



The first experience of Inclisiran treatment after heart transplantation

Maria Simonenko, Petr Fedotov, Asiat Alieva, Maria Sitnikova, Mikhail Karpenko
V.A. Almazov National Medical Research Centre, St. Petersburg, Russia

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Aknowledgements:

Denis V. Gogolev (First I.P. Pavlov St. Petersburg State Medical University, Russian Federation),
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dr.maria.simonenko@gmail.com , simonenko_ma@almazovcentre.ru

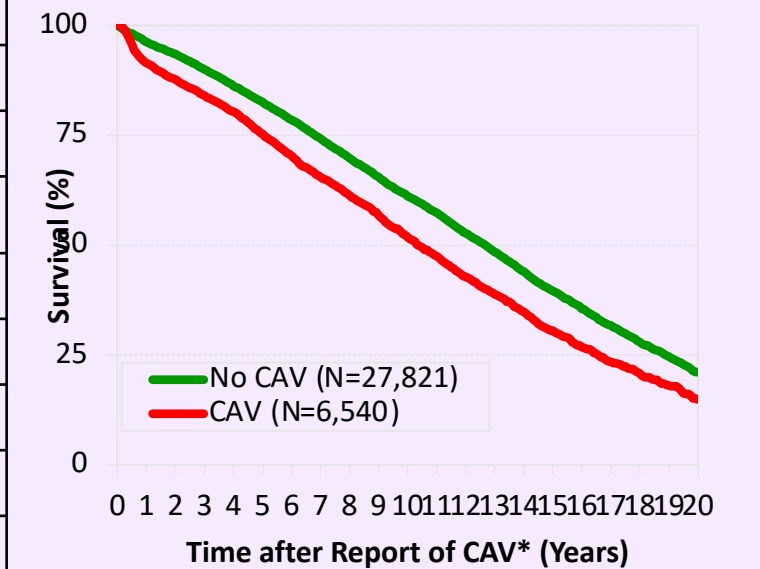
Causes of death after adult heart transplantation

Cause of Death

(Deaths: January 1995 – June 2018)

Cause of Death	0-30 Days (N=6,871)	31 Days - 1 Year (N=5,980)	>1-3 Years (N=4,211)	>3-5 Years (N=3,630)	>5-10 Years (N=9,441)	>10-15 Years (N=7,108)	>15 Years (N=5,695)
Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy	83 (1.2%)	190 (3.2%)	456 (10.8%)	449 (12.4%)	1,153 (12.2%)	859 (12.1%)	598 (10.5%)
Acute Rejection	268 (3.9%)	474 (7.9%)	412 (9.8%)	171 (4.7%)	176 (1.9%)	67 (0.9%)	29 (0.5%)
PTLD	2 (0.0%)	57 (1.0%)	94 (2.2%)	105 (2.9%)	305 (3.2%)	189 (2.7%)	121 (2.1%)
Malignancy (non-PTLD)	4 (0.1%)	137 (2.3%)	517 (12.3%)	712 (19.6%)	2,081 (22.0%)	1,525 (21.5%)	1,103 (19.4%)
CMV	3 (0.0%)	51 (0.9%)	19 (0.5%)	5 (0.1%)	8 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	2 (0.0%)
Infection, Non-CMV	958 (13.9%)	1,904 (31.8%)	561 (13.3%)	394 (10.9%)	1,023 (10.8%)	788 (11.1%)	702 (12.3%)
Graft Failure	2,716 (39.5%)	1,052 (17.6%)	1,112 (26.4%)	884 (24.4%)	1,838 (19.5%)	1,231 (17.3%)	944 (16.6%)
Technical	494 (7.2%)	94 (1.6%)	30 (0.7%)	28 (0.8%)	93 (1.0%)	85 (1.2%)	73 (1.3%)
Multiple Organ Failure	1,274 (18.5%)	1,006 (16.8%)	268 (6.4%)	209 (5.8%)	650 (6.9%)	599 (8.4%)	530 (9.3%)
Renal Failure	32 (0.5%)	53 (0.9%)	56 (1.3%)	113 (3.1%)	512 (5.4%)	569 (8.0%)	562 (9.9%)
Pulmonary	183 (2.7%)	235 (3.9%)	179 (4.3%)	163 (4.5%)	445 (4.7%)	336 (4.7%)	292 (5.1%)
Cerebrovascular	538 (7.8%)	332 (5.6%)	158 (3.8%)	119 (3.3%)	446 (4.7%)	387 (5.4%)	319 (5.6%)
Other	316 (4.6%)	395 (6.6%)	349 (8.3%)	278 (7.7%)	711 (7.5%)	467 (6.6%)	420 (7.4%)
Total Deaths (N)	7,759	6,912	5,223	4,607	12,586	10,268	8,531

