



# Oklahoma Heart Institute

## **LIFE AFTER CRT**

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Heart Failure & Circulatory Support Program

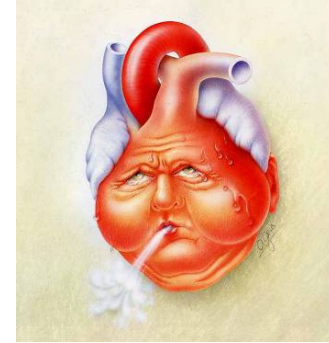
918-592-0999

[OklahomaHeart.com](http://OklahomaHeart.com)

# Disclosures

- None

# Heart Failure



The *inability* of heart *to meet* the *metabolic demands* of the body



**21 MILLION**

ADULTS IN THE US AND EU ARE  
ESTIMATED TO BE LIVING WITH HEART FAILURE,  
AND THIS NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO RISE<sup>1,2</sup>



AGING POPULATION<sup>3</sup>



INCREASING PREVALENCE OF RISK FACTORS<sup>3</sup>



IMPROVED POST-MI SURVIVAL<sup>3</sup>

IN PATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE

≥ 24

%

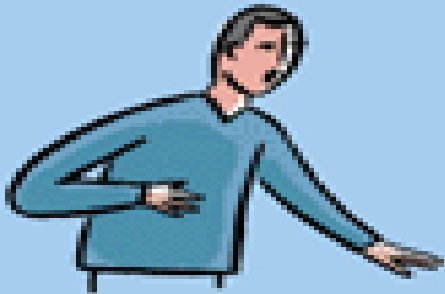
**DIE WITHIN 1 YEAR  
OF DIAGNOSIS<sup>3</sup>**

~ 50

%

**DIE WITHIN 5 YEARS  
OF DIAGNOSIS<sup>4</sup>**

# Symptoms



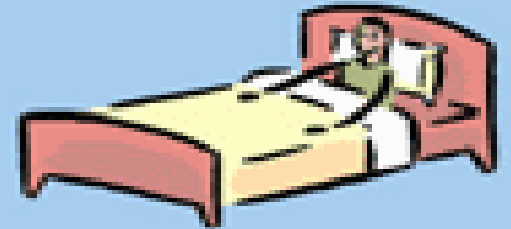
*Shortness of breath*



*Swelling of feet & legs*



*Chronic lack of energy*



*Difficulty sleeping at night due to breathing problems*



*Swollen or tender abdomen with loss of appetite*



*Cough with frothy sputum*

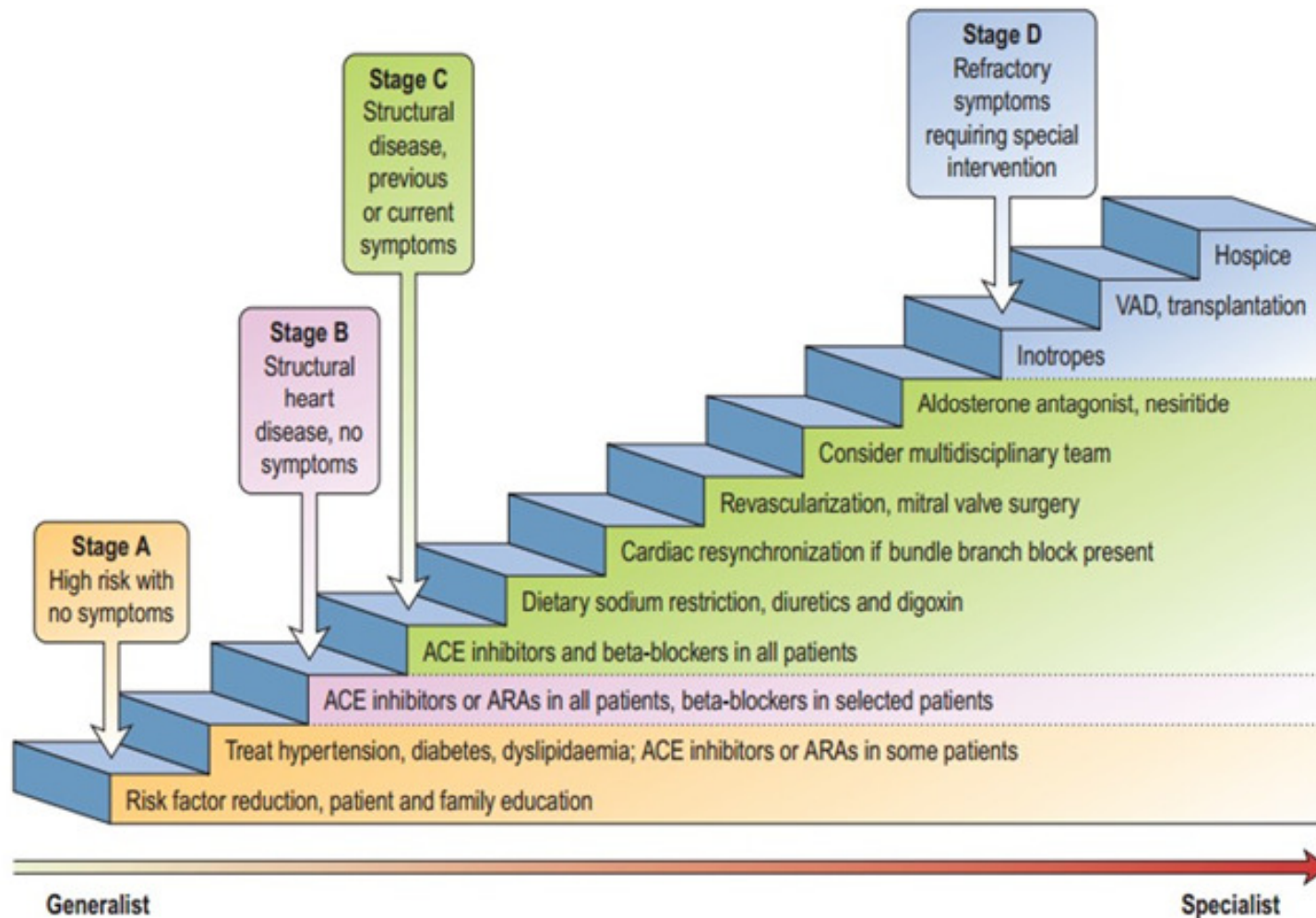


*Increased urination at night*



*Confusion and/or impaired memory*

# Staging & Options



# Optimized Oral HF Drug Rx

High Risk  
CV Surgery

Investigational  
Drugs

BiV Pacer

Hospice

Inotropes



VADs

Tx



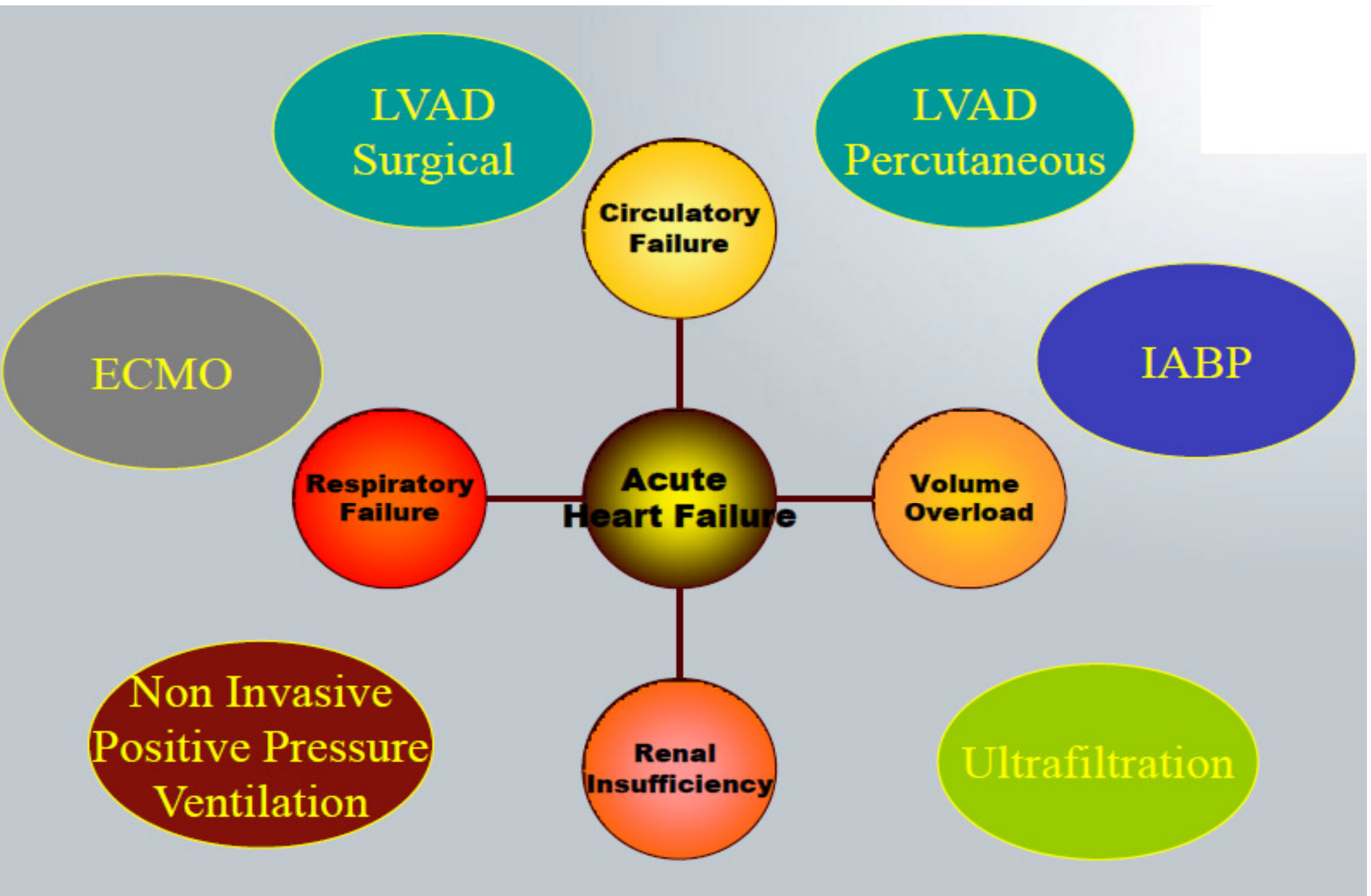


# Prognostication

NYHA Class	1 Year Mortality
I	5-10%
II-III	15-30%
IV	50-60%

# STAGE D (Refractory HF)

- Refractory heart failure with recurrent decompensation
- Failing medical management
- Intolerance to previously tolerated medications
- Escalating doses of diuretics
- Decreased end organ perfusion
  - Renal function
  - Liver function
  - Pulmonary function
- Chronic low output state
- Hyponatremia
- Persistent decline in functional status
- Resting symptoms



# Goals of Management

- Improve symptoms (relieve congestion and address low output symptoms)
- Maintain oxygenation (tissue perfusion)
- Optimize volume status
- Etiology of heart failure
- Identify and address the precipitating factors

# Treatment Options

## End-Stage Heart Failure

- Medical management - limited by poor outcomes
- Cardiac transplantation - limited by donor shortage
- Mechanical circulatory support devices
  - Left ventricular assist device (LVAD)

# Inotropic Support

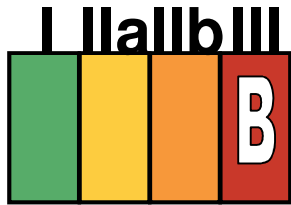


Until definitive therapy (e.g., coronary revascularization, MCS, heart transplantation) or resolution of the acute precipitating problem, patients with cardiogenic shock should receive temporary intravenous inotropic support to maintain systemic perfusion and preserve end-organ performance.



Continuous intravenous inotropic support is reasonable as “bridge therapy” in patients with stage D refractory to GDMT and device therapy who are eligible for and awaiting MCS or cardiac transplantation.

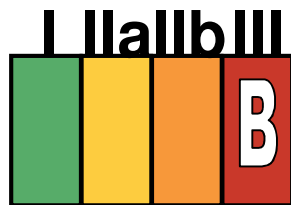
# Inotropic Support



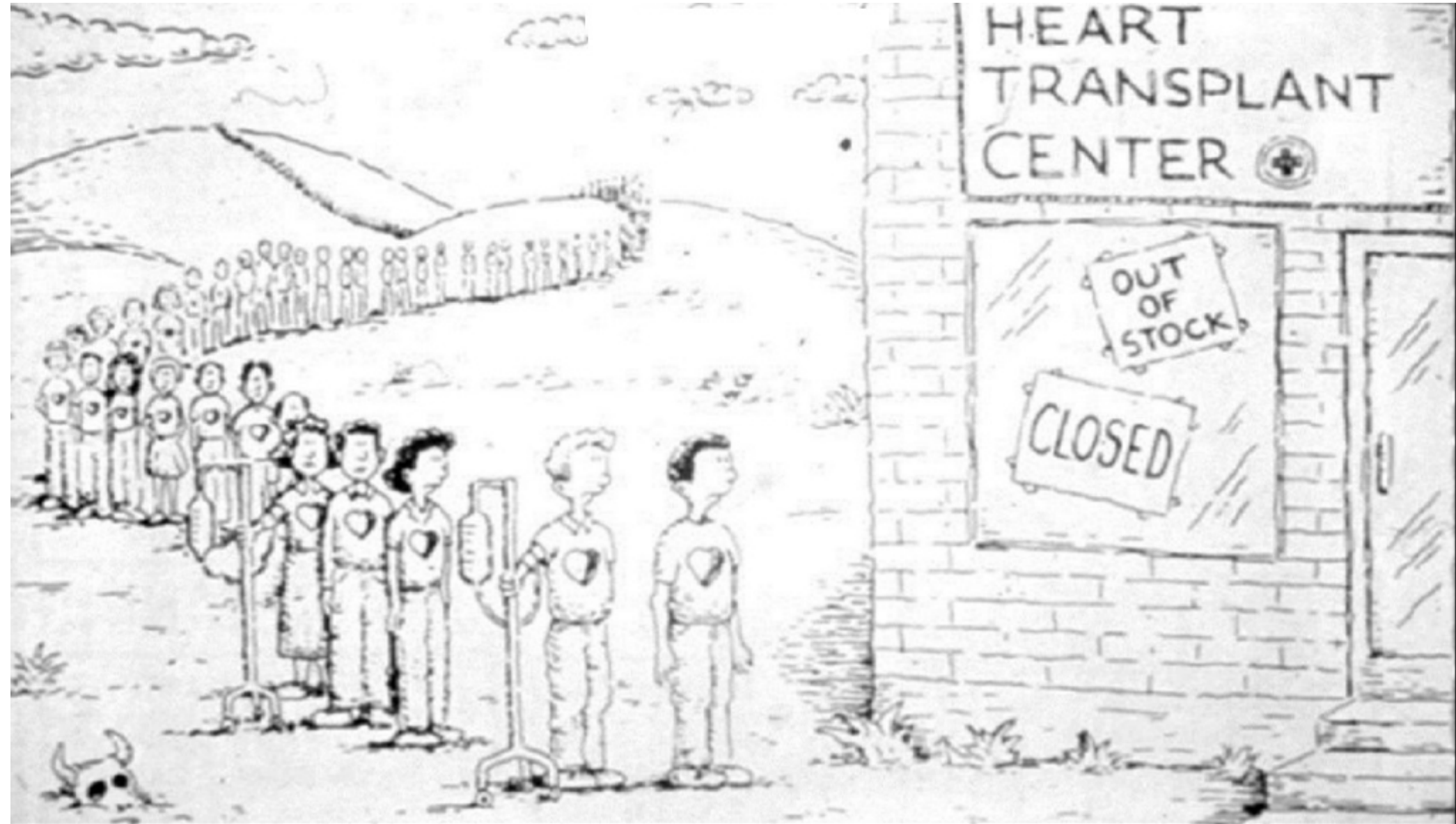
Harm

Long-term use of either continuous or intermittent, intravenous parenteral positive inotropic agents, in the absence of specific indications or for reasons other than palliative care, **is potentially harmful** in the patient with HF.

Use of parenteral inotropic agents in hospitalized patients without documented severe systolic dysfunction, low blood pressure, or impaired perfusion, and evidence of significantly depressed cardiac output, with or without congestion, **is potentially harmful**.



