

HFSA 6th Annual Scientific Meeting

Abstract Number: 322

Contact Author: Kathleen Harper, DO

Department of Cardiovascular Services, St. Vincent's Medical Center

Category: Clinical Care, Management Strategies

Authors: Kathleen Harper DO, Linda Ruggiero RN, Kevin Lenhart MD, Karen Kellogg RN, Michelle Harper RN, Laurie Shepard RN, Edward Kosinski MD.

Title: The Incidence and Mechanism of Death in a Class III and IV Heart Failure Population

Background: Recent trials have suggested that all patients with myocardial infarction (MI) and reduced ejection fraction (EF) undergo AICD therapy based on the risk of sudden death in this population.

Methods: A retrospective review of 101 heart failure (HF) patients, NYHA Class III and IV with a mean EF of 22% was performed; over cause of mortality and incidence of sudden death was reviewed over a 36 month period.

Results: Forty-seven deaths occurred in this population, (46%). Of this group, 13 had sudden death (13%), 5 died of acute multi-system decompensation (5%) and 29 died of end-stage pump failure under Hospice care (28%). Seventy-five percent had ischemic heart disease, twenty-five were non-ischemic.

Conclusion: The predominant mechanism of death was progressive pump failure in our patient population. Thirteen percent of our population died suddenly. Our review verifies the finding of previous studies that suggest AICD therapy will result in only a modest improvement in survival. Health strategies and economic resources may be better served by developing methods for improved detection and pharmacological treatment of Heart Failure.

