

What Is Best Care for Patients with End stage heart failure?

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Heart failure is a progressive disease with very high morbidity and mortality rate. With aging society its prevalence is expected to increase. Among heart failure patients, 5-10% do not respond to medical and device therapy and progress to advanced heart failure (Stage D) and have very poor prognosis. Heart transplantation has been the only effective therapy in those patients, and with improvement of perioperative management and immunosuppressive therapy, patients after heart transplantation have good prognosis.

The favorable outcomes of heart transplantation led physician to refer the end-stage heart failure patients for heart transplantation evaluation; however, due to shortage of available donors many end-stage patients cannot receive heart transplantation. Mechanical circulatory support device, such as LVAD has been developed for use as short-term bridge-to-transplantation approach. Because many patients on LVAD cannot receive heart transplantation, data on mid- to long-term survival have been accumulated. With improvement of continuous flow device and improved outcomes and shortage of donor organs, some physicians consider LVAD as destination therapy in patients with end-stage heart failure.

In this review the treatment of patients with end-stage heart failure will be discussed.