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Predicting Long Term Outcome in Patients Treated With Continuous Flow Left Ventricular Assist Device: The Penn–Columbia Risk Score

Edo Y. Birati, MD,* Thomas C. Hanff, MD,* Dawn Maldonado, MD; E. Wilson Grandin, MD; Peter J. Kennel, MD; Jeremy A. Mazurek, MD; Esther Vorovich, MD; Matthew Seigerman, MD; Jessica L.L. Howard, BS; Michael A. Acker, MD; YoshiYuki Naka, MD; Joyce Wald, DO; Lee R. Goldberg, MD, MPH; Mariell Jessup, MD; Pavan Atluri, MD; Kenneth B. Margulies, MD; P. Christian Schulze, MD; J. Eduardo Rame, MD, MPhIl

Background—Predicting which patients are unlikely to benefit from continuous flow left ventricular assist device (LVAD) treatment is crucial for the identification of appropriate patients. Previously developed scoring systems are limited to past eras of device or restricted to specific devices. Our objective was to create a risk model for patients treated with continuous flow LVAD based on the preimplant variables.

Methods and Results—We performed a retrospective analysis of all patients implanted with a continuous flow LVAD between 2006 and 2014 at the University of Pennsylvania and included a total of 210 patients (male 78%; mean age, 56±15; mean follow-up, 465±486 days). From all plausible preoperative covariates, we performed univariate Cox regression analysis for covariates affecting the odds of 1-year survival following implantation (P<0.2). These variables were included in a multivariable model and dropped if significance rose above P=0.2. From this base model, we performed step-wise forward and backward selection for other covariates that improved power by minimizing Akaike Information Criteria while maximizing the Harrell Concordance Index. We then used Kaplan–Meier curves, the log-rank test, and Cox proportional hazard models to assess internal validity of the scoring system and its ability to stratify survival. A final optimized model was identified based on clinical and echocardiographic parameters preceding LVAD implantation. One-year mortality was significantly higher in patients with higher risk scores (hazard ratio, 1.38; P=0.004). This hazard ratio represents the multiplied risk of death for every increase of 1 point in the risk score. The risk score was validated in a separate patient cohort of 260 patients at Columbia University, which confirmed the prognostic utility of this risk score (P=0.0237).

Conclusion—We present a novel risk score and its validation for prediction of long-term survival in patients with current types of continuous flow LVAD support. (J Am Heart Assoc. 2018;7:e006408. DOI: 10.1161/JAHA.117.006408.)

Key Words: continuous flow • left ventricular assist device • outcome • risk score

Mechanical assist devices have emerged as an established therapeutic option for patients with end-stage heart failure.1,2 Predicting which patients are unlikely to benefit from left ventricular assist device (LVAD) implantation is essential in order to identify appropriate patients while excluding those considered futile. The need for risk prediction before LVAD implantation has led to the recognition of various risk factors, including age, low serum albumin, low platelet count, impaired renal function, and high international normalized ratio,2,3 and to the development of several risk scores for short-term (90 days) mortality.2,3 Litz et al2 retrospectively analyzed preoperative clinical data of patients treated with pulsatile LVAD (HeartMate XVE) as destination therapy and evaluated a risk scoring system consisting of 9 risk factors for

From the Divisions of Cardiology (E.Y.B., T.C.H., J.A.M., E.V., M.S., J.W., L.R.G., M.J., K.B.M., J.E.R.) and Cardiovascular Surgery (J.L.L.H., M.A.A., P.A.), Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Division of Cardiology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (E.W.G.); Divisions of Cardiology (D.M., P.I.K., P.C.S.) and Cardiovascular Surgery (Y.N.), Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY; Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine I, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany (P.C.S.).

An accompanying Table S1 is available at http://jah.ahajournals.org/content/7/6/e006408/D1/attach/inline-supplementary-material-1.pdf

*Dr Birati and Dr Hanff contributed equally to this work.