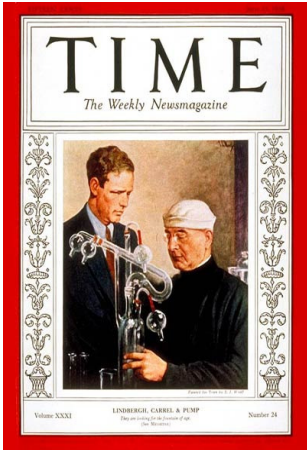
Harm



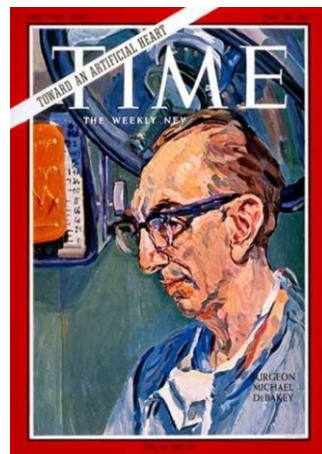


# Evolution of Mechanical Circulatory Support

1936



1965



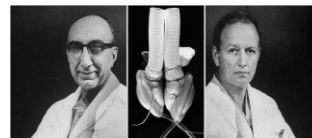
1969



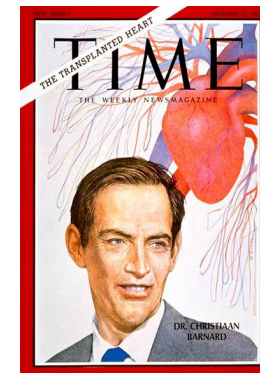
1981



1982



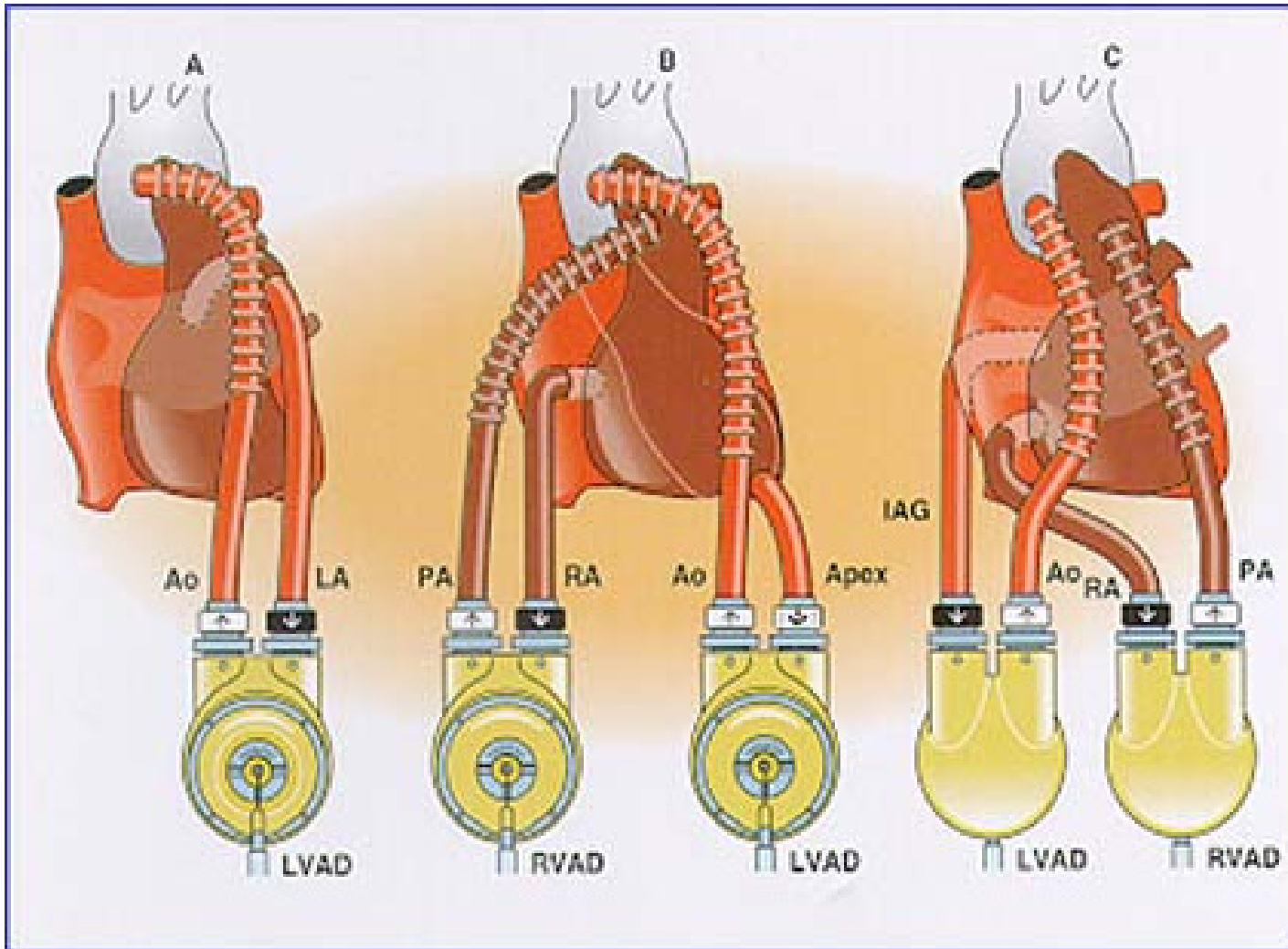
1968



As socio-political history...

# Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)

- Left ventricular assist device (LVAD)-supports the left ventricle
- Right ventricular assist device (RVAD)-supports the right ventricle
- Bi-ventricular assist device (LVAD)-supports both ventricles

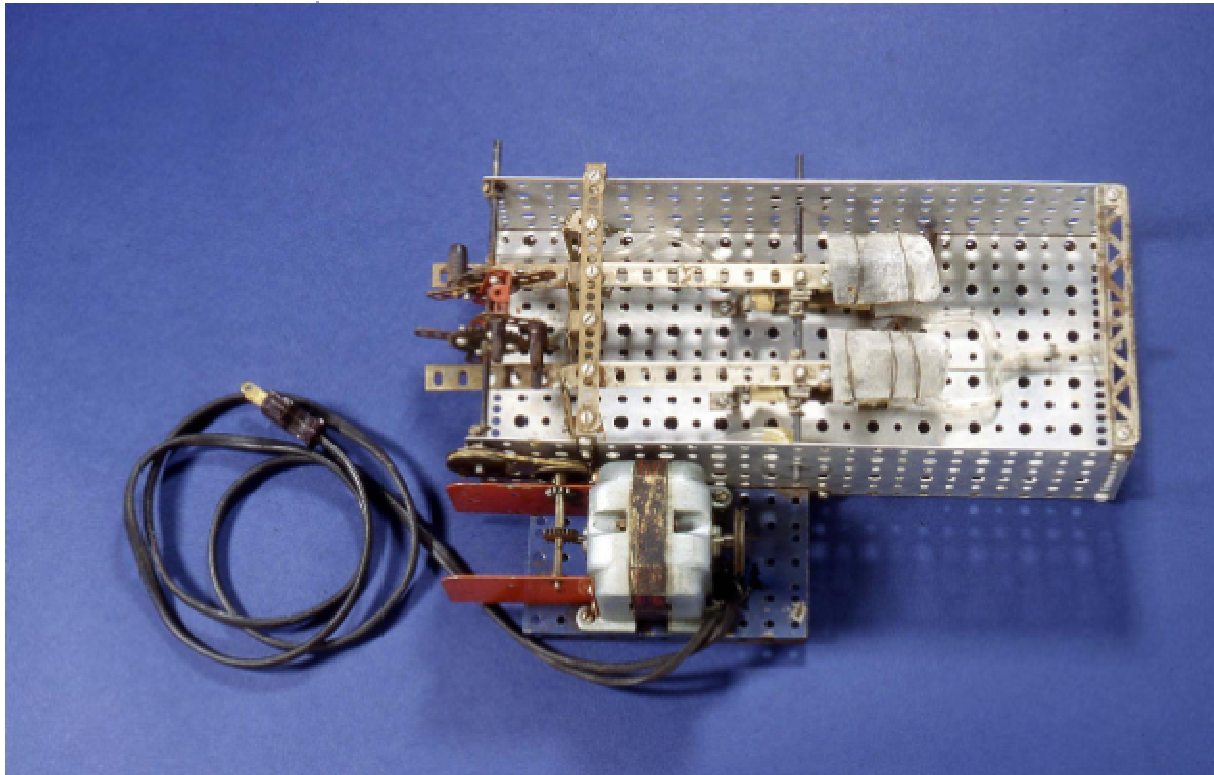


# Firsts

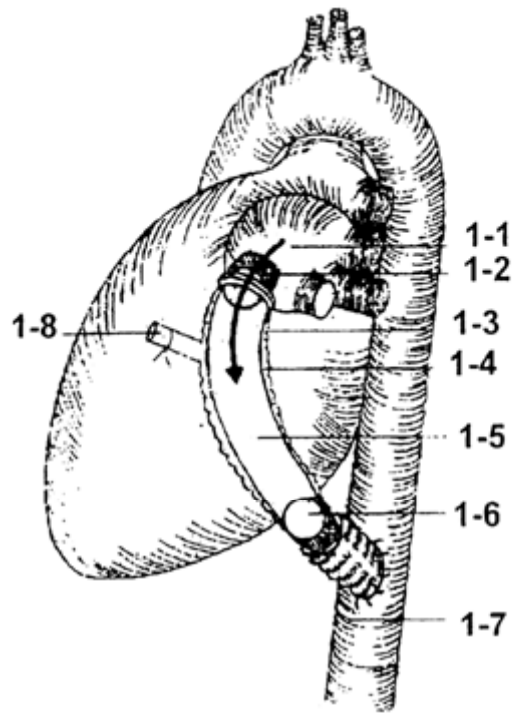
- Valdmir Petrovich Demikov - Artificial heart in 1937 in a dog
- Pioneer of Mechanical circulation and Transplant

# Firsts

- Michael DeBakey in 1966 in a 37 year old woman
  - Paracorporeal circuit to provide mechanical support after surgery
  - for 10 days
- Long term implantation in 1988 by William F Bernard
  - Children's medical center MA
- FDA approved HeartMate IP LVAS in October of 1994



The Sewell heart pump was built by William Sewell Jr and William Glenn in New Haven – Successfully bypassed right side of a dog in 1949



***Liotta-Crawford LVAS (July 19, 1963).***

*Drawing of the 19th July 1963 clinical prototype that was developed by Domingo Liotta at Baylor University, Houston. The pump is shown in diastole.*

*1= left atrium; 2= inlet valve; 3= housing of Silastic, reinforced with Dacron fabric; 4= air chamber; 5= blood chamber; 6= outlet valve; 7=descending aorta; 8= plastic tube (internal dimension, 4 mm) for air supply.*



Pump Interposed  
between LV apex and  
infra-renal abdominal  
aorta



1984 First Successful Bridge-to-Transplant - Thoratec VAD  
California Pacific Med Ctr, San Francisco

*New England Journal of Medicine* 314:626-628, 1986

**USE OF A PROSTHETIC VENTRICLE AS A  
BRIDGE TO CARDIAC TRANSPLANTATION  
FOR POSTINFARCTION CARDIOGENIC  
SHOCK**

J. DONALD HILL, M.D., DAVID J. FARRAR, PH.D.,  
JAMES J. HERSHON, M.D., PETER G. COMPTON, M.S.,  
G. JAMES AVERY, II, M.D., BARRY S. LEVIN, M.D.,  
AND BRUCE N. BRENT, M.D.

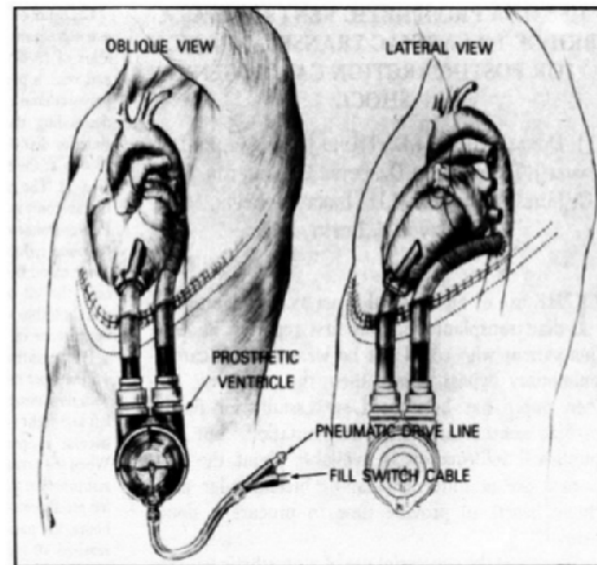
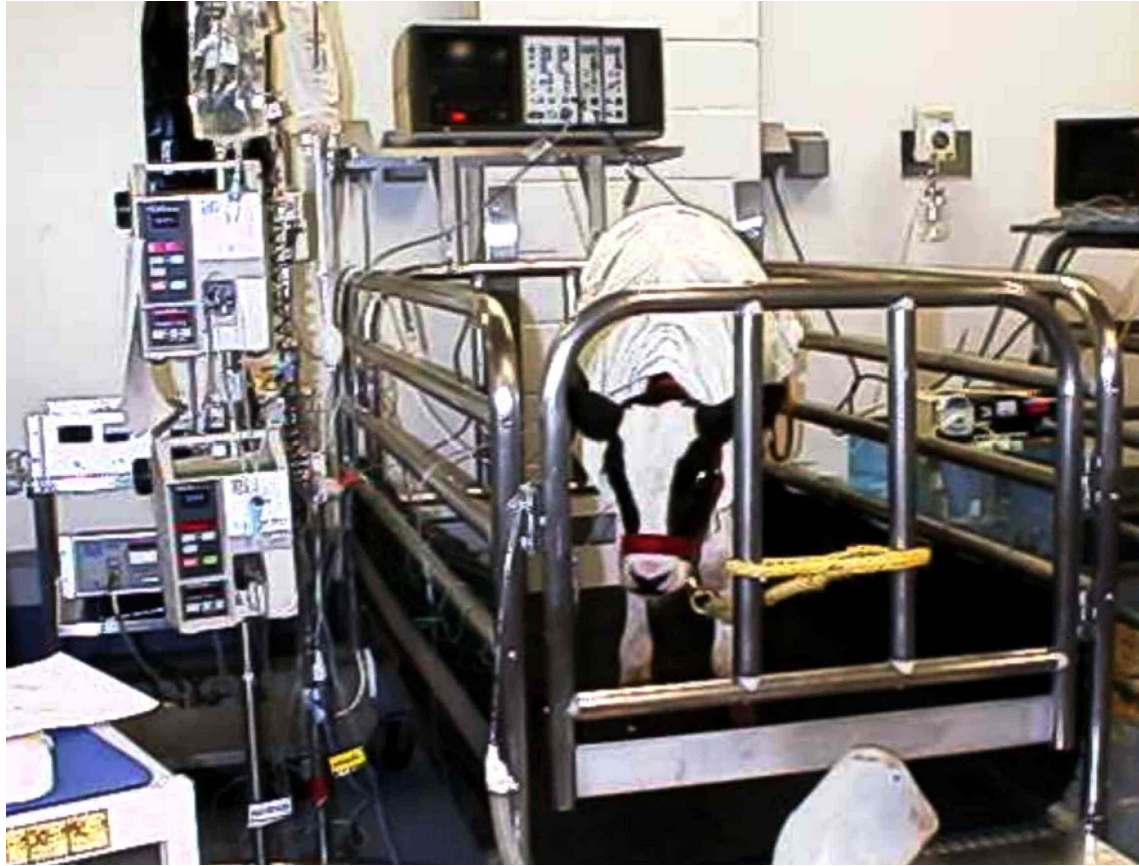
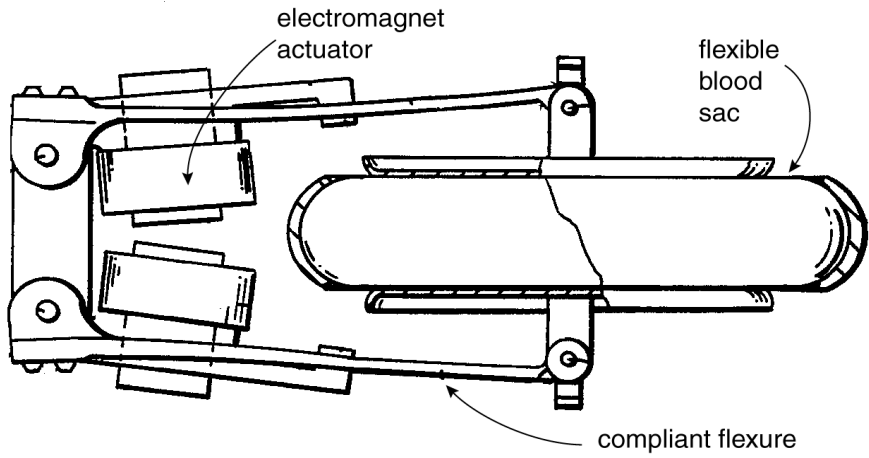


Figure 1. Prosthetic Ventricle Connected from the Left Ventricular Apex and Returning Blood Flow to the Descending Aorta.

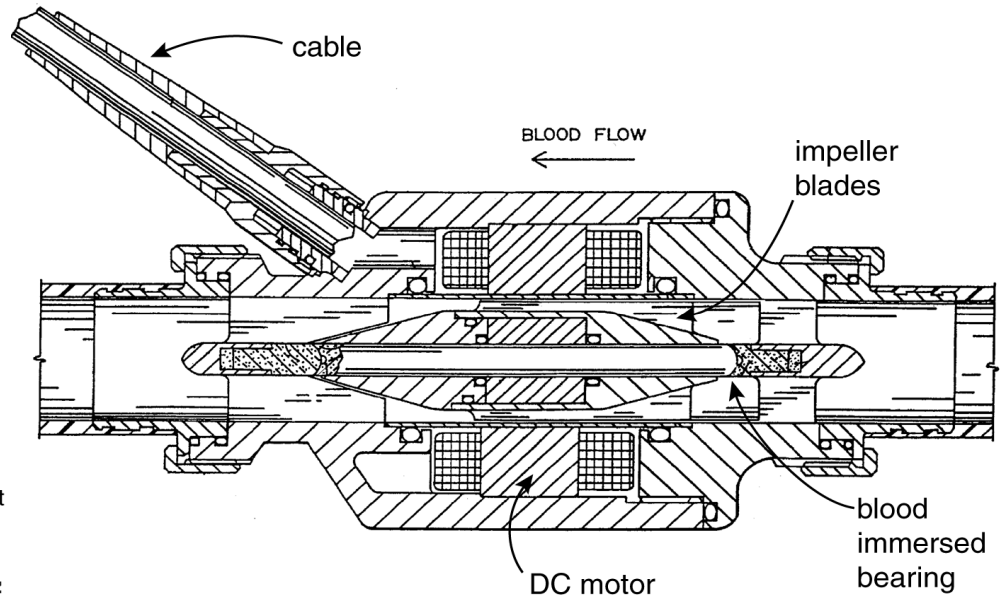
# 34 Day Animal Trial



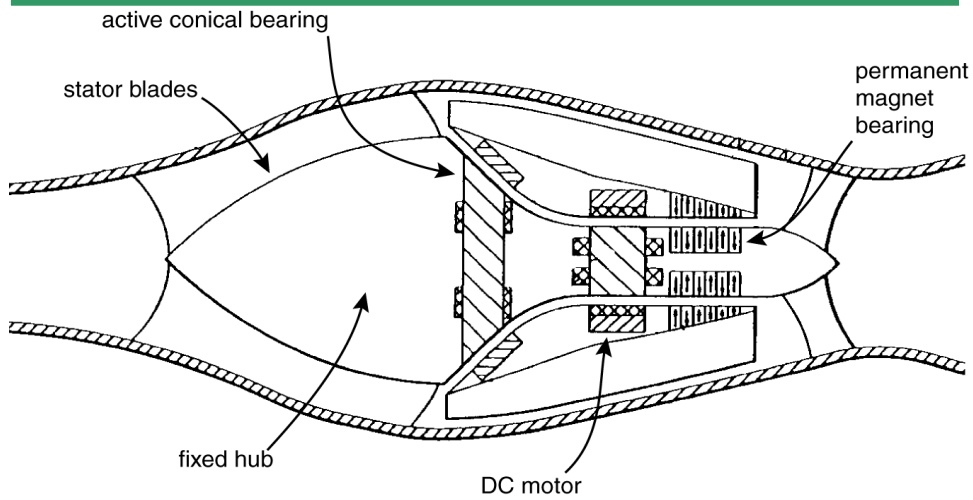
# 1st Generation (pulsatile)



# 2nd Generation (rotary)



# 3rd Generation (maglev)



# REMATCH

- HeartMate LVAS used as a bridge to cardiac transplantation Extended periods of out of hospital support possible
  - Reasonable quality of life
- Can HeartMate LVAS be used as a long-term “Destination Therapy” for patients with end-stage heart disease (ESHD)?

