

Insufficienza Cardiaca Acuta e Avanzata

Supporti Meccanici: Facciamo Ordine su Indicazioni e Scelta di quello Giusto

Giulio Cacioli, MD

*Cardiac Surgery and Heart Transplant Unit
San Camillo Forlanini Hospital, Roma*



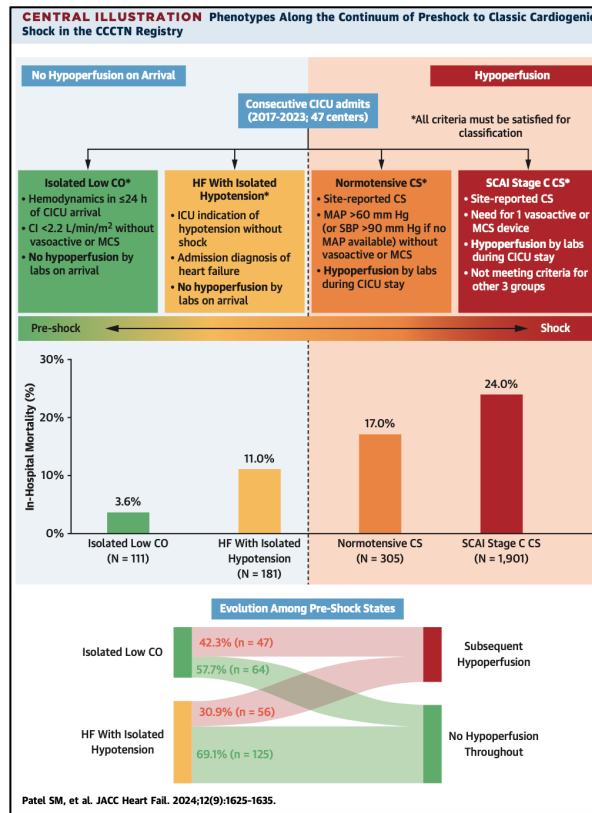
tMCS in Cardiogenic Shock

Cardiogenic Shock is a leading cause of mortality in advanced heart failure and acute myocardial infarction

