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# Foreword



**T**he prevalence of mitral stenosis has declined over the last decade, however, it is important cause of morbidity and mortality. Post rheumatic mitral valve disease is the most common cause of mitral stenosis worldwide, but in development countries degenerative/calcific changes in the mitral valve is a significant cause of mitral stenosis. Recently, the development of transcatheter interventional procedures for the management of degenerative mitral valve disease may allow to replace the mitral valve percutaneously.

In this issue of the Journal Marko Banovic and Mark DaCosta report different aspects of degenerative/calcific mitral stenosis focusing in the epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, assessment and management of these challenging patients.