# REMATCH – eligibility criteria

- NYHA class IV end-stage LV failure
- LVEF  $\leq$  25%
- Peak VO<sub>2</sub>  $\leq$  14 ml/kg/min
- Received optimal medical therapy for at least 60 of the last 90 days
- Life expectancy of < 2 years
- IV inotrope dependent with failed weaning
- Ineligible for cardiac transplantation

# Survival

- 1 year survival = 51% LVAD vs. 28% OMM
- 2 year survival = 24% LVAD vs. 8% OMM
- Median survival was 408 days for LVAD patients compared to 150 days for medical therapy patients



The HeartMate II continuous-flow left ventricular assist device receives blood from the left ventricular apex and returns it to the ascending aorta.

Second generation pump  
Axial Flow  
Continuous Flow  
No pulse  
Less moving parts  
Less complications compared to 1<sup>st</sup> generation pumps

# Analysis of Response of Four Rotary Pumps

**TABLE 3.** Preload and afterload sensitivities of the four rotary blood pumps compared with the natural left ventricle

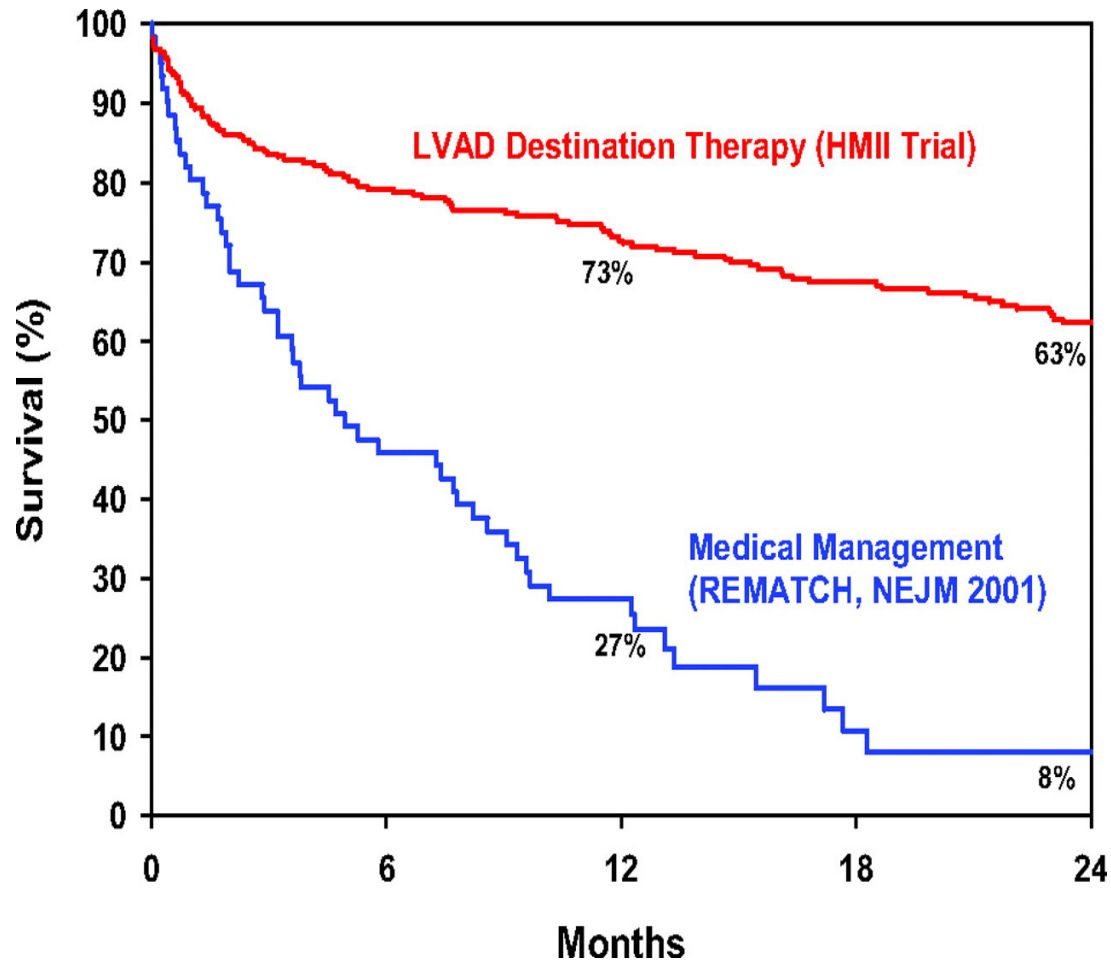
	Preload Series						Afterload Series						P =
	Aload	Pload loLim	Pload hilim	Flow lolim	Flow hilim	Pload Sens	Pload	Aload lolim	Aload hilim	Flow lolim	Flow hilim	Aload Sens	
Natural Ventricle	84	3	27	2.95	8.76	0.24	3	84	116	2.88	2.31	0.02	<.001
	100	3	27	2.59	7.7	0.21	15	84	116	8.27	6.63	0.05	
	116	3	27	2.31	6.85	0.19	27	84	116	8.54	6.85	0.05	
Duraheart 2000 rpm	60	0.9	18	9	10	0.06	3	51	128	0	9.6	0.12	0.7
	100	0.39	29.9	5.9	8.3	0.08	15	56.3	140	0	10	0.12	
	140	14.5	29.4	0	4.6	0.31	27	68	151	1.7	10	0.1	
Heartware 2700 rpm	60	0.58	26.1	8.3	10	0.07	3	50.8	126	0	9.1	0.12	0.7
	100	0.82	29.6	5.1	7.5	0.08	15	50.5	138	0	9.9	0.11	
	140	17.0	29.9	0	3.9	0.2	27	60.9	150	0	10	0.11	
Heartmate II 10 000 rpm	60	0.86	9.6	7	8	0.11	3	53	142	0.1	8	0.09	0.5
	100	1.8	29.4	2.6	5.8	0.08	15	65	149	0.2	8	0.09	
	140	0.37	27.8	0	1.4	0.05	27	77	148	1	8	0.1	
Incor 8000 rpm	60	2.1	28.4	5.4	6.3	0.03	3	48.0	149	0.9	5.5	0.03	0.2
	100	1.09	29.5	3.4	4.5	0.04	15	48.5	148	1.7	5.9	0.03	
	140	1.4	27.9	1.4	2.8	0.05	27	48.5	149	2.3	6.3	0.03	

Aload, afterload; Pload, preload; lolim, low limit; hilim, high limit; rpm, revolutions per minute; sens, sensitivity; P, probability of difference between preload sensitivity and afterload sensitivity. Flows are in L/min, preloads and afterloads are in mm Hg.

“... the characteristic of the HeartMate II can be considered superior to the centrifugal pumps in so far that the zone of maximum preload sensitivity occurs at the low end of the afterload scale (i.e., mean afterload of 50–90 mmHg) mostly inhabited by patients requiring mechanical assistance to the left ventricle.”



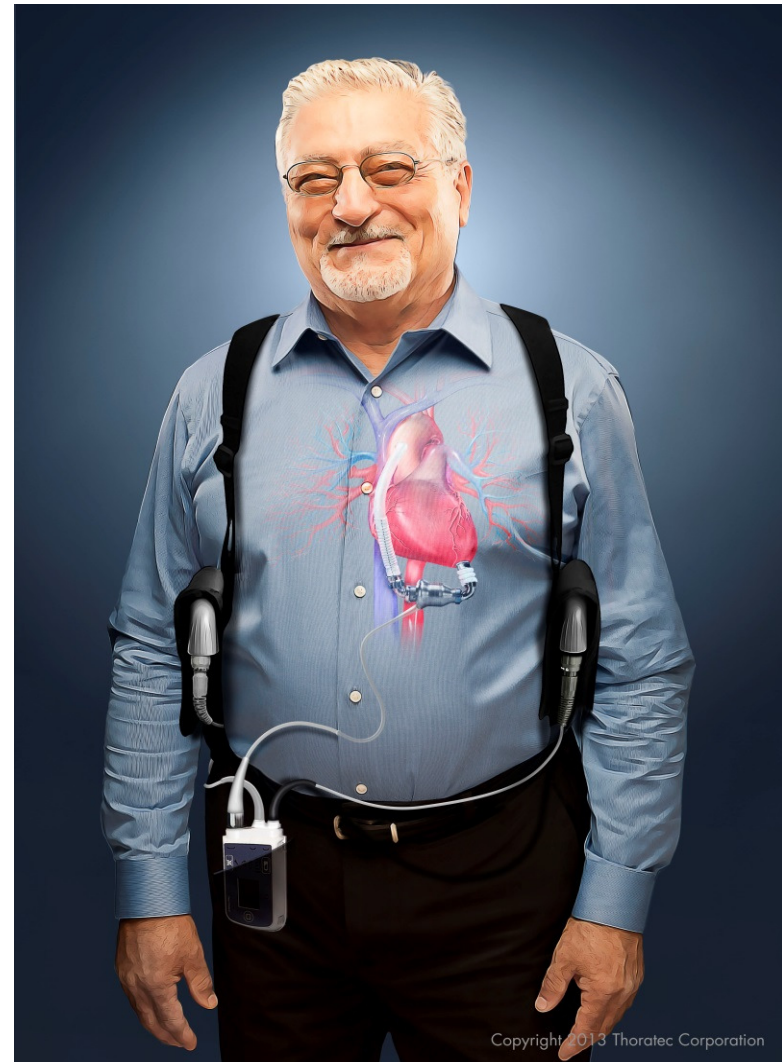
# Medical Management vs. LVAD



Rose, EA; et al  
NEJM 2001; 345:1435-  
1443

## Goal of LVAD therapy

- Increase CO
- Improve end-organ function
- Improve Quality of Life
- Improve morbidity and mortality



# Durable LVAD support

## Bridge to transplantation

- Patient is approved or listed for transplant
- NYHA IV
- Failed maximal medical therapy

## Destination therapy

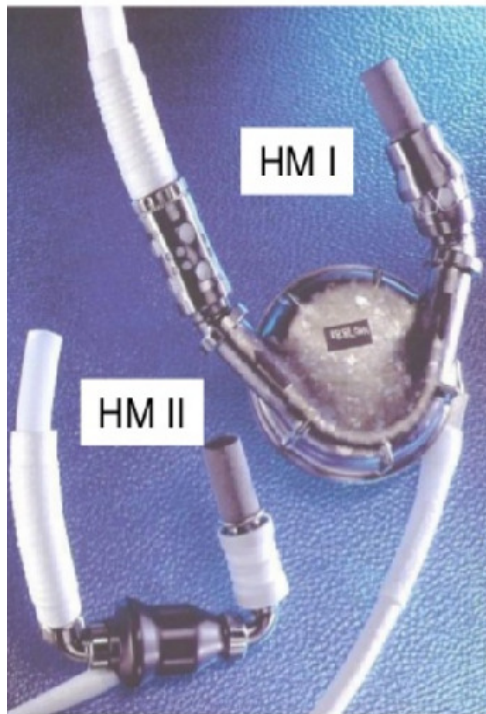
- Not a heart transplant candidate
- NYHA IV
- LVEF < 25%
- Maximal medical therapy
- Inotrope dependent (14 days)
- IABP for 7 days
- Peak Oxygen consumption of < 14 ml/kg/mt

# Contraindications

- End-stage lung, liver or renal disease
- Metastatic disease
- Medical non-adherence
- Active drug addiction \*
- Active tobacco Use\*
- Active infectious disease
- Inability to tolerate systemic anticoagulation
- Moderate to severe RV dysfunction
- Lack of social support

# Other Factors

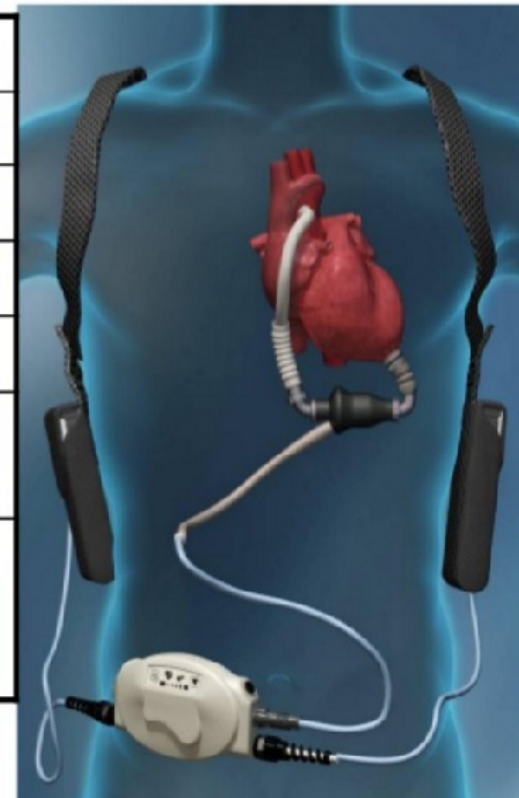
- Support person
- Transportation
- Dressing supplies
- Insurance
- Co morbidities
- NO strict age limit
- Malignancy?
- If there are psychosocial factors that make the patient ineligible for transplant, it is unlikely that the patient will be an LVAD candidate



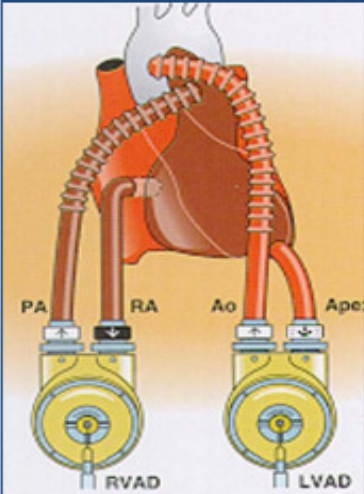
	HM I	HM II
Weight (gm)	1250	280
Volume (ml)	450	63
Noise	Audible	Silent
Moving parts	Many	One
Maximal flow (l/min)*	10	10
Clinical Durability (yr)	1.5	Est. > 5

\* at mean pressure=100 mm Hg

HM II with controller and batteries



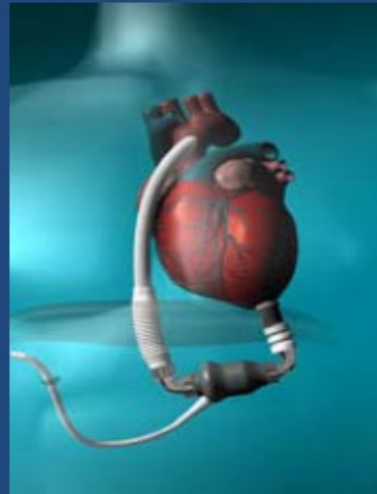
# The Evolution of MCS Devices



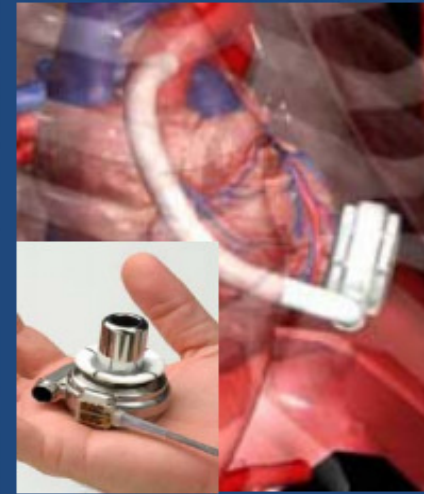
- Paracorporeal
- Pneumatic
- Pulsatile
- Uni- or Biventricular



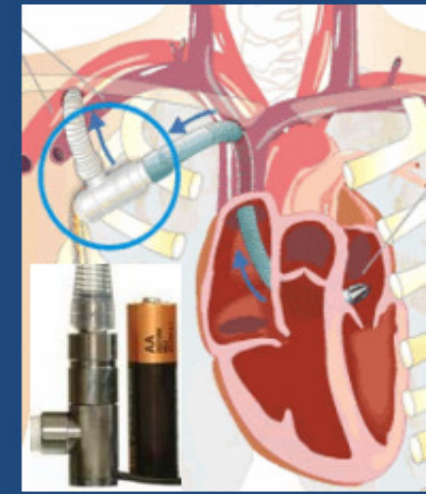
- Implantable
- Electric
- Pulsatile
- Large
- Multiple moving parts