Correspondence to: Edo Y. Birati, MD, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, South Tower, 11th Fl, 3400 Civic Center Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19104. E-mail: Edo.birati@uphs.upenn.edu

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Clinical Perspective

What Is New?
- Previously developed scoring systems are limited to past eras of device or restricted to specific devices, and there are currently no validated long-term risk models for this population.
- In this study, we aimed to generate a long-term risk model for patients undergoing ventricular assist device implantation.
- In this retrospective analysis, we analyzed various parameters at preimplant and created a risk model for long-term mortality.
- The risk score was then validated in a separated patient cohort at Columbia University.
- An online calculator was created for easier application of the formula (http://penncolumbiariskscore.weebly.com)

What Are the Clinical Implications?
- Our novel and simple risk model for prediction of long-term mortality based on preimplant characteristics may improve patient selection and will allow identifying high-risk patients.

Estimation of 90-day mortality.\(^3\) Cowger et al generated the HeartMate II Risk Score (HMRS) for predicting LVAD candidate 90-day mortality.\(^3\) Although the HeartMate II Risk Score was originally created to predict 90-day survival, it was also found to predict risk several months after LVAD implant.\(^3\)

Although the importance of risk profile is clear, there is currently no validated risk score estimating the long-term survival of continuous flow LVAD (cf-LVAD) patients. Our goal was to create a risk model predicting the long-term survival of LVAD patients based on the patients’ preimplant characteristics.

Methods

Study Design
A derivation sample was selected from a single-center retrospective cohort of all 571 patients implanted with an LVAD at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania from 2006 to 2014. Within this cohort, we analyzed only those patients who were implanted with a cf-LVAD (n=223), which included Heartmate II (St Jude Medical Ltd, St. Paul, MN) and HVAD (HeartWare Ltd, Framingham, MA) models. We excluded all patients who were simultaneously implanted with a right ventricular assist device (n=13), leaving a final study sample of 210 patients.

A validation sample was then similarly constructed retrospectively from an independent set of 260 patients who underwent LVAD implantation at Columbia University’s New York-Presbyterian Hospital from 2006 to 2013. Patients in the validation cohort were similarly excluded for simultaneous RVAD implantation and restricted to cf-LVADs.

Cumulative survival within 1 year after LVAD implantation was the primary outcome. Patients who underwent heart transplant before 1 year contributed person-time at risk up to the time of transplant, but were afterward right censored from all analyses. The institutional review board of both institutions approved the study protocol.

Subjects’ informed consent was waived. The de-identified data, analytical methods, and study materials that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Statistical Analysis
The derivation data set contained data from 155 independent clinical variables (Table S1). Among these, 17 variables had a plausible influence on 1-year mortality and <25% missing data. Parameters were either continuous (eg, platelet count), ordinal (eg, level of right ventricular dysfunction), dichotomous (eg, diabetic or not diabetic), or categorical (eg, race). Body mass index (BMI) was a continuous variable treated as a spline term for BMI <20, 20 to 25, or >25. Right ventricular dysfunction, aortic insufficiency, mitral regurgitation, and tricuspid regurgitation were assessed at the University of Pennsylvania Echocardiography laboratory as absent, mild, moderate, or severe.

Each of these variables was tested for its univariate association with 1-year mortality in a Cox proportional hazard regression and was dropped from the initial model for P>0.2. Remaining variables were entered into a multivariate Cox proportional hazard model and eliminated for P>0.2. From this baseline model, we applied step-wise forward selection of any variables that improved model explanatory power based on area under the curve (AUC, assessed by Harrel’s C-Index)\(^4\) so long as this did not deteriorate model likelihood ratio (assessed by Akaiake Information Criteria [AIC])\(^5\) ie, compared with the baseline model before step-wise forward regression, if the AUC remained the same or worse, no increase in AIC was allowed. If the AUC improved, we tolerated an increase in the AIC by no more than 0.5%. Any further increase in AIC was considered detrimental to the model and led to exclusion of that variable. Spline terms were generated where appropriate and included if model explanatory power improved. Potential interactions were assessed between each covariate in the final multivariable model. Analysis was performed using Stata software (version 12.0; StataCorp LP, College Station, TX).

Score Generation and Survival Analysis
Each independent variable in the final model had an associated hazard ratio from the Cox proportional hazard
regression. These ratios were log transformed to a linear scale and then directly imported into a novel score that added each individual component, thereby weighting the relative importance of each contributing covariate by its hazard ratio. Patients were divided into tertiles of risk score that corresponded to a “lowest risk,” “moderate risk,” and “highest risk” group. Cumulative survival between these 3 groups was assessed up to 1 year after LVAD implantation using Kaplan–Meier analysis, again right censoring for any patients that were heart transplanted before the 1-year mark. Differences in the distribution of survival between the 3 tertiles were assessed with the log-rank test.

