



Psychosocial Assessment of Candidates for Heart Transplantation and Ventricular Assist Devices

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INTRODUCTION

Heart failure (HF) has become a global epidemic, affecting 64 million people worldwide (1), with more than 2 million people in Turkey suffering from HF (2). It is one of the primary causes of hospitalization and has a significant economic impact worldwide (3). End-stage (Stage D) HF is the terminal stage of many cardiovascular diseases, characterized by severe functional limitation and rest symptoms (4). Approximately 5% of cardiac patients have end-stage HF (5). HF treatment usually begins with lifestyle changes and medicines to prevent the progression of the disease and maintain proper cardiac function. Advances in medical treatment, such as implantable defibrillators (ICD) and cardiac resynchronization therapy, have significantly improved outcomes for patients with advanced HF (6).

While substantial advances have been made in managing HF, modern medicinal and technological interventions more frequently postpone or halt disease progression rather than reverse it. Despite the use of these treatment methods, the number of patients who become refractory to them is constantly increasing. With a growing number of patients progressing to the advanced stage of HF, there is an increasing need for specialized treatments, such as heart transplantation (HTx), mechanical circulatory support (MCS) implantation, experimental procedures like cell therapy, or palliative care. When severe heart failure is diagnosed, the one-year mortality rate may reach up to %75 (5).

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