- Implantable
- Electric
- Continuous flow
- Axial design
- Smaller
- Single moving part

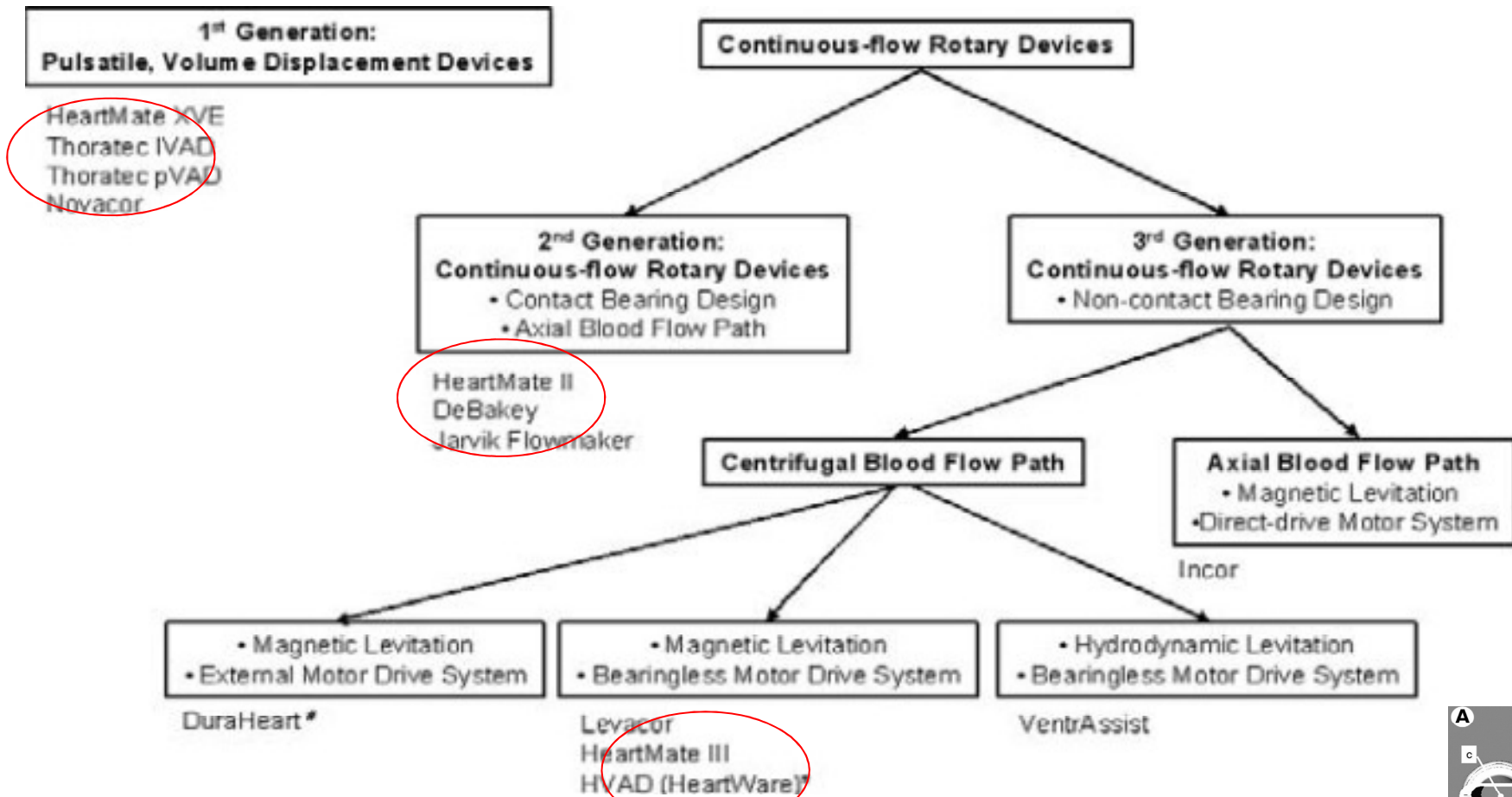


- Implantable
- Electric
- Continuous flow
- Centrifugal design
- Smaller
- Bearingless

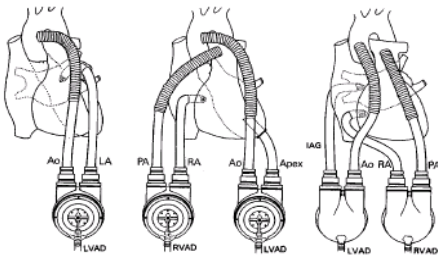


- Implantable
- Electric
- Continuous flow
- Axial design
- Smaller
- Partial support

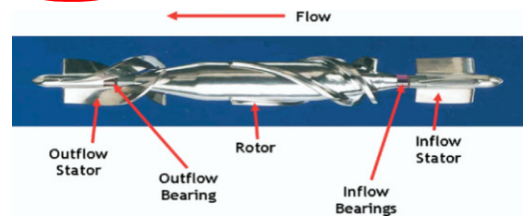
# Evolution of implantable mechanical cardiac assist technologies



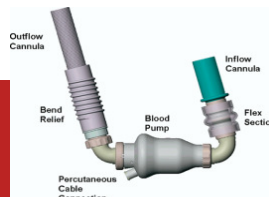
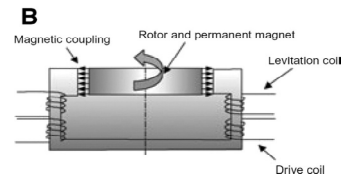
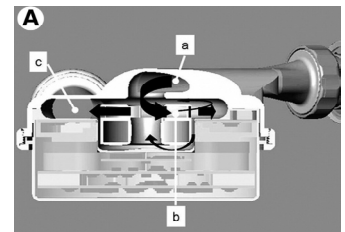
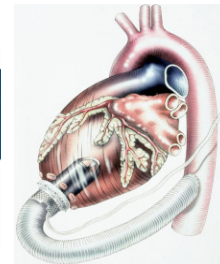
I



II



III





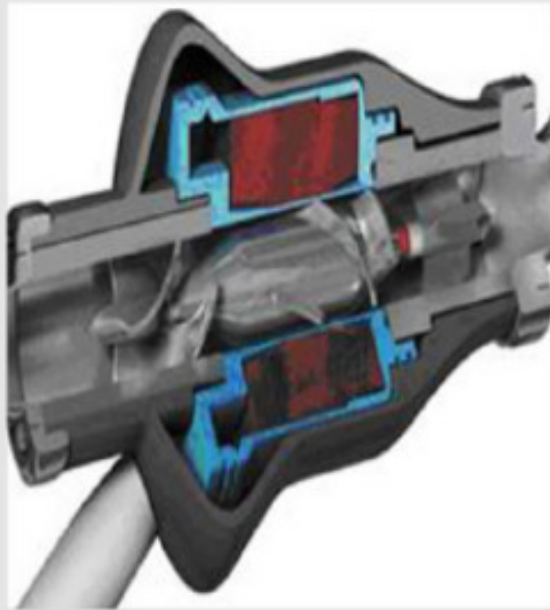
# Axial Vs Centrifugal

## Comparison of Axial and Centrifugal Rotary Pump Response to Physiologic Conditions

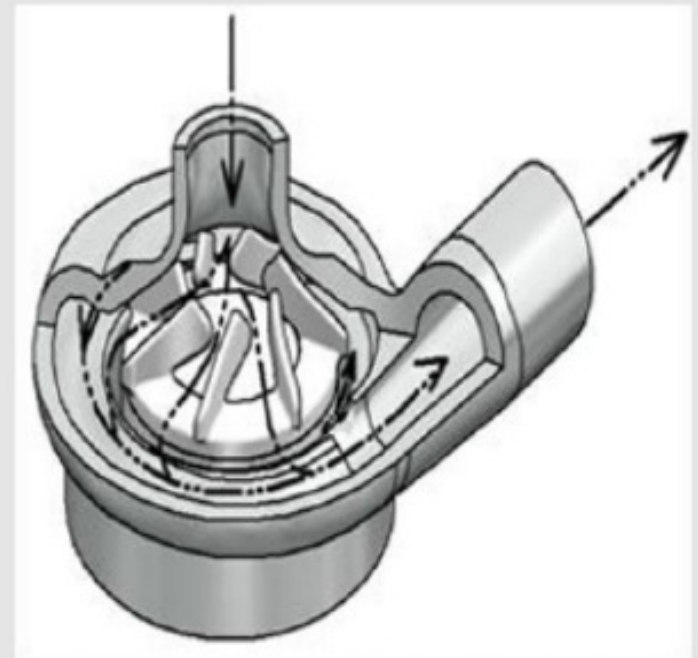
Conditions

Axial pump

Centrifugal pump

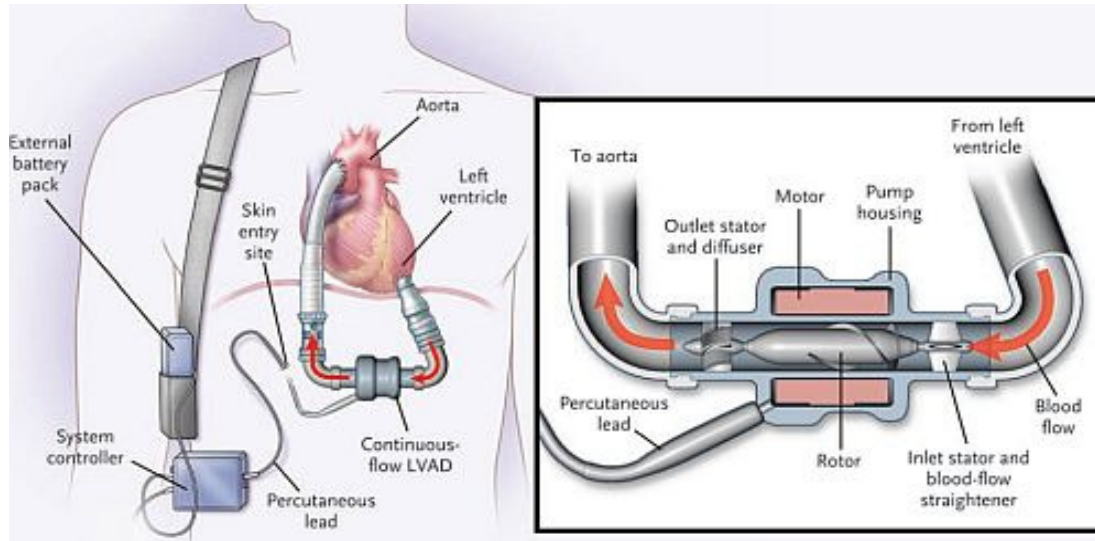


Propeller in a pipe

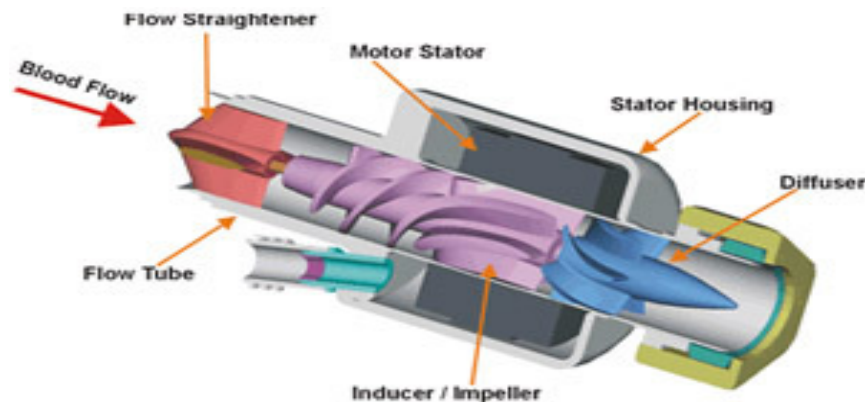


Bladed disk spinning in a cavity

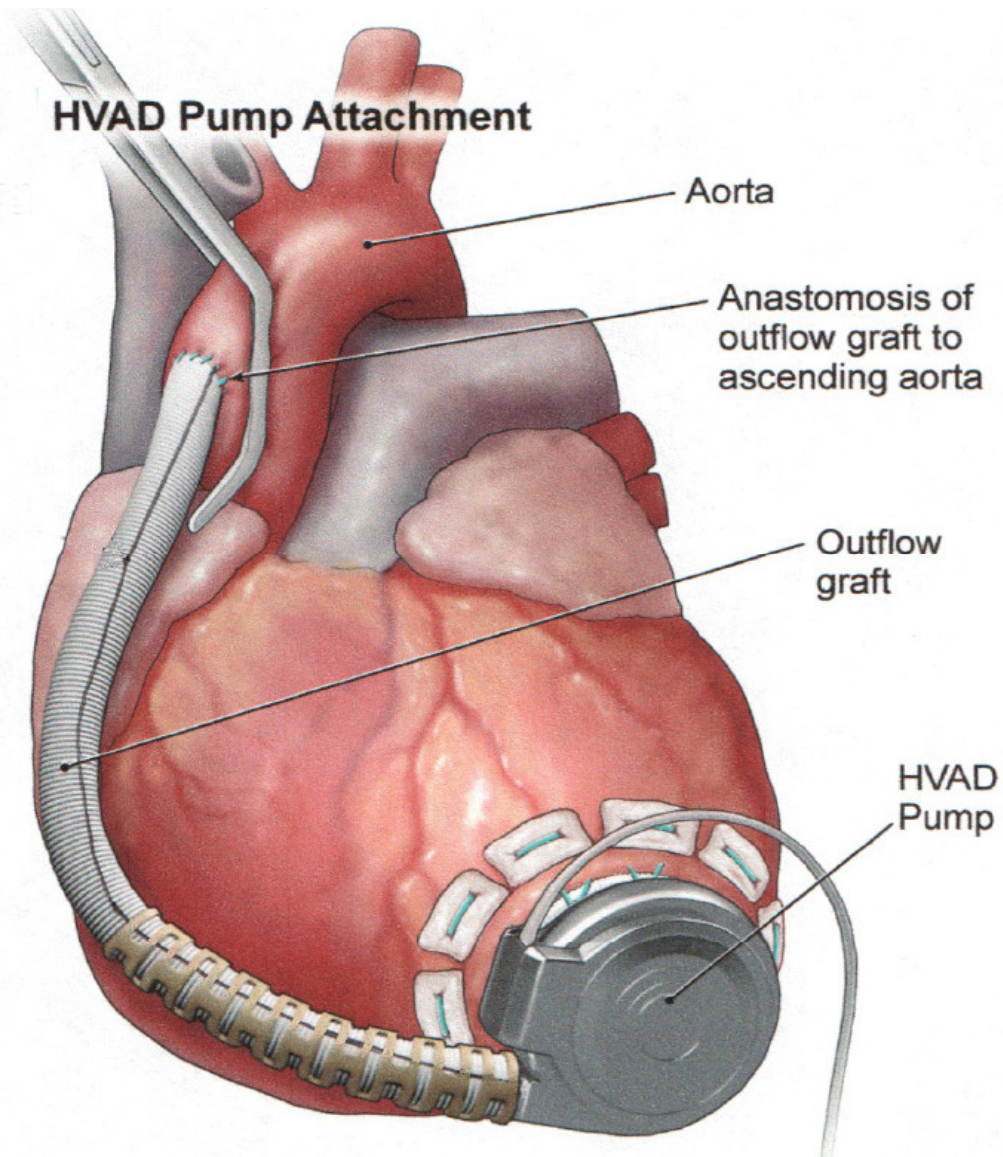
# The HeartMate II pump (Thoratec)



- The only continuous – flow pump currently approved as *bridge to transplantation* **AND** *as destination therapy*
- Stroke volume = 63ml
- Pump speed = 8000 - 12000 RPM
- Estimated Flow = 10L/min



# HeartWare (HVAD)



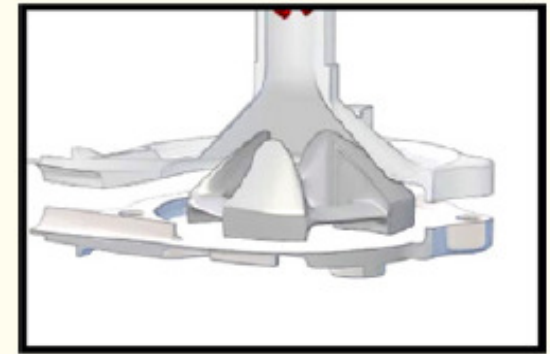
## Surgical LVAD Types

Third-generation LVADs  
VentrAssist LVAS†  
HeartWare LVAD†  
DuraHeart LVAS†  
Levacor VAD†

## Pump Design

Continuous flow  
(Centrifugal flow pump)

## Device Illustration



In the centrifugal pumps, the rotors are shaped to accelerate the blood circumferentially and thereby cause it to move toward the outer rim of the pump

# HVAD (Heart Ware) Pump Suspension: Magnetic and Hydrodynamic

- Wide-blade impeller is magnetically (levitated) and hydro-dynamically suspended
- Speed range: 1800-4000 RPM



# VAD Parameters

Clinical	Settings	Alarms	Save Data	History	Admin
Pump Flow		Pump Speed		Pulse Index	
4.5 lpm		9600 rpm		3.6	
Display ON/OFF		Fixed Mode - Speed Setpoint: 9600 rpm		Pump Power	
				5.7 W	

# Continuous Flow LVADs

- Typically pulseless
- Preload dependent
- Afterload Sensitive
- Anticoagulation required
- Patients can still have heart failure
- Chest compressions are to be administered by LVAD team or under their directions

# LVAD parameters

- Flow:
  - Measured in liters per minute
  - Correlates with pump speed ( $\uparrow$  speed =  $\uparrow$  flow,  $\downarrow$  speed =  $\downarrow$  flow)
  - Dependent on Preload and Afterload
- Speed:
  - How fast the impeller of the internal pump spins
  - Measured in revolutions per minute (rpm)
  - Can be manipulated



