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European Heart Journal: Acute Cardiovascular Care  
Christiaan Vrints, MD, Editor-in-Chief  
Antwerp University Hospital, Antwerp, Belgium.

Dear Dr. Vrints,

Please find attached our manuscript titled “Optimal timing of same-admission orthotopic heart transplantation after left ventricular assist device (LVAD) implantation.” We appreciate this opportunity to have the editorial staff at the European Heart Journal: Acute Cardiovascular Care review this manuscript, and hope you will find it acceptable for publication.

# There currently exists limited evidence regarding the optimal timing of cardiac transplant after LVAD implantation. In determining the optimal time for cardiac transplant after LVAD implantation, the need for clinical stability and time to recover from major surgery is balanced by the risk of LVAD complications, risk of infections, and post-surgical inflammation and scarring. As such, there is significant institutional variation in the timing of cardiac transplant after an LVAD implant. In this manuscript, we use a large national American database to characterize outcomes based on how much time elapsed between LVAD implantation and cardiac transplant. Importantly, we find that early cardiac transplant (less than 8 days after LVAD implantation) is associated with significantly increased in-hospital mortality.

# We believe our manuscript is of particular importance as it answers a clinically relevant question with a large sample size from a large national database. Such a question would be difficult to answer with single or even multi-center institutional cohorts, and our finding could have a significant impact on the prioritization of donor hearts. The findings of this manuscript were accepted and presented in poster form at the American College of Cardiology’s 65th Annual Scientific Session and Expo.

Thank you for your consideration. This manuscript represents original work and is not currently under review for publication elsewhere. All authors listed have met the criteria for authorship and will sign a statement to attest authorship, disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and release copyright should the manuscript be accepted for publication.

Sincerely,

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