

Factors in Patient Referral for Ventricular Assist Device

Indications

- ⇒ Inability to maintain hemodynamic stability on maximum medical therapy
- ⇒ End-organ dysfunction
- ⇒ Diminishing quality of life
- ⇒ Increasing frequency of hospitalizations for exacerbation of HF symptoms
- ⇒ Post Cardiectomy
- ⇒ Acute MI - Cardiogenic Shock
- ⇒ Chronic heart failure with decompensation
- ⇒ Myocarditis

Patient Selection

- ⇒ Class III - IV heart failure symptoms
- ⇒ PCWP > 20 mmHg
- ⇒ CI < 2.0 L/min/m²
- ⇒ Hypotension (SBP, 90 mmHg)
- ⇒ Peak VO₂ < 15

Pre-Operative Evaluation

- Echocardiogram
- Routine blood screen
- Chest x-ray
- Cardiac catheterization, R & L
- EKG
- Pulmonary Function Test

Contraindications

- ⇒ Severe liver disease
- ⇒ Uncontrollable bleeding disorder
- ⇒ Severe lung disease
- ⇒ Active infection
- ⇒ Cardiac cachexia
- ⇒ Active malignancy

Patients experience decreased risk of complications when VAD implantation is performed on an elective basis, prior to catastrophic deterioration.

LifeLink HealthCare Institute
409 Bayshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33606
Tel: 813-251-0793
866-844-VADS
Fax: 813-282-0204
www.lifelinkfound.org

LifeLink Cardiologists:
Geetha Bhat, MD
Guillermo Cintron, Jr., MD
Debbie Rinde-Hoffman, MD
Mark Weston, MD