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The patient

perspective: Quality of life in advanced heart failure with frequent hospitalisations (Review) (Open Access)

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Abstract

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End of life is an unfortunate but inevitable phase of the heart failure patients' journey. It is often preceded by a stage in the progression of heart failure defined as advanced heart failure, and characterised by poor quality of life and frequent hospitalisations. In clinical practice, the efficacy of treatments for advanced heart failure is often assessed by parameters such as clinical status, haemodynamics, neurohormonal status, and echo/MRI indices. From the patients' perspective, however, quality-of-life-related parameters, such as functional capacity, exercise performance, psychological status, and frequency of re-hospitalisations, are more significant. The effects of therapies and interventions on these parameters are, however, underrepresented in clinical trials targeted to assess advanced heart failure treatment efficacy, and data are overall scarce. This is possibly due to a non-universal definition of the quality-of-life-related endpoints, and to the difficult standardisation of the data collection. These uncertainties also lead to difficulties in handling trade-off decisions between quality of life and survival by patients, families and healthcare providers. A panel of 34 experts in the field of cardiology and intensive cardiac care from 21 countries around the world convened for reviewing the existing data on quality-of-life in patients with advanced heart failure, discussing and reaching a consensus on the validity and significance of quality-of-life assessment methods. Gaps in routine care and research, which should be addressed, were identified. Finally, published data on the effects of current i.v. vasoactive therapies such as inotropes, inodilators, and vasodilators on quality-of-life in advanced heart failure patients were analysed. © 2015 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ireland Ltd.

SciVal Topic Prominence

Topic: [Heart Failure](#) | [Pyridazines](#) | [output syndrome](#)

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Author keywords

Advanced heart failure Levosimendan Nesiritide Nitroprusside Quality of life Trade-off

Indexed keywords

EMTREE drug terms:

atrial natriuretic factor alpha dobutamine levosimendan milrinone nesiritide
nitroprusside sodium serelaxin urodilatin

EMTREE medical terms:

cardiac resynchronization therapy health care quality health program heart failure
hospital readmission human priority journal quality of life
quality of life assessment Review survival telemonitoring terminal care training
disease course heart failure hospitalization mortality psychology quality of life
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MeSH:

Disease Progression Heart Failure Hospitalization Humans Quality of Life
Survival Rate Treatment Outcome

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atrial natriuretic factor alpha, 89213-87-6; dobutamine, 34368-04-2, 52663-81-7, 49745-95-1, 61661-06-1; levosimendan, 141505-33-1; milrinone, 78415-72-2; nesiritide, 124584-08-3, 189032-40-4; nitroprusside sodium, 14402-89-2, 15078-28-1; serelaxin, 99489-94-8; urodilatin, 115966-23-9

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