Valve Sizer as Retractor

Arkalgud Sampathkumar, MCh, and Rahul Sharma, PhD

Pushpanjali Crosslay Hospital, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, India

The SJM Mechanical Heart Valve Sizer (St. Jude Medical, Inc, St. Paul, MN) is an ideal instrument for visualizing the subaortic membrane clearly. The valve sizer is inserted into the aortic valve to keep the aortic cusps safe and away from harm while resecting the membrane. The snugly fitting sizer remains in place and does not require an assistant. It may also be used for other procedures in the left ventricular outflow tract.

Figure 1 is an operative photograph showing a size 27 SJM Mechanical Heart Valve Sizer in situ. The subaortic membrane exposure is superb. The aortic cusps are retracted out of harm’s way. The black arrow indicates the sizer, and the blue arrow shows the membrane.