# LVAD parameters

- Power:
  - The amount of power the VAD consumes to continually run at a set speed
  - Sudden or gradual sustained increases in the power can indicate thrombus inside the VAD

# Pulsatility Index (PI)

A measure of the pressure differential inside the pump during native cardiac cycle (systole and diastole). PI is the magnitude of this flow pulse

- The pulsatility index (PI) will normally decrease as pump speed is increased
- PI changes with conditions that affect stroke volume
  - physiologic demand
  - volume status
  - Right ventricle function
  - Native heart contractility

# Symptoms & Signs

- Decompensation
  - JVP, Lower extremity edema
  - SOB
- Arrhythmia
  - Palpitations, ICD shocks, fatigue and weakness
- Volume status
  - Volume depleted or overloaded
- Infection
  - Fevers, chills, discharge at driveline site
- Bleeding
  - Epistaxis, melena, hematochezia, hematemesis

# Symptoms & Signs

- Hemolysis
  - Dark urine, flank pain, fatigue and weakness
- Stroke
  - Hemorrhagic or ischemic
  - Dizziness, visual symptoms
  - Focal weakness
- VAD and vital sign log
- Daily weights
- Any trauma

# Trouble-shooting power abnormalities for HEARTMATE II

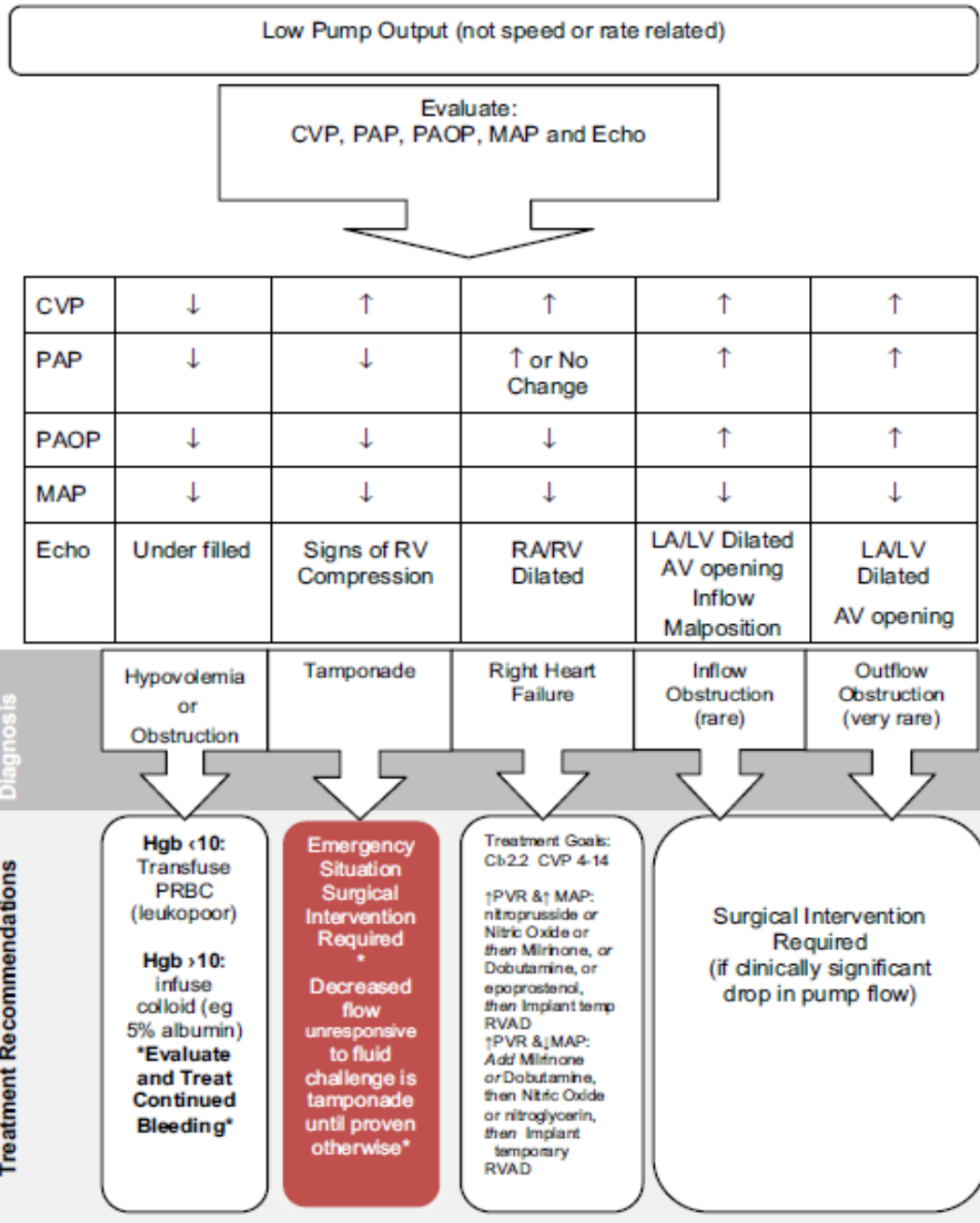
- Pump speed (rpm) will remain constant unless there is a suction event:
- ↓ Flow with ↓ PI and constant pump speed
  - inflow obstruction
  - outflow obstruction
  - RV failure
  - dysrhythmia
  - hypertension

# Trouble-shooting power abnormalities for HEARTMATE II

- Pump speed (rpm) will remain constant unless there is a suction event:
- ↓ Flow with N or ↑ PI
  - suckdown
- ↑ Power with ↓ PI (+/-)
  - pump thrombosis

# Trouble-shooting power abnormalities for HEARTMATE II

- ↑ Flow with ↑ PI
  - normal physiological response to increased demand
  - myocardial recovery
  - fluid retention





# LVADs are Prone to

- Mechanical failure
- Pump thrombosis

# Complications

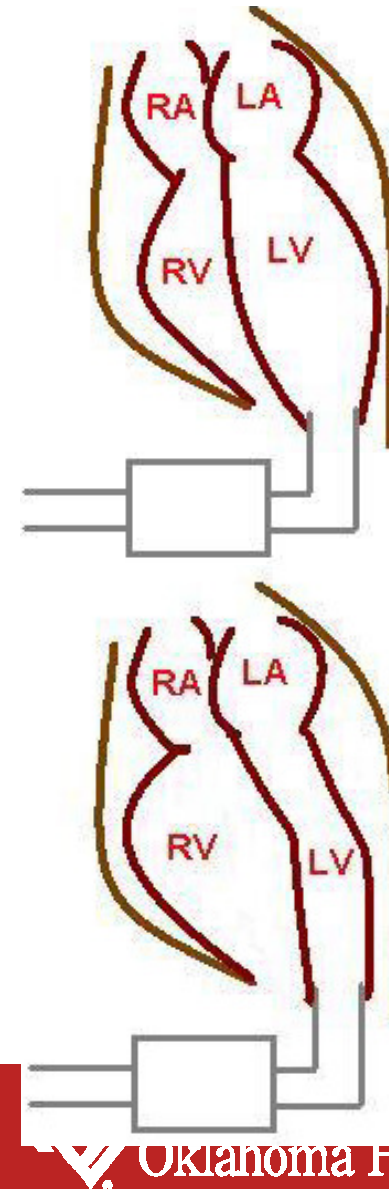
- Infection (Driveline Exit site infection)
- Hemolysis
- Pump thrombosis
- GI bleeding (acquired arteriovenous malformations)
- Right heart failure
- Stroke
- Aortic Insufficiency
- Device failure or malfunction

# Right Ventricular Failure

- 10 to 20% of patients after LVAD
  - Significantly increased mortality and morbidity
  - Higher rates of hemorrhage
  - Higher rates of renal failure
- Pre-operative RV dysfunction and tricuspid regurgitation
- Need for inotropes > 14 days
- Need for RVAD

# Suck down and RV Failure

- Left ventricular collapse or “suckdown” → right-heart failure
- When LV is sucked dry, the septum gets displaced
- With septal dysfunction, the RV dilates and may go into failure



# Speed Optimization

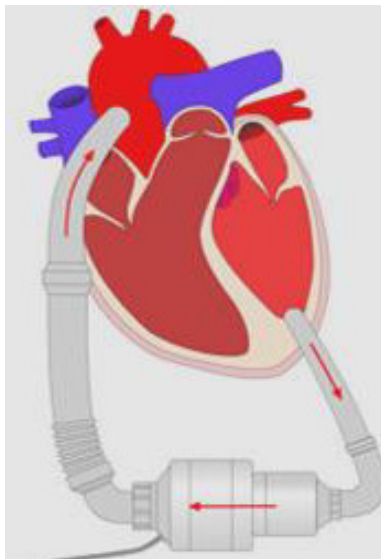
## Optimum Speed Setting

- Normal cardiac index
- Normal LV size
- No septal shift
- Intermittent aortic valve opening

# LVAD Flow

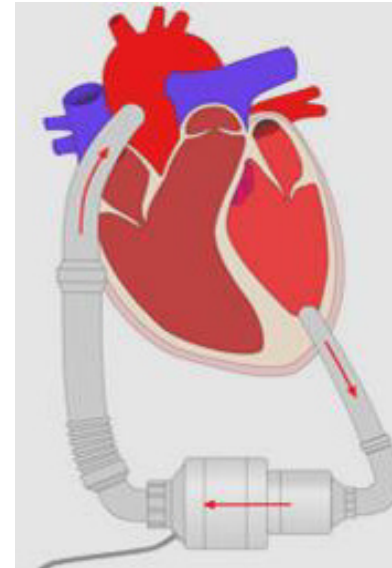
*Flow in Series*  
*(AoV Closed)*

LV → LVAD → Aorta (systemic circulation)



LV → LVAD → Aorta (systemic circulation)

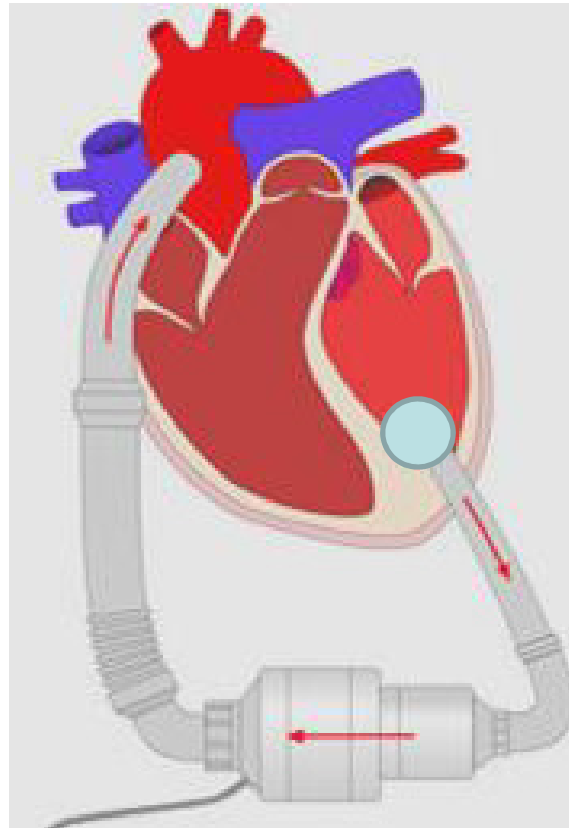
LV → Ao Valve → Aorta (systemic circulation)



# Clinical Significance of LVAD-related AI

## *Recirculation with AI*

LV → LVAD → Aorta (systemic circulation) → LV →  
Regurgitant Flow > Systemic Flow



# Therapy of LVAD – related AI

- Surgical intervention
- Park- stitch closure of the AoV
- Bioprosthetic Ao V
- Controversial data about which is better
- Latest: Bio > to closure → the stitch has less survival benefit



# Bleeding/Hemorrhage

- Post-operative
  - 20 to 40% undergo reoperation
  - Hypoperfusion and MODY
  - Massive transfusion can lead to RV failure and respiratory failure
- Chronic therapy
  - Mucosal bleeding
    - GI bleeding
    - Epistaxis

# Risk factors for bleeding

- Need for anticoagulation
- Continuous flow (lack of pulse)
- Prolonged cardiopulmonary bypass
- Extensive surgical dissection
- Hepatic dysfunction

# Gastrointestinal Bleed (GI bleed)

- LVAD related → Ao valve closed (mimics the AS)
- Anticoagulation related → pre LVAD GI pathology  
→ bleeding due to supra-therapeutic INR
- The management of anti-coagulation in these patients must balance the concern for continued or recurrent bleeding with the risk of pump thrombosis or thromboembolic stroke

# Diagnosis and therapy of GI bleed

- U EGD/ L EGD/ Small bowel capsule endoscopy/ Enteroscopy
- Endoscopic and interventional techniques: cauterization/ injection/ clipping of a visible vessel/ mesenteric angiography with coil embolization
- Adjunct medical therapy (? Not really proven): octeotride/ primarin/ danazole
- OHT

# Post-Op Heparin May Not Be Required

Slaughter, et al. conducted a retrospective study to evaluate the effects of heparin use on thromboembolic and bleeding complications after implantation of the HeartMate II

- The results indicate that patients who do not receive early post-operative anticoagulation therapy with IV heparin as a transition to warfarin and aspirin are at decreased risk of bleeding events
- These patients do not appear to be at any early elevated risk of thrombotic events
- Eliminating the routine use of post-operative heparin in patients with low risk of thrombosis appears to be appropriate for most cases



## Post-operative heparin may not be required for transitioning patients with a HeartMate II left ventricular assist system to long-term warfarin therapy

Mark S. Slaughter, MD,<sup>a</sup> Yoshifumi Naka, MD,<sup>b</sup> Ranjit John, MD,<sup>c</sup> Andrew Boyle, MD,<sup>d</sup> John V. Conte, MD,<sup>e</sup> Stuart D. Russell, MD,<sup>f</sup> Keith D. Aaronson, MD,<sup>g</sup> Kartik S. Sundareswaran, PhD,<sup>h</sup> David J. Farrar, PhD,<sup>h</sup> Francis D. Pagani, MD, PhD<sup>i</sup>

From the <sup>a</sup>Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky; <sup>b</sup>Department of Surgery and the Cardiac Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support Programs, Columbia University, New York, New York; Divisions of <sup>c</sup>Cardiothoracic Surgery and <sup>d</sup>Cardiology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Divisions of <sup>e</sup>Surgery and <sup>f</sup>Cardiology and the Heart Failure and Transplantation Program, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland; <sup>g</sup>Department of Internal Medicine and the Heart Failure Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; <sup>h</sup>Thoratec Corporation, Pleasanton, California; and <sup>i</sup>Section of Cardiac Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**KEYWORDS:**  
HeartMate II;  
LVAD;  
heparin;  
anticoagulation  
management;  
thrombosis

**BACKGROUND:** Anti-coagulation with heparin is often used after left ventricular assist device implantation as a transition to long-term warfarin therapy. We retrospectively evaluated the effects of heparin use on thromboembolic and bleeding complications after implantation of the HeartMate II left ventricular assist device (LVAD).

**METHODS:** LVAD patients ( $n = 418$ ) implanted as a bridge to transplant were divided into three groups: Group A patients (therapeutic,  $n = 118$ ) received heparin and had a partial thromboplastin time (PTT) of  $\geq 50$  seconds on two or more occasions; Group B patients (sub-therapeutic,  $n = 178$ ) had at least one PTT value in the range of 40 to 55 seconds; and Group C patients (no heparin,  $n = 122$ ) had no PTT values  $\geq 40$  seconds. All patients were transitioned to warfarin and aspirin therapy. The following adverse events were evaluated: ischemic stroke; hemorrhagic stroke; pump thrombosis; bleeding requiring surgery; and bleeding requiring  $\geq 2$  units of packed red blood cells in 24 hours.

**RESULTS:** There was no difference in the percentages of patients with ischemic (5%, 4%, 3%) or hemorrhagic (3%, 3%, 5%) strokes or pump thrombosis (3%, 2%, 2%) after post-operative day (POD) 3 among Groups A, B and C, respectively. From PODs 3 to 30, the percentage of patients requiring transfusion for bleeding was significantly lower for Group C (18%) than for Groups A (32%) and B (26%) ( $p = 0.04$ ); differences after 30 days were not significant. Multivariate analysis revealed that post-operative heparin use, low post-operative platelet count and low baseline hematocrit value were independent risk factors for bleeding events between PODs 3 and 30.

**CONCLUSIONS:** In patients receiving the HeartMate II LVAD who were directly transitioned to warfarin and aspirin therapy without intravenous heparin there was no short-term increase in risk of thrombotic or thromboembolic events, and bleeding requiring transfusion was significantly reduced. Additional long-term follow-up is needed to evaluate possible late effects.

J Heart Lung Transplant 2010;29:616–24

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1053-2498/\$ - see front matter © 2010 International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation. All rights reserved.  
doi:10.1016/j.jhltonline.2010.02.003

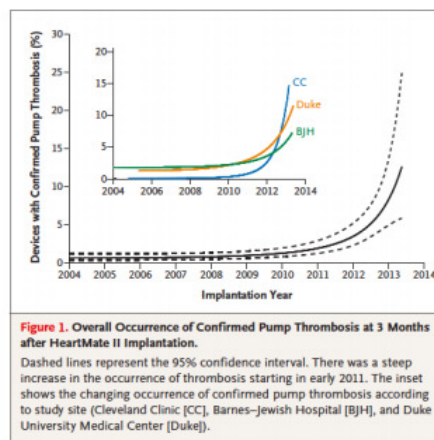
# What happened?

