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Gender differences in the risk of stroke during support with continuous flow left ventricular assist device

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Gender differences in the risk of stroke during support with continuous flow left ventricular assist

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Short Title: Gender and stroke risk in LVAD patients nanuscrite

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Background: There is increasing recognition that the risk of stroke after left ventricular assist device (LVAD) varies based on gender, with a higher risk in female patients. We reviewed our own data to determine gender differences in the risk of stroke.

Methods: Frequency of stroke, including intracranial hemorrhage and ischemic stroke, was retrospectively evaluated in 110 heart failure patients (mean age 49.6±13.6 years, 32% women) discharged from the hospital after implantation of a HeartMate II (N=74) or HeartWare (N=36) LVAD. Competing outcomes analysis was used to determine which clinical risk factors were associated with the risk of stroke and death, with the primary endpoint being time to first stroke event. Results: During a median follow-up of 1.3 years, 26 patients suffered a stroke (23.6%, 0.14 cases per person-year). The median time to first stroke was 0.7 (interguartile range 0.3-1.4) years. After adjusting for covariates, risk of stroke was higher for women than for men

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