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MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT AND HEART TRANSPLANTATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

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ABSTRACT

Globalization has resulted in epidemiological transition in developing countries from infectious disease and nutritional deficiencies to non-communicable diseases. Epidemiologic data on heart failure, particularly advanced heart failure therapy in Asia are increasingly becoming available, although remain sparse.

Heart transplantation for advanced stage heart failure remains very low in Asia. It works out to be about 0.075 heart transplants per million population. North America which hosts 7.5% of world population reported 55.8% of the transplants recorded in the 2012 ISHLT Registry whereas Asia with 62.5% of world population contributed to 5.7% of the transplants. There is also lack of reporting from heart transplant centres in Asia to the ISHLT Registry. Most transplant programs in Asia are in economically stable South East Asian countries while in other parts of developing countries, the cost and healthcare infrastructures remains prohibitive for the development of these programs. Multi-cultural, racial, religious beliefs and diverse traditions of many centuries have resulted in reluctance in organ donation.

Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) is emerging as a viable alternative to transplantation but limitations in embracing this concept in Asia exist, despite technical capabilities.

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