**
- **State-of-the-art technology**

Clear and comprehensive patient information is one of Mitral Academy's main beliefs, especially towards patients needing complex surgical treatments (Hub&Spoke).

MITRAL ACADEMY RESEARCH GROUP

THE members of the Academy will have the opportunity to **share their clinical results** (from preoperative ultrasound to surgical treatment, up to long-term monitoring) by means of a specific **Mitral registry**. This online tool allows to collect a high-quality set of data, thus becoming an important platform for international scientific publishing and for quality assurance purposes.

Mitral surgery guidelines

Even today, there are still cultural gaps in the guidelines for the surgical treatment of mitral disease. Mitral Academy's ambitious goal is to **achieve the clinical and scientific results needed** to at least partially fill these gaps. What's more, the Academy also promotes an awareness campaign for early repair treatment of mitral insufficiency, with a major focus on ischemic mitral valve repair.

Furthermore, another goal of the Academy is to **assess potential therapies and clinical results coming from the application of new technologies**.

Thanks to the collaboration of European and American specialists, Mitral Academy intends to propose **common consensus documents for diagnostic and surgical procedures**, which overcome the existing division between the guidelines of different countries.

NON-CONVENTIONAL TREATMENT

Mitral Academy promotes the implementation and development of **ultra-minimally invasive** techniques for the surgical treatment of mitral disease. What's more, the Academy's philosophy sees the surgical and percutaneous hybrid treatment as an extremely important aspect, which should be particularly applied to 'frail' patients for whom surgery would mean taking a high risk.

The specialists' team

Mitral valve disease treatment requires a complex process, which involves many professionals. And that is the reason why Mitral Academy requires the **training and employment of a team of specialists** (a so-called 'Heart Mitral Team') inside every reference center.

This dedicated team consists of cardiologists, echocardiographers, anesthesiologists with a certification for the use of transesophageal ultrasound, interventional cardiologists with experience in percutaneous procedures, and, last but not least, expert operating theatre staff, with proven experience in particular on minimally-invasive procedures.



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