Model Validation

This novel risk score was then applied to all patients within the validation cohort at Columbia University Medical Center for an independent assessment of score performance. Model fit was assessed with the AUC, and cumulative survival distributions between tertiles of risk score were assessed with Kaplan–Meier analysis and the log-rank test.

Results

Model Derivation and Score Generation

A total of 210 patients were included in our derivation cohort who underwent implantation of a continuous flow LVAD without concurrent right ventricular assist device. One hundred eighty-two of these devices were Heartmate II (87%) and 28 were HVAD HeartWare (13%). Seventy percent of the patients were male, 48% white, and 20% black, with average age 56 at time of implant. Initial indications for LVAD were bridge to transplant (37%), bridge to decision (8%), destination therapy (52%), or bridge to recovery (3%). One-year mortality among all LVAD patients who did not undergo heart transplant was 29%. Table 1 summarizes the baseline characteristics of the study cohort at the University of Pennsylvania and the validation cohort at Columbia University Medical Center.

Exploratory analysis starting with 17 plausible covariates demonstrated 7 variables associated with mortality (P<0.2) in Cox proportional hazard models (Table 2). All 7 of these variables were then assessed for significance in a multivariate Cox proportional hazard model. Two variables, age and serum creatinine, retained significance (P<0.2) in the multivariate model and formed our base model (Table 3).

From this base model, we performed step-wise forward selection with each of the previous 17 covariates, assessing the impact of each variable on 2 measures of model explanatory power: AIC and AUC. An additional 4 variables (BMI, total serum bilirubin, right ventricular dysfunction, and aortic insufficiency) were found to improve AUC without detriment to AIC, and they were added to the base model. Thus, the final model included: age, serum creatinine, and total bilirubin assessed as continuous variables; BMI as a spline variable for low BMI (<20), normal BMI (20 to 25), and elevated BMI (>25); and 2 echocardiographic parameters—right ventricular dysfunction and aortic insufficiency—assessed as mild, moderate, or severe. The final model had an AIC of 437 and an AUC of 73%. No covariates had significant interactions with one another in the final model.

From this final multivariable model, we generated a novel score directly extracted from the model’s log-transformed hazard ratios (Figure 1). This ensured that scores would be proportional to their weight in the model. An online calculator was created for easier application of the formula (http://pe nncolumbiariskscore.weebly.com). In our cohort, scores had a range of 1.8 to 10.1, mean 5.9±1.35, and median 6.0 (Figure 2). Stratified by indication, the score among patients who were bridge to transplant had range 1.7 to 8.4, mean 5.8, and median 6.0; patients who were destination therapy had range 3.3 to 10.1, mean 6.3, and median 6.3; patients who were bridge to recovery had range 2.4 to 7.3, mean 5.1, and median 5.4; and patients who were bridge to decision had range 3.3 to 6.9, mean 5.4, and median 5.5. Destination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>University of Pennsylvania (n=210)</th>
<th>Columbia University (n=260)</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean±SD</td>
<td>56±15</td>
<td>57±14</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (% male)</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race, %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic (% HgA1c &gt;6.5)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAD indication, %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge to transplant</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination therapy</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge to decision</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge to recovery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index, mean±SD</td>
<td>28.0±6.7</td>
<td>27±5</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active tobacco smoker within 1 year, %</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidemia, %</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ejection fraction, mean±SD</td>
<td>16±7</td>
<td>17±6</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HgA1c indicates glycated hemoglobin; VAD, ventricular assist device.
therapy patients tended to have a higher score on average, though a comparison of means across indication by ANOVA did not meet threshold for significance ($P=0.052$), albeit with a reduction in power for a subgroup analysis.

