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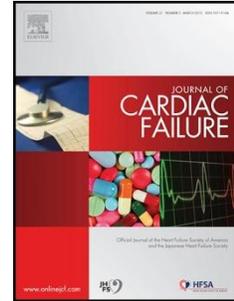
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The Mechanical Revolution

“The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them”. -Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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Following early ventricular assist device (VAD) innovation in the 1960s, accelerated machine design led to the development of durable, long term, implantable VADs that have dramatically improved survival, functional status and quality of life for patients facing end stage heart failure (HF). These changes and wide acceptance of VAD use has led to what can now be aptly termed a mechanical revolution- marking a turning point in the treatment of patients with HF and representing the most rapidly changing aspect of our field. As a consequence, imminent death is no longer inevitable for patients who are ineligible for or too sick to survive until heart transplantation.

We have also witnessed a transition in definitions: incorporation of VADs into practice takes on different meanings for physicians at various stages of their careers. From my perspective, the rapid development of VAD technology applied in the clinical setting levels the playing field as junior colleagues learn alongside rather than from their mentors; this is in direct

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