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

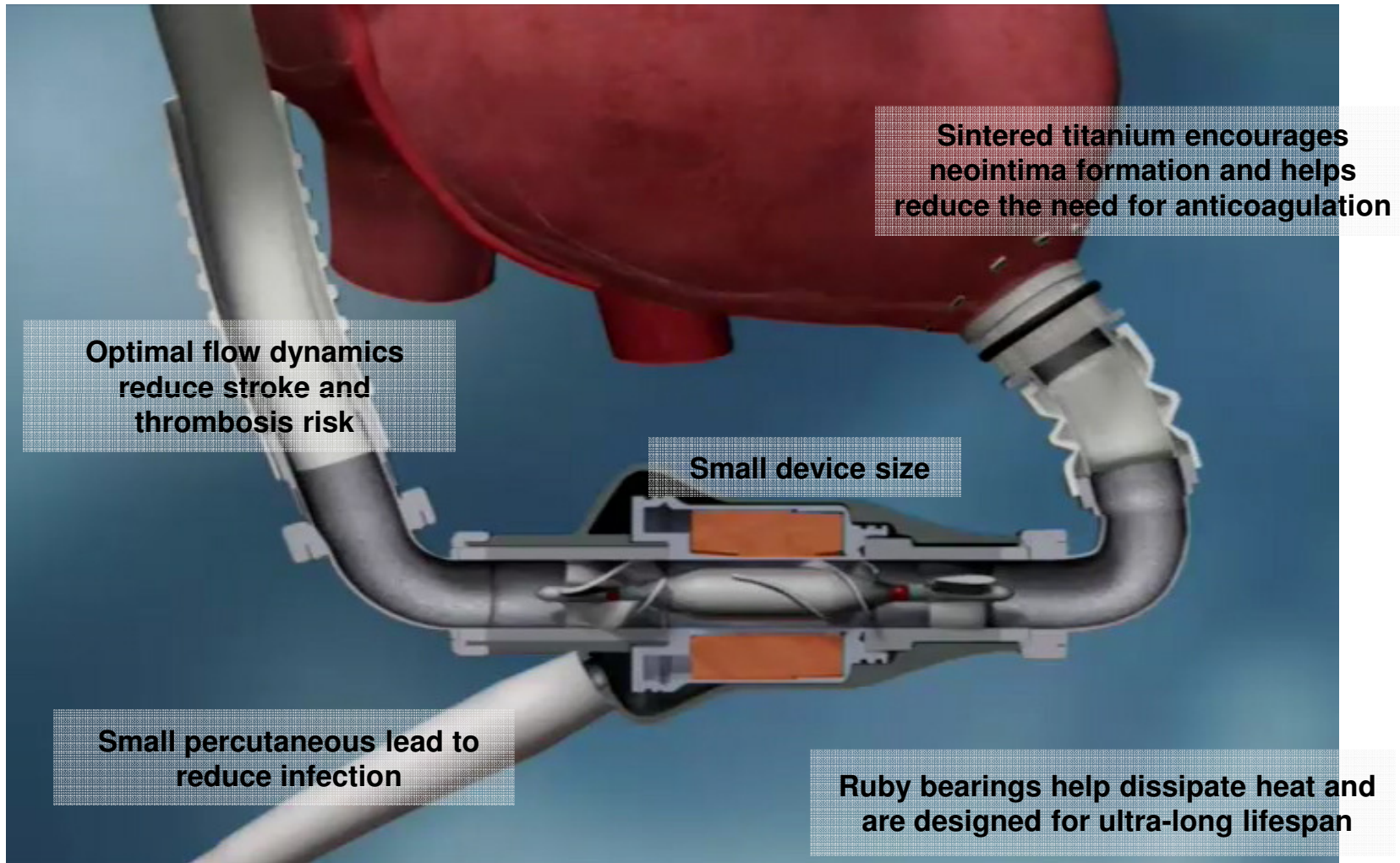
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Unexpected Abrupt Increase in Left Ventricular Assist Device Thrombosis

Randall C. Starling, M.D., M.P.H., Nader Moazami, M.D., Scott C. Silvestry, M.D., Gregory Ewald, M.D., Joseph G. Rogers, M.D., Carmelo A. Milano, M.D., J. Eduardo Rame, M.D., Michael A. Acker, M.D., Eugene H. Blackstone, M.D., John Ehrlinger, Ph.D., Lucy Thuita, M.S., Maria M. Mountis, D.O., Edward G. Soltesz, M.D., M.P.H., Bruce W. Lytle, M.D., and Nicholas G. Smedira, M.D.



# HeartMate II<sup>®</sup> — Designed To Minimize Adverse Events



# PUMP ROTOR and STATORS

**BLOOD FLOW**



**Outflow  
Stator**

**Outflow  
Bearings**

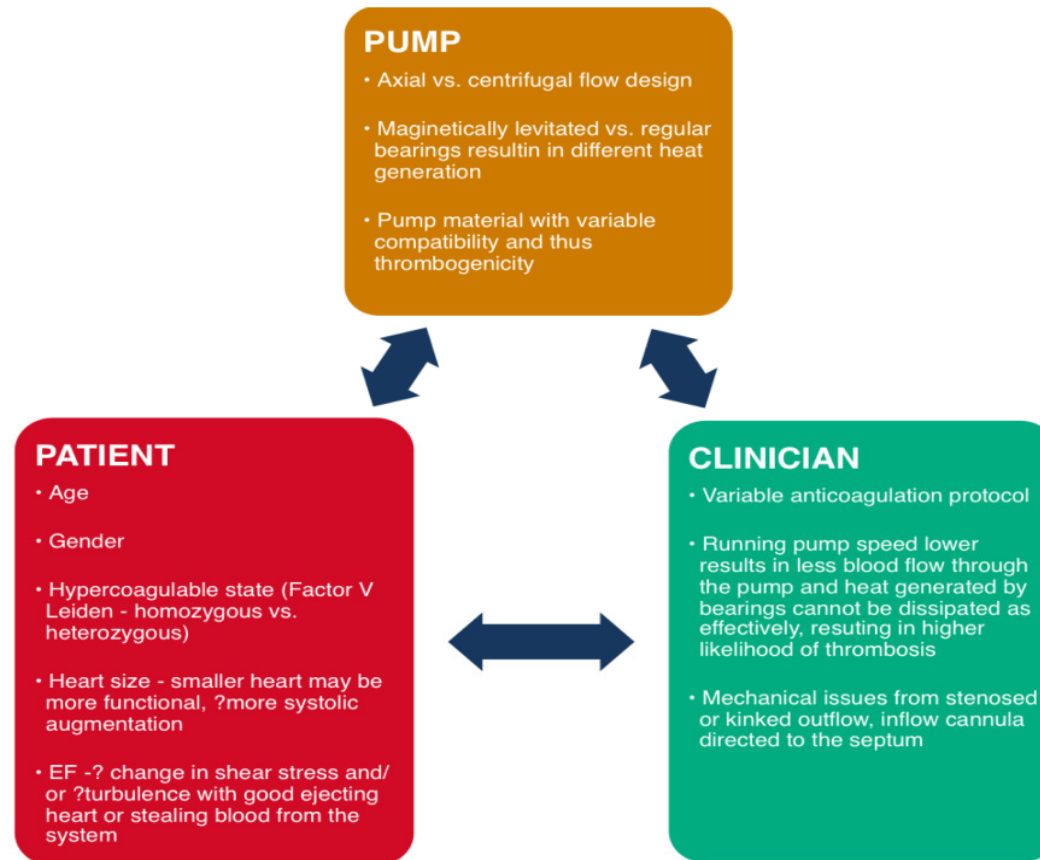
**Rotor**

**Inflow  
Bearings**

**Inflow  
Stator**

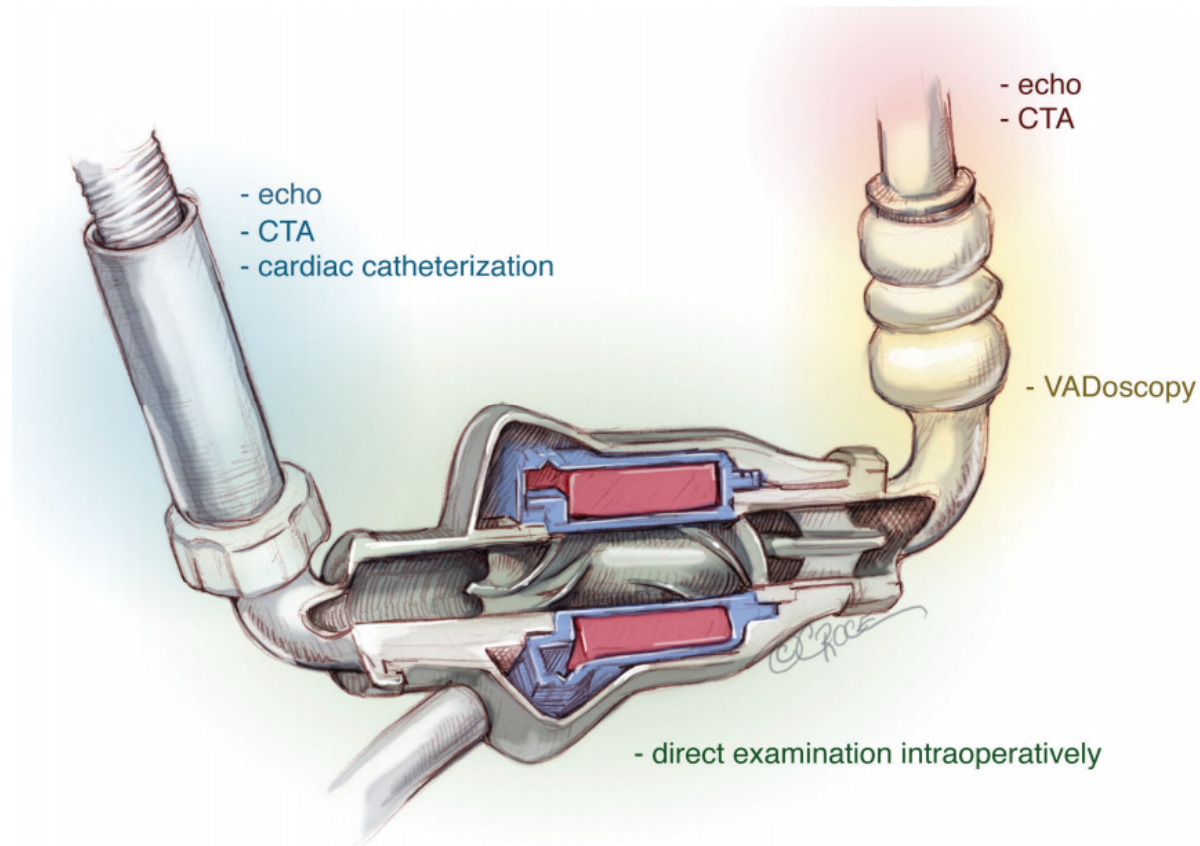


# PUMP THROMBOSIS



Factors causing thrombosis of continuous flow left ventricular assist devices (CF LVADs).

# Where is the thrombus



Diagnostic studies for localizing the affected area of the pump.

# Pump Thrombosis: Predisposing Factors

- Patient
  - Conditions that render patient to have thrombotic complications
    - CHF is a prothrombotic state
    - Atrial fibrillation
    - Pre-existent LV thrombus/trabeculation
    - Mechanical prosthesis
    - Infection
    - Malignancy

# Predisposing Factors: VAD related

- Device
  - Inherent to the technology
    - Heat generated by pump rotors
    - Outflow graft kink or compression
      - Disconnected graft protector with impingement (HM II)
      - Positional

# Predisposing Factors: Management

- Management (Medical & Surgical)
  - Implantation technique
    - Malposition of inflow cannula
  - Anticoagulation
  - Pump speed

# Management of pump thrombosis

## Pump Exchange

Avoids resternotomy morbidity  
 Direct access to pump  
 Groin cannulation or off pump  
 Reserved for pump thrombus limited to pump housing.  
 Shorter CPB, less bleeding  
 Shorter LOS

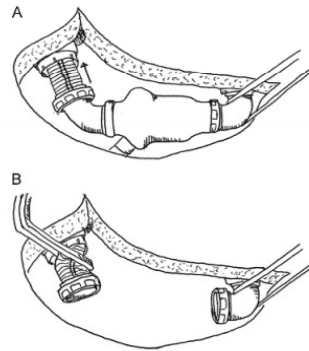


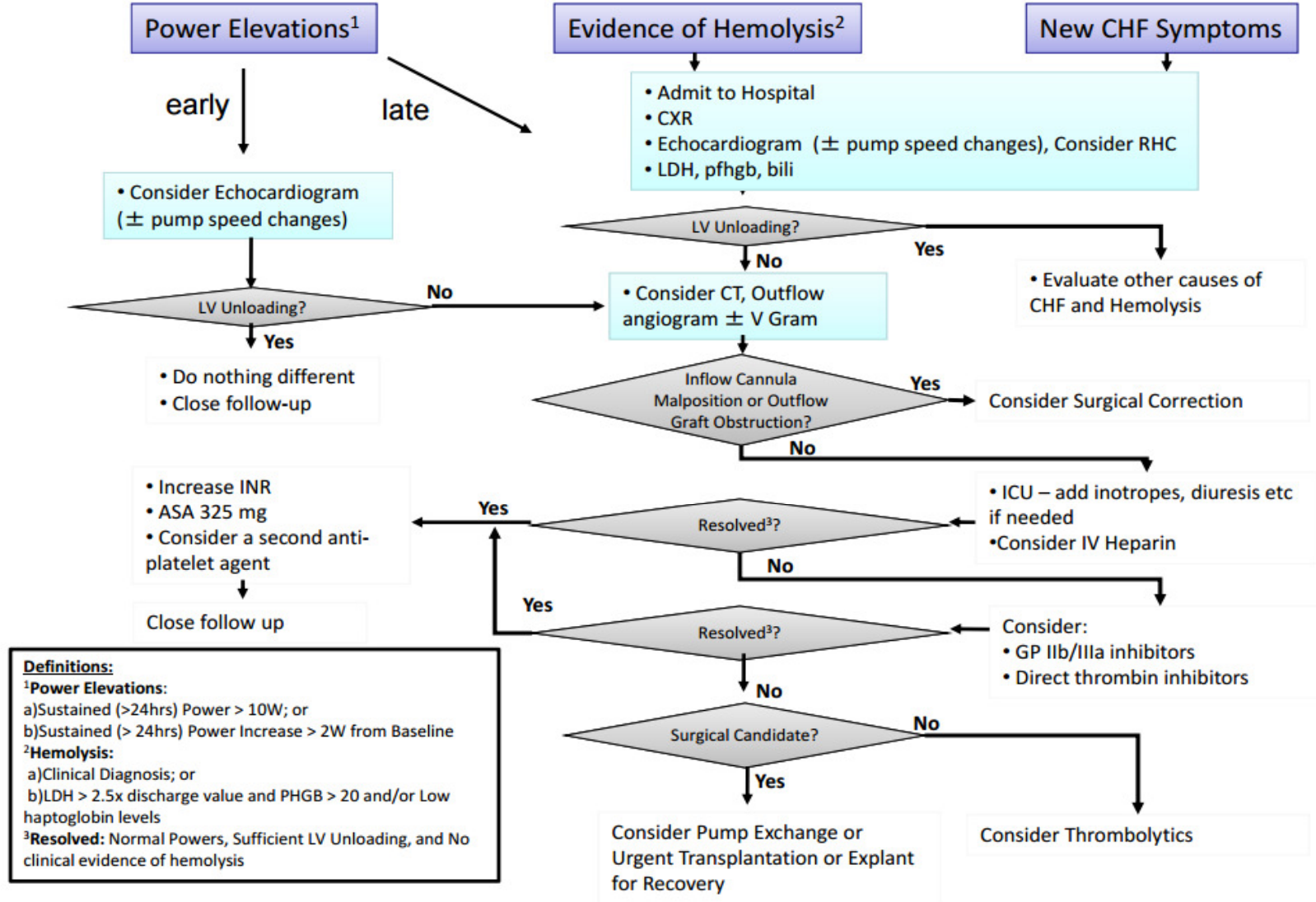
Figure from Ota et al JHLT 2014

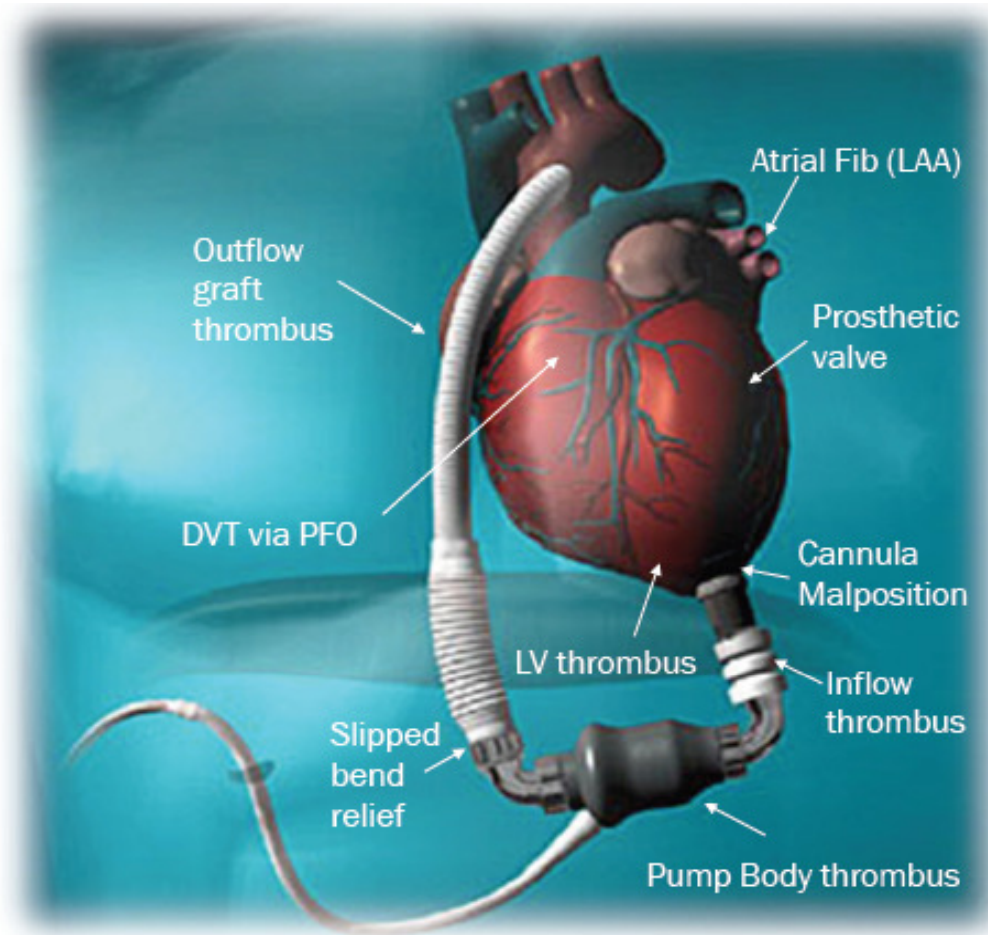
**Table 3** Operative approaches for VAD thrombosis

Operative approach	Procedures that can be performed
Subxiphoid	Pump exchange Vadoscopy Removal of thrombus from distal inflow and proximal outflow grafts
Subxiphoid with right anterior thoracotomy	Pump exchange Outflow graft repair/replacement
Subxiphoid with small left anterior thoracotomy	Pump exchange Inflow graft repair/replacement
Redo sternotomy	Pump exchange Re-coring cardiac apex and total VAD exchange

VAD, Ventricular assist device.