**Table 2. Univariate Association With Mortality in Separate Cox Proportional Hazard Models**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covariate</th>
<th>Hazard Ratio</th>
<th>$P$ Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMI $&lt;$ 20</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI 20 to 25</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI $&gt;$ 25</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age*</td>
<td>1.04*</td>
<td>$&lt;0.001*$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type 2 diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrial fibrillation</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular accident</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary artery disease*</td>
<td>1.64*</td>
<td>0.047*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right ventricular dysfunction</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricuspid regurgitation</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitral regurgitation*</td>
<td>0.9*</td>
<td>0.11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aortic insufficiency*</td>
<td>1.18*</td>
<td>0.031*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ejection fraction</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin, g/dL*</td>
<td>0.87*</td>
<td>0.044*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelet count</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum creatinine*</td>
<td>1.34*</td>
<td>0.005*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total serum bilirubin*</td>
<td>1.23*</td>
<td>0.096*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Log rank, $P=0.005$. BMI indicates body mass index in kg/m$^2$. $*P<0.20$.

**Figure 1.** The Penn—Columbia Risk Score. The preimplant clinical and echocardiographic parameters utilized to generate the Penn—Columbia risk score with weighted value of each variable in tabulation of risk score. The additive result generated scores below 6, thus associated with low risk and favorable 1-year survival, scores between 6 and 6.7, associated with intermediate risk, and scores above 6.7 associated with high risk and unfavorable 1-year survival (also seen in Figure 3). For example: A 64 year old patient with creatinine level of 1.6 mg/dl and total bilirubin of 1.5 mg/dl. His BMI was 28 and he has moderate right ventricular dysfunction and mild aortic insufficiency. This patient’s score is: 64*0.064+1.6*0.541+1.5*0.214+28*0.047+0.165+0.216=6.9796. BMI indicates body mass index. Creatinine in mg/dl, Total Bilirubin in mg/dl.

**Survival Analysis**

Figure 3 shows the cumulative survival curve using the novel risk score. Patients were divided into tertiles of risk score,
making a low risk (2.50–5.95), medium risk (5.96–6.74), and high risk (6.75–10.10) group. As seen in the graph, 1-year mortality was significantly increased in the highest risk group (50%) relative to the low- (21%) and medium-risk (23%) groups. The log-rank test comparing survival distributions among the 3 groups was statistically significant with \( P < 0.001 \). Risk score was not associated with LVAD-associated complications occurring during the first year after implantation, such as acute right ventricular failure, LVAD thrombosis, or gastrointestinal bleeding.

**Model validation**

The novel risk score derived from the LVAD cohort at the University of Pennsylvania was then applied to LVAD cohort from Columbia University Medical Center. Again, mortality in the highest risk group was greater than the low- or medium-risk groups with \( P = 0.02 \) by the log rank test (Figure 4).

**Discussion**

According to the seventh annual report of the INTERMACS (Interagency Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support),\(^1\) the number of patients treated with continuous flow ventricular assist device continue to rise, with more than 2000 implants per year occurring in the United States alone.\(^1\) With the increasing number of patients treated with durable assist device therapy, patient selection is essential to determine which patients will benefit from this therapy. In the current study, we generated a novel risk score, based on a combination of preimplant clinical, laboratory, and echocardiographic characteristics, identifying patients at high risk of 1-year mortality with cf-LVAD support. Importantly, our risk model was validated at Columbia University Medical Center in a similar patient cohort.

All risk scores published so far focused on the short-term survival (ie, 90-day mortality).\(^2,3\) The Lietz risk score\(^2\) was the first risk score to predict the short-term outcomes of patients treated with first-generation, pulsatile flow, ventricular assist devices.\(^2\) Given that the vast majority of the patients on LVAD support are currently being treated with second- and third-generation continuous flow devices and these devices have different outcome profile compared to the first-generation devices, the Lietz’s risk score should not be used in the current practice. The HeartMate II risk score used the data that were collected in the HeartMate II trial.\(^3\) It was originally planned to predict the 90-day survival of patients with HeartMate II assist device. Based on this risk score, patients were divided into 3 groups based on 90-day mortality rate: low risk with 4%, medium risk with 16%, and high risk with 29%.\(^3\) Interestingly, the differences between the groups remained significant after a year.\(^3\) Thomas et al tried to validate the HMRS in a cohort of patients treated at the Columbia University Medical Center.\(^6\) However, according to their findings, patient survival was similar regardless of HMRS stratification and HMRS was not valid in predicting 90-day survival in this large-volume academic center.\(^6\) Small cohorts validated the use of the Seattle Heart Failure model\(^7\) and the European System for Cardiac Operative Risk Evaluation II (EuroSCORE II)\(^8\) as predictors of survival in LVAD candidates.

Most variables used in our risk model have been proven to be associated with poor outcomes. Atluri et al analyzed the INTERMACS national registry and divided the patients into 2 age groups (<70 and ≥70 years). Not surprisingly, advanced age was found to be a predictor of increased mortality after cf-LVAD implantation.\(^9\) Age was also found to be a significant predictor both in the Lietz\(^2\) as well in the HeartMate II risk scores.\(^3\) Creatinine was significant in the HeartMate II model, but not in Lietz risk score, and bilirubin was not significant in

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**Figure 3.** Twenty-four months survival distributions by tertile of risk score in the derivation cohort. Kaplan–Meier survival curve representing the survival distributions among the cohort, stratified by tertile. Log rank, \( p = 0.005 \).

**Figure 4.** Columbia University Medical Center survival curve divided according to the risk score. Kaplan–Meier survival curve representing the survival distributions of the validation cohort stratified by tertile. Log rank, \( P = 0.02 \).
both studies. Interestingly, our model uses 2 echocardiographic parameters: right ventricular dysfunction and aortic insufficiency (AI). AI in patients supported with LVAD may lead to a circulatory loop, leading to ineffective forward flow and inadequate organ perfusion. The effect of AI on survival is not clear. Cowger et al analyzed the effect of the postimplant AI on survival of 166 patients treated with durable LVAD support. According to their results, postimplant development of AI did not affect survival or the risk of mitral regurgitation. Our study is the first to show that preimplant AI may affect long-term survival. Right ventricular function has been associated with increased risk of postimplant acute right ventricular failure and impaired survival. However, no risk model in the past had used preimplant right ventricular dysfunction as a parameter.

Our risk score is the first to predict long-term outcome in patients treated both with HeartMate II and HeartWare devices. The main limitation of our model is being a retrospective single-center trial. However, validating the model in another large-volume academic center, with different patient characteristics, allows us to confidently assume that this is an accurate tool for prediction of long-term survival of this population. Moreover, our model, unlike the HeartMate II risk model, evaluates patients’ not on clinical trials and represents the “real-life” management of LVAD patients. Another advantage of our risk model is in its simplicity given that it uses basic clinical and echocardiographic parameters that can be estimated by every local cardiologist. Needless to say, as a retrospective analysis it is always possible that the risk-score variables actually reflect more-proximal causes of increased risk that are not as easily measured such as duration of heart failure. However, our risk score variables are absolute and can be easily obtained for every candidate. As such, our risk score is an important bedside tool that is well validated to aid in—but not replace—clinical judgment for patients being considered for LVAD implantation. It is likely that the “PENN—COLUMBIA risk score” could be applied to the INTERMACS registry, but currently not applicable based on the variables entered. Enhanced data collection and risk assessment is desirable.

In conclusion, we present a novel and validated risk model predicting the long-term survival of LVAD patients based on patients’ preimplant characteristics. Predicting which patients are at high risk may improve patients’ selection on the one hand and allow closer follow-up of patients at increased risk for unfavorable outcome.

Disclosures

Dr Birati received fellowship and research support by HeartWare Ltd and is a consultant for Luitpold Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Dr Goldberg is a consultant for Thoratec, St. Jude, and Respiracdia. Dr Margulies received research grant support from Juventas Therapeutics, Cellador Corporation, Thoratec Corporation, and Merck and Co, Inc. He is also a consultant for Janssen, Merck, Pfizer, Ridgetop Research, AstraZeneca, and NovoNordisk. Dr Rame received research grant support from Thoratec Corporation and HeartWare Ltd. Drs Hanff, Maldonado, Grandin, Kennel, Mazurek, Phillips, Vorovich, Seigerman, Acker, Naka, Wald, Jessup, Atluri, and Schulze have no disclosures.

References

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL
**Table S1.** List of all Independent Clinical Variables Considered in the Derivation Dataset.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics and Medical History, Pre-implantation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Anesthesia (ASA) Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of coronary artery disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of pulmonary hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of COPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of diabetes mellitus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of hyperlipidemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of carotid stenosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of atrial fibrillation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of cerebrovascular accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of chronic renal insufficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of renal failure requiring dialysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other important past medical history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etiology of patient’s heart failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason for LVAD exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient has progressive CHF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient has end-stage heart failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient has severe coronary artery disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient has increasing shortness of breath or paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient was transferred from an outside hospital the same admission as LVAD implantation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVAD indication (i.e. bridge to transplant, bridge to decision, destination, or bridge to recovery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of patient's heart failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of gastrointestinal bleeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of ventricular arrhythmia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Prior stroke (hemorrhagic versus ischemic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of venous thromboembolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient is insulin dependent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERMACS Class at time of LVAD implantation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient on Beta Blocker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patient on ACE inhibitor or Angiotensin Receptor Blocker
Patient on aldosterone antagonist
Patient on nitrates
Patient on hydralazine
Patient on digoxin
Patient on diuretic
Patient on vasopressor
Patient on an antiarrhythmic medication
Patient taking an oral pulmonary vasodilator
Patient on aspirin
Patient on other anti-platelet agents
Patient on anticoagulation
QRS duration on pre-LVAD ECG
Implantable cardioverter defibillator present
Pacemaker present
Biventricular pacemaker present

**Echocardiographic Variables, Pre-Implantation**

Echo date
Degree of right ventricular dysfunction
Degree of tricuspid regurgitation
Degree of mitral regurgitation
Degree of aortic insufficiency
LV ejection fraction
Patent foramen ovale present
Left ventricular end-diastolic diameter
LV end-systolic diameter
Left atrial diameter from parasternal long axis
Left atrial size (qualitative)
Right ventricular systolic pressure
Estimated right atrial pressure
Estimated pulmonary arterial systolic pressure (PASP)
Tricuspid annular planar systolic excursion (TAPSE)
Interventricular septal flattening
Interventricular septal position

**Hemodynamics, Pre-implantation**

Date of hemodynamic measurements
Heart rate
Systolic blood pressure
Diastolic blood pressure
Mean arterial blood pressure
Central venous pressure
Pulmonary artery systolic pressure
Pulmonary artery diastolic pressure
Mean pulmonary arterial pressure
Cardiac output
Cardiac index
Pulmonary artery oxygen saturation (SvO2)
Stroke volume index
Right ventricular stroke work index
Patient on milrinone at time of measurement
Patient taking oral sildenafil
Patient receiving inhaled prostacyclin

**Laboratory Values, Pre-implantation**

White blood cell count
Hemoglobin
Platelets
Blood urea nitrogen
Creatinine
Sodium
Potassium
Carbon Dioxide
Aspartate triaminase (AST)
Alamine triaminase (ALT)
Total bilirubin
Sodium Bicarbonate
Lactic acid
Albumin
Prealbumin
INR
PTT
Lactate Dehydrogenase
Plasma free hemoglobin
Haptoglobin
Hemoglobin A1c
Implantation Variables

LVAD implantation date
Age at implant
LVAD, RVAD, BiVAD, or total artificial heart implanted
LVAD model
Did patient undergo LVAD exchange
Did patient receive a delayed RVAD
Number of days between LVAD and RVAD
Type of RVAD
Intubation required pre-operatively
ECMO required pre-operatively
Intra-aortic balloon pump required pre-operatively
Inotropes required pre-operatively
CABG performed intra-operatively
Tricuspid valve repair performed intra-operatively
Mitral valve repair performed intra-operatively
Aortic valve closure performed intra-operatively
Aortic valve repair performed intra-operatively
Aortic valve replacement performed intra-operatively
Cardiopulmonary Bypass time
Cross Clamp time
Surgical approach
Prior sternotomy present
Post-implant cryoablation
Factor 7 given intra-operatively
Units of fresh-frozen plasma given intra-operatively
Units of packed red blood cells given intra-operatively
Units of platelets given intra-operatively
Time to extubation
ICU length of stay
Milrinone present immediately post-operatively
Date milrinone started
Dose of milrinone post-operatively
Date milrinone stopped
Neosynephrine present immediately post-operatively
Date neosynephrine started
Dose of neosynephrine
Date neosynephrine stopped
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Present Immediately Post-Operatively</th>
<th>Date Started</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Date Stopped</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vasopressin</td>
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<td>Levophed</td>
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<td>Epinephrine</td>
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