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The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation  
Mandeep R. Mehra, MD, Editor-in-Chief

Dear Dr. Mehra,

Please find attached our manuscript titled “**Incidence of Acute Circulatory Support Prior to Heart Transplantation and Post-Transplant Outcomes**.” We appreciate this opportunity to have the editorial staff at the of Heart and Lung Transplantation review this manuscript, and hope you will find it acceptable for publication.

# There currently exists limited evidence regarding the prevalence and outcomes of acute circulatory support prior to heart transplantation. Recent suggested changes to the UNOS heart transplantation allocation protocol will further prioritize patients, and we believe it is important to further clarify historical and contemporary outcomes for these patients. Looking at a large national database between 1998 and 2014, we identified patients who received acute circulatory support prior to heart transplantation. We found that while historically there was a significant delta between mortality in patients who received acute circulatory support prior to transplant to patients who did not require circulatory support prior to transplant, in the contemporary era (after 2006) there was no significant difference in 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 presented in poster form at the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation 37th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions. Upon acceptance of the abstract, it was recommended that any future manuscript be "fast tracked" for expedited review and publication, and we eagerly appreciate your review.

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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