## Workgroup Proposed Management of Suspected Pump Thrombosis





**Figure 6** Sites of formation of pump thrombosis (PT). The thrombus may originate proximal to the inflow cannula and embolize to the pump, it can originate *de novo* on the pump itself, or it can originate in the outflow portion of the pump and extend proximally. The figure depicts the potential origins of PT.



# Thromboembolism

- Sub-optimal anticoagulation
- Presence of infection
- Pump design
- Revascularization of carotid and peripheral arterial disease
- Cerebrovascular is more common

# VT or VF

- **STABLE**

- Patient may “feel funny” “light headed” or “different”
- Pump speeds and flows are normal, low normal, or very low
- Consider cardioversion after consultation with Mechanical Assist Device Coordinator

- **UNSTABLE**

- Patient unresponsive
- Treat as unstable VT/VF

# LVAD PATIENT TRANSPORT

- Transport to LVAD center
- Spare batteries, PBU and the display module should be brought to the hospital with the patient
- All modes of emergency transportation are acceptable
- Aviation electronics will NOT interfere with LVAD and visa versa

# Echo evaluation

- Pericardial effusion +/- Tamponade
- Left ventricular failure secondary to incomplete emptying (? Non obstructive thrombus Vs Aortic insufficiency)
  - Increased mitral inflow peak E wave diastolic velocity
  - Increased E/A and E/e' ratio
  - Decreased deceleration time of mitral E velocity
  - Increased LA volume
  - Worsening MR
  - Elevated PA pressure

# Echo evaluation

- Right Ventricular Failure
  - Increased RA size or pressure
  - Decreased RV systolic function
  - Increased tricuspid regurgitation
  - Inter-atrial septum deviated to left atrium
  - Reduced RVOT VTI
  - Reduced spectral Doppler of LVAD inflow and outflow velocities
- Excessive LV unloading or inadequate LV filling
  - Decreased LV dimensions
  - Septal deviation to left ventricle

# Echo evaluation

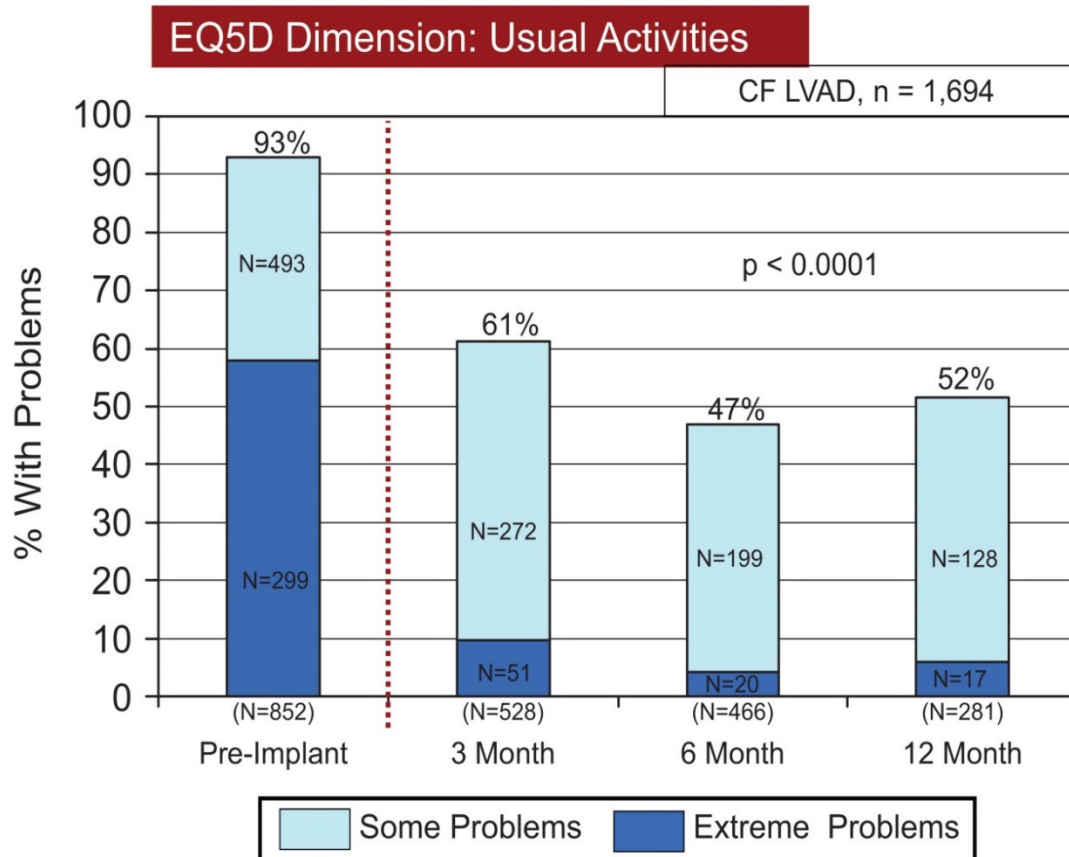
- LVAD suction or induced ventricular ectopy
  - Under filled LV
  - Mechanical impact with endocardium
- Aortic insufficiency
  - Systolic, diastolic or continuous
  - Regurgitant jet to LVOT outflow tract height ratio > 47%
  - Relative decreased RVOT Stroke volume
  - Increased LVEDD
- Intra-cardiac thrombus
  - RA or LA thrombus
  - LV apical or aortic root thrombus

# Echo evaluation

- Inflow Cannula obstruction, malposition
- Outflow Cannula Kinking or thrombosis

# ADLs of DT Patients

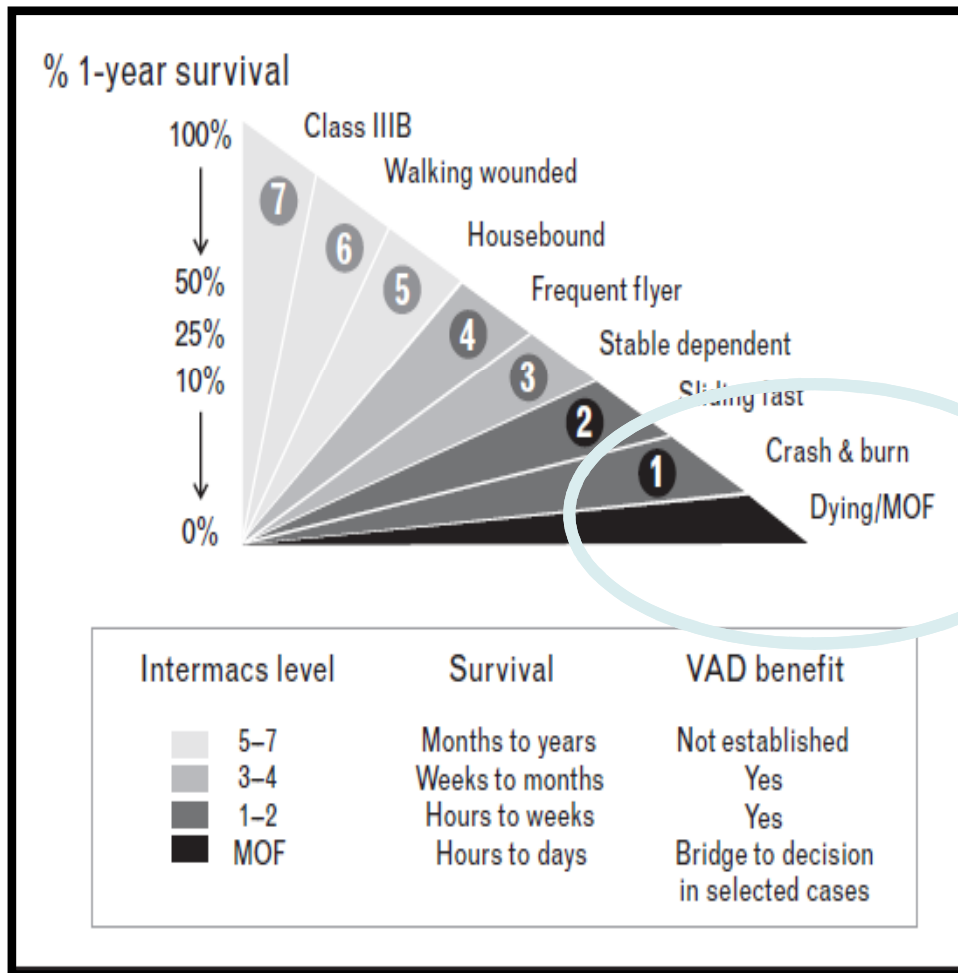
June 2006–June 2012: Destination Therapy



Kirkland, JK, et. al  
JHLT 2013; 32:141-156



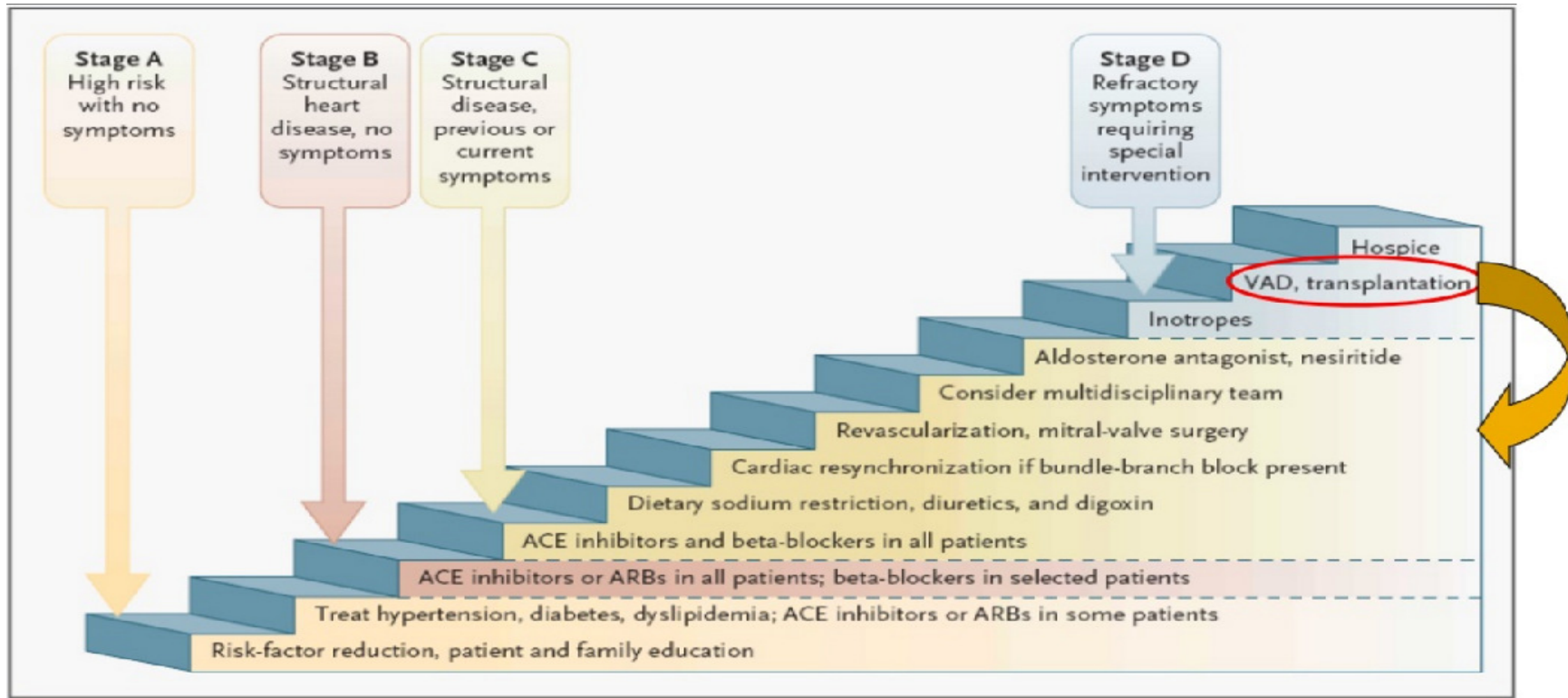
# Who does worse



- Shock Team Evaluation for mechanical circulatory support (MCS)
- Try to avoid the bridge to decision or the bridge to nowhere

# Critical Factors for Success

- Timing of referral
- Patient selection
- Implantation techniques
- Post-op management
- Experienced patient care teams
- Knowledge of continuous flow physiology
- Outpatient management



Jessup M, Brozena S. *N Engl J Med* 2003;348:2007-18.

# Emergencies

- LVAD patients are EXTREMELY stable
- Until
  - Device Failure
    - Not common, but can be catastrophic.
  - Disruption of Inflow or Outflow graft
    - Patient fall
    - Chest compressions

# Warnings & Restrictions

- No excessive jumping or contact sports
- No exposure to MRI
- Avoid static discharge
- No immersion in water
- No external chest compressions
- No pregnancy

# Staff Education

- Comprehensive training of staff regarding:
  - Indications
  - Anatomy
  - Pump function
  - Troubleshooting
  - Infection control
  - Alarm resolution
  - Emergencies
  - “Train the Trainer” sessions

# LVAD Patient Assessment

- Airway, Breathing, Circulation
- Assess pump function
- Vital signs
- Pump rate, Flow, PI and power
- Mental status, level of consciousness
- Driveline connection to System Controller and exit site wound

# Keys to Success

- Appropriate patient selection
- “Right-time” implant
- Improve quality
  - Fewer total days, ICU days, drug, and complications
  - Minimize re-hospitalizations for HF, GI bleeding, thrombosis
  - Minimize pump exchanges



# Fully Magnetically Levitated Left Ventricular Assist System

HeartMate III

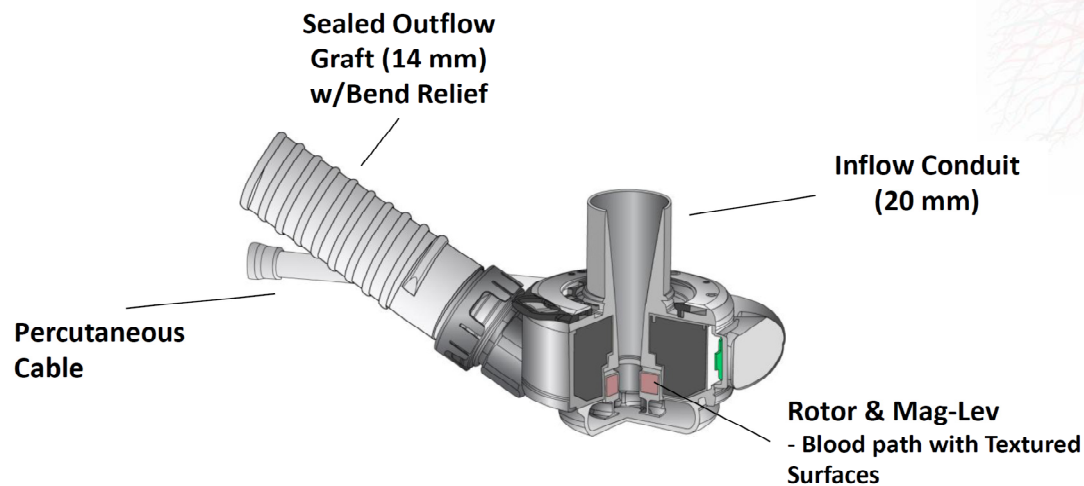


Three important feature design:

- 1) True magnetic levitation
- 2) Artificial pulse
- 3) Internal sintering with textured titanium microsphere to allow for a biocompatible surface

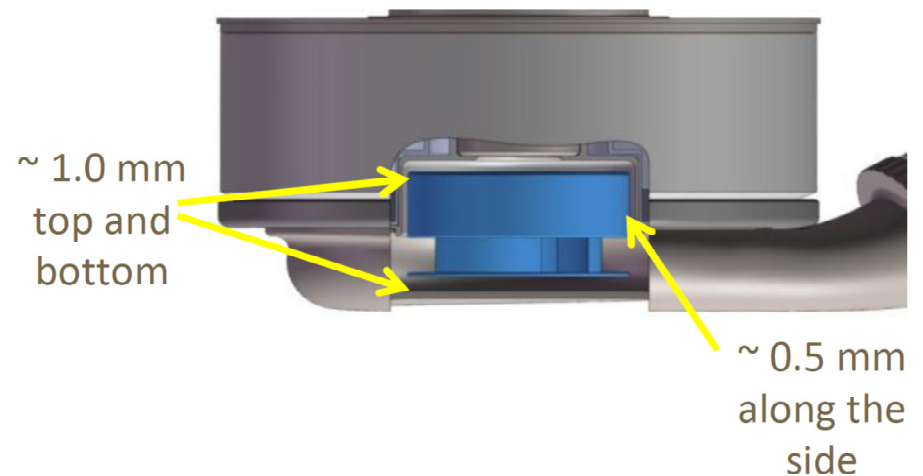
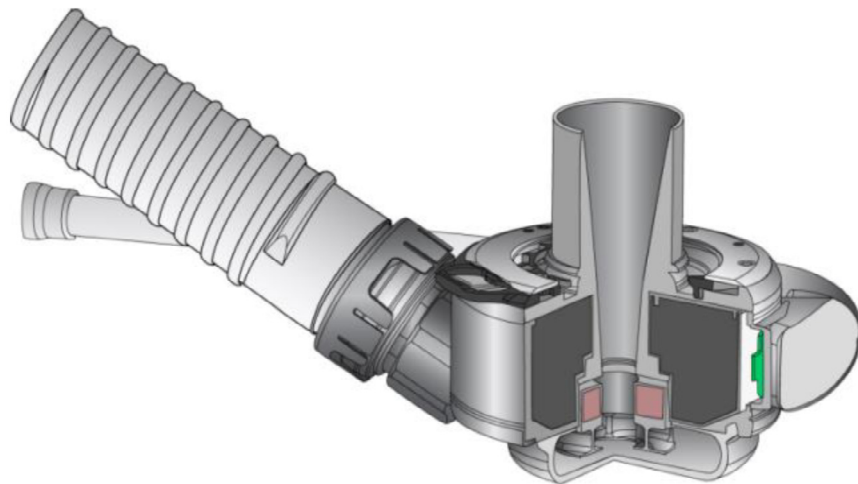
# Fully Magnetically Levitated Left Ventricular Assist System

## HeartMate III Blood Pump



# Fully Magnetically Levitated Left Ventricular Assist System

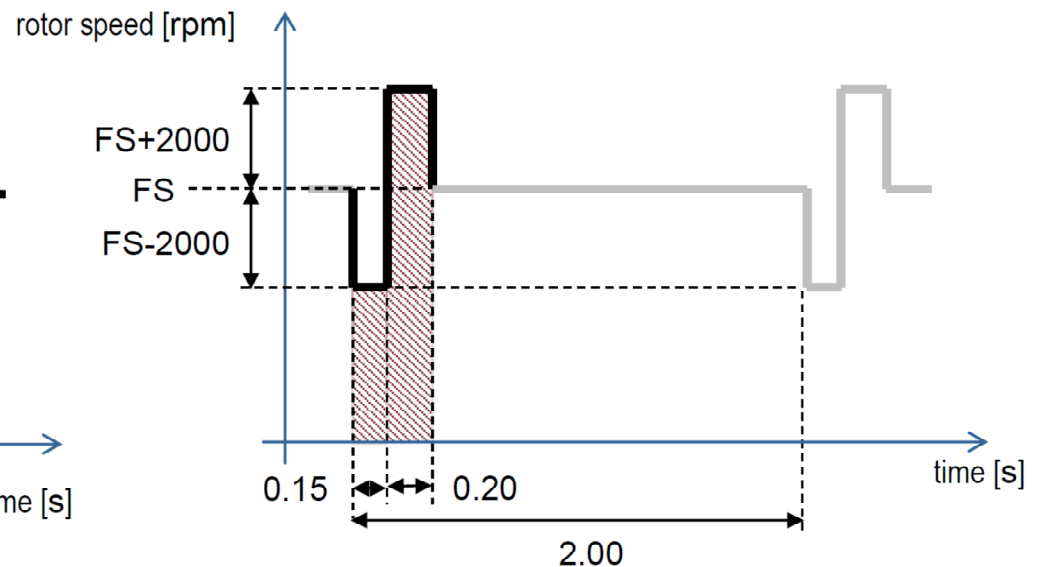
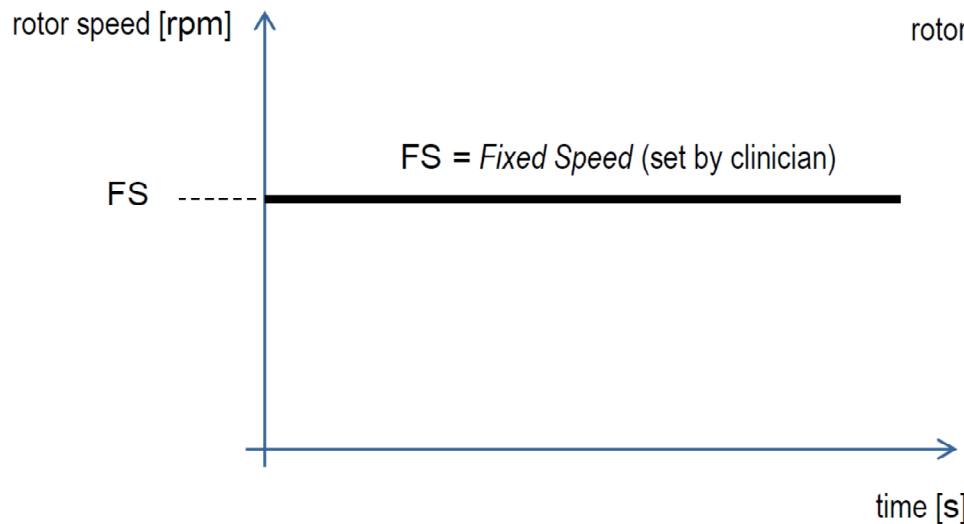
- HeartMate III secondary flow paths are  $\sim 0.5$  mm along the side, and  $\sim 1.0$  mm pump above and below the rotor.
- HeartMate III pump surfaces are flat and flow is undisturbed.
- Provides 2-10 lpm



# Fully Magnetically Levitated Left Ventricular Assist System

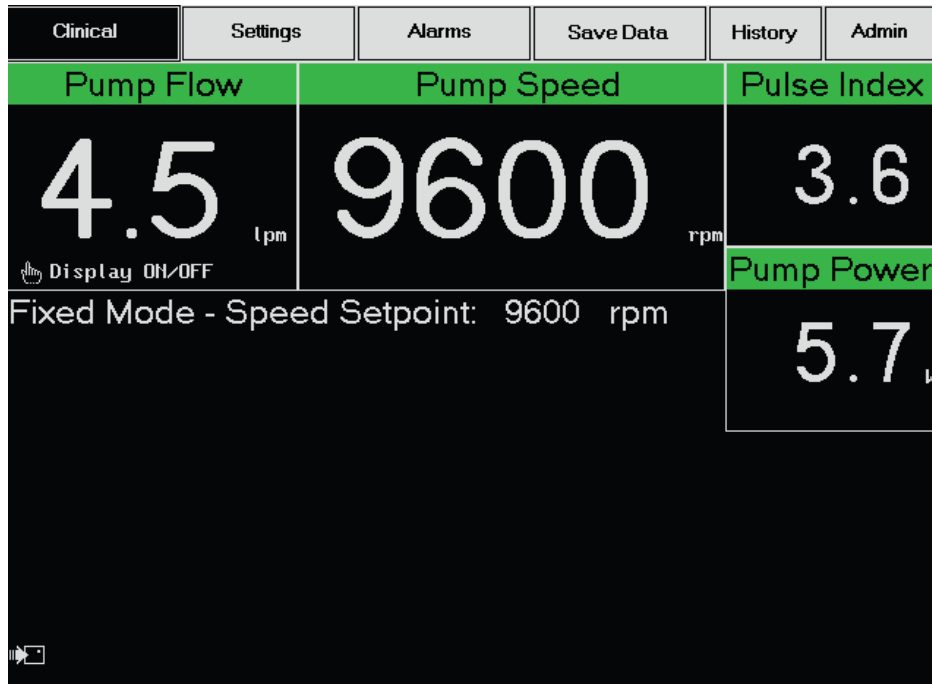
## Artificial Pulse Overview

Augmenting the pulsatility – might benefit in AI/ bleeding/ thrombogenesis

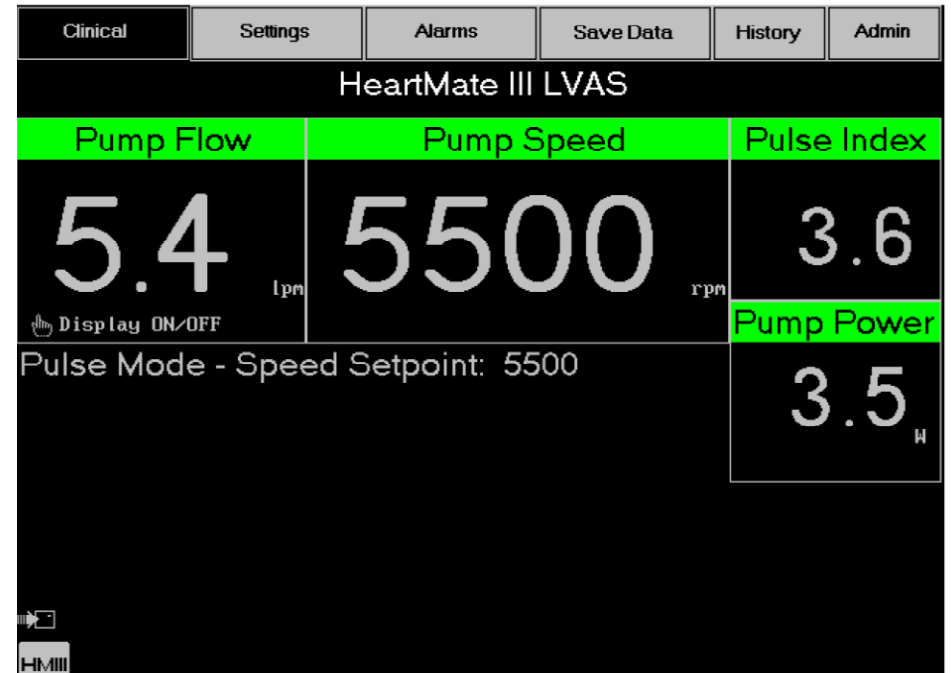


# System Monitor – Clinical Screen

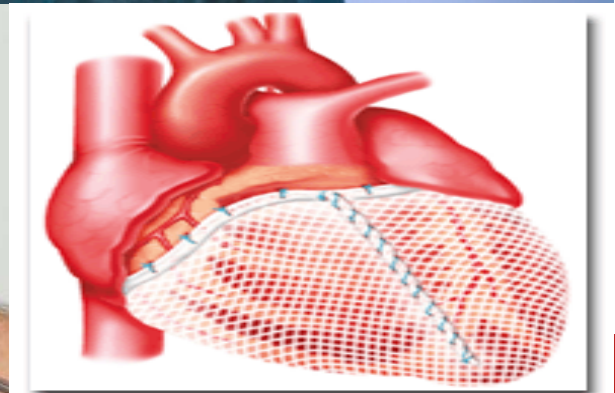
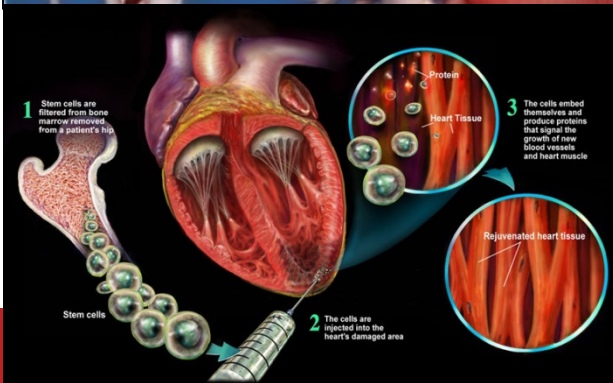
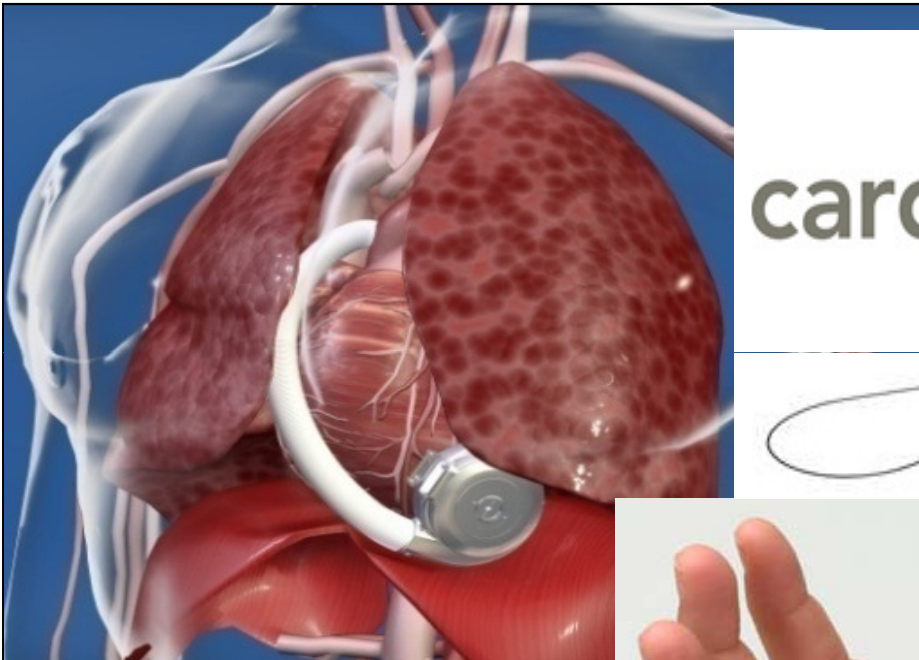
## Heart Mate II



## Heart Mate III



# We do have more gadgets

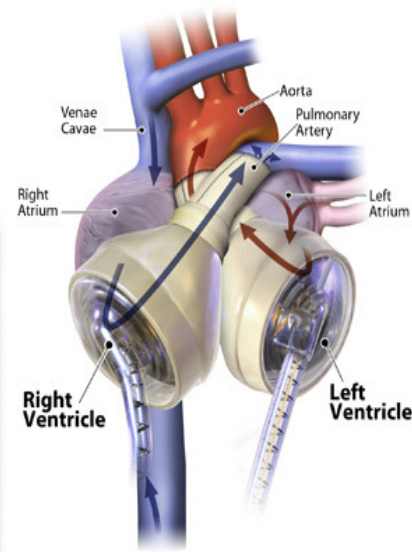
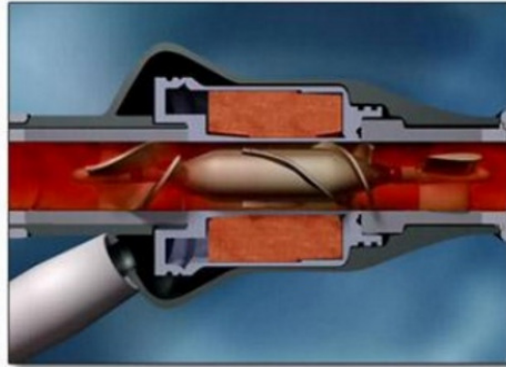


# Pulsatile vs Continuous Flow LVADs Long Term LV Support

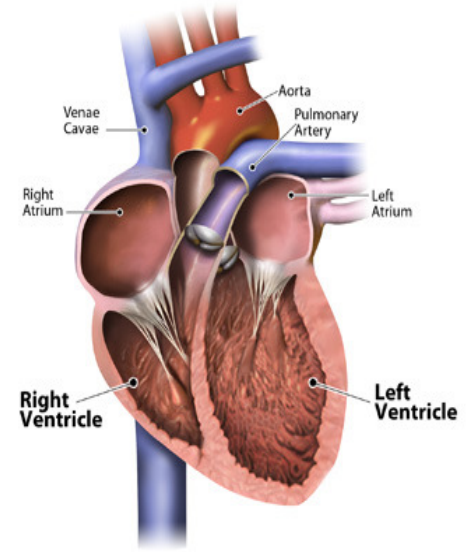
Pulsatile / Volume Displacement



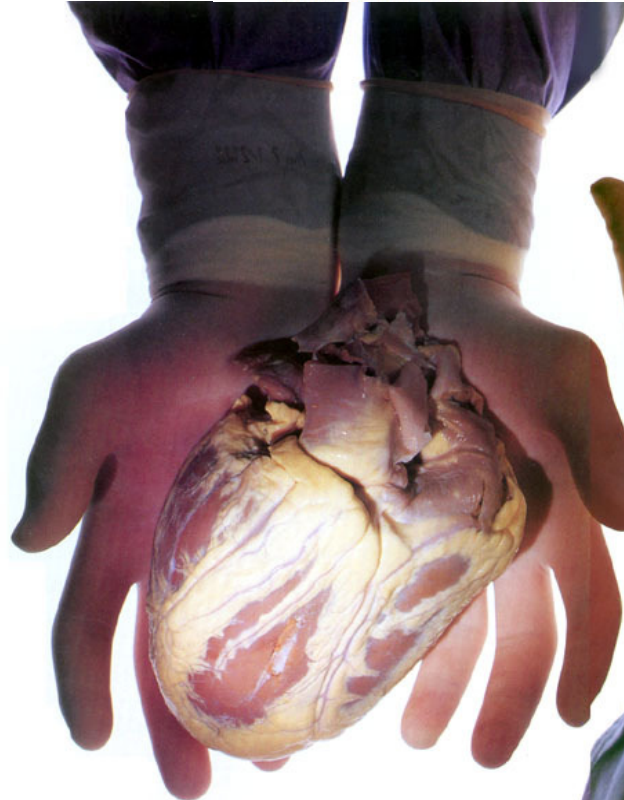
Continuous / Rotary



Total Artificial Heart



Human Heart





Oklahoma Heart Institute

Thank you!