Survival After Report of CAV Within 3 Years of HTx and Survival In Patients Without CAV*



REVIEW ARTICLE

Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy
Advances in Diagnosis

Guillem Cusi, MD, Dima Chahar, C. Rodriguez, MD, Alexander Bartholomew, MD, Kenneth Fujita, MD, and Michael M. Gorman, MD

Abstract
Cardiac allograft vasculopathy (CAV) is the leading cause of late mortality after heart transplantation. It is characterized by intimal hyperplasia of the coronary arteries, leading to progressive narrowing and eventually complete occlusion of the vessel lumen. The pathogenesis of CAV is multifactorial, involving both immunologic and non-immunologic factors. This review discusses the current understanding of the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management of CAV.

Importance of Early Diagnosis
The diagnosis of CAV is challenging because of the asymptomatic nature of the disease. Early CAV is often detected incidentally during routine surveillance echocardiography. However, late-stage CAV is typically diagnosed when patients present with symptoms of heart failure or sudden cardiac death. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to improve outcomes.

Diagnosis of CAV
The diagnosis of CAV is based on a combination of clinical, imaging, and histopathological findings. Clinical findings include symptoms of heart failure, exercise intolerance, and chest pain. Imaging studies such as echocardiography, cardiac MRI, and coronary CT angiography can detect CAV. Histopathological confirmation is obtained through endomyocardial biopsy.

Management
The management of CAV is primarily medical, focusing on the use of immunosuppressive agents to reduce the risk of rejection and the progression of CAV. Treatment options include calcineurin inhibitors, mTOR inhibitors, and sirolimus. In some cases, retransplantation may be necessary.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Late graft failure in heart transplant recipients: incidence, risk factors and clinical outcomes

Angela López-Sainza, Eduardo Barga-Caballero*, Gonzalo Barga-Caballero*, David Couso-Mallón*, María J. Panagou-Martin*, Leticia Seoane-Quiroga*, Carmen Iglesias-Gil*, José M. Herrera-Noreña*, José J. Cuenca-Castillo*, José M. Vázquez-Rodríguez*, and María C. Crespo-Leiro*

Abstract
Late graft failure (LGF) is a major cause of mortality in heart transplant recipients. This study aims to determine the incidence, risk factors, and clinical outcomes of LGF. The study included 1,000 heart transplant recipients who were followed up for a median of 10 years. The incidence of LGF was 15% at 10 years. Risk factors for LGF included older age at transplantation, longer ischemic time, and higher levels of immunosuppression. Clinical outcomes were significantly worse in patients with LGF compared to those without LGF.

Introduction
Heart transplantation is the most effective treatment for end-stage heart failure. However, long-term survival remains limited due to various causes of graft failure. Late graft failure (LGF) is a particularly concerning complication that occurs years after transplantation. Understanding the incidence and risk factors of LGF is essential for improving patient outcomes.

Conclusion
LGF is a significant cause of mortality in heart transplant recipients. The incidence of LGF increases over time, and it is associated with several risk factors. Early identification and management of LGF are crucial to improve clinical outcomes.

ISHLT
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HEART AND LUNG TRANSPLANTATION

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Percentages represent % of deaths in the respective time period. Total number of deaths includes deaths with unknown causes.

Background

After heart transplantation (HTx) patients are at very high risk for developing cardiovascular diseases. Post-transplant management includes the initiation of lipid-lowering therapy (LLT) in all heart recipients.

Immune and non-immune risk factors for cardiac allograft vasculopathy

Age and sex of donor	Age and sex of recipient	Dyslipidaemia
Hypertension	Hyperhomocysteinemia	Diabetes
Allograft rejection	CMV	Histocompatibility

The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)
Guidelines for the Care of Heart Transplant Recipients

Endorsed by the Pediatric Heart Transplant Society

Co-Chairs
Angela Velleca MHDS, RN,^{1*} Michael A Shullo PharmD^{2*}

Objective: to analyze results of Inclisiran management in recipients after HTx.

Materials and methods

- From January 2010 to February 2024 HTx was performed in 244 patients, 13 of them were children (10-16-year-old).
- Early after HTx statins were prescribed in all of them.
- In long-term follow-up due not effectiveness statins were up-titrated (Atorvastatin, $\leq 20\text{mg}$) and other LLT was added: Fenofibrate (145mg; n=55), Ezetimibe (10mg; n=23) and Alirocumab (75mg; n=5).
- From May 2023 to February 2024 indications for Inclisiran treatment have been determined in 4 recipients. We estimated their clinical characteristics and outcomes of Inclisiran management.

The use of Inclisiran after heart transplantation

No	Causes of heart failure	Age, year-old	Sex	Years after HTx when Inclisiran therapy was initiated	Immunosuppression	Dislipidaemia prior to HTx	LLT prior to Inclisiran management	Number of Inclisiran injections	Renal or liver dysfunction
1	Ischaemic heart disease + After HTx: generalized atherosclerosis	65	Male	12 years	Tacrolimus, Everolimus	+	Atorvastatin 20 mg + Ezetimib 10 mg. Fenofibrate 145 mg was discontinued due to CKD. Later Omega-3 fatty acids were prescribed.	4	CKD C4 CFR < 30 ml/min/1,73m ²
2	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	51	Male	10 months	Tacrolimus, Everolimus, Steroids	-	Atorvastatin 20 mg Later Omega-3 fatty acids were prescribed.	3	CKD C5 CFR < 30 ml/min/1,73m ² ; October 2022 – October 2023 – renal replacement therapy
3 * *	Non-compact myocardium, radiation-induced heart disease	40	Female	8 months	Tacrolimus, Mycophenolic acid, Steroids	-	-	3	CKD C4 CFR < 30 ml/min/1,73m ² ; Toxic hepatitis developed 3 months after HTx
4	Ischaemic heart disease + After HTx: generalized atherosclerosis	65	Female	9 years	Tacrolimus, Everolimus	+	Atorvastatin 20 mg + Ezetimib 10 mg	3	CKD C4 CFR < 30 ml/min/1,73m ² ;

There were no adverse events in analyzed patients. Serum levels of Tacrolimus and Everolimus, C-reactive protein and creatinine did not change after injections.

Risk factors and lipid profile

Patient	№6	№199	№211	№39
Risk factors of post-transplant CVD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IHD, CABG prior to HTx - Hypertension - Age - Male - Dyslipidaemia - 1 peisode of 2R/3A (<1 year after HTx) - Smoking prior to HTx and after - Overweight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coronary artery stent implantation prior to HTx - BCA atherosclerosis prior to HTx - MI due to thromobosis on the 2nd day after HTx - Smoking prior to HTx - Hyperhomocysteinemia - Dyslipidaemia after HTx - Male - Age - Hypertension - Overweight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HTx - High immunological risk, high risk of allograft rejection and CAV development - Drug-induced dyslipidaemia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IHD, CABG prior to HTx - Hypertension - Age - Dyslipidaemia - Smoking prior to HTx
Lipid profile prior to Inclisiran injection and 6 months after 1st injection				
Total cholesterol	7.54 → 3.82 mmol/l	8.29 → 3.82 mmol/l	4.41 → 2.95 mmol/l	4.74 → 3.88 mmol/l
Triglycerides	7.92 → 3.07 mmol/l	3.5 → 3.07 mmol/l	0.78 → 1.41 mmol/l	2.57 → 1.90 mmol/l
Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol	3.62 → 1.53 mmol/l	5.58 → 1.53 mmol/l	2.53 → 0.93 mmol/l	2.63 → 1.84 mmol/l

Conclusion

- ❑ While initiation of LLT is obligatory to all heart recipients, decision on up-titration of it should be based on their lipid profile.
- ❑ Inclisiran is safe and effective lipid-lowering medication for transplant recipients.
- ❑ Limitations to up-titration of oral LLT is an indication to prescribe Inclisiran injections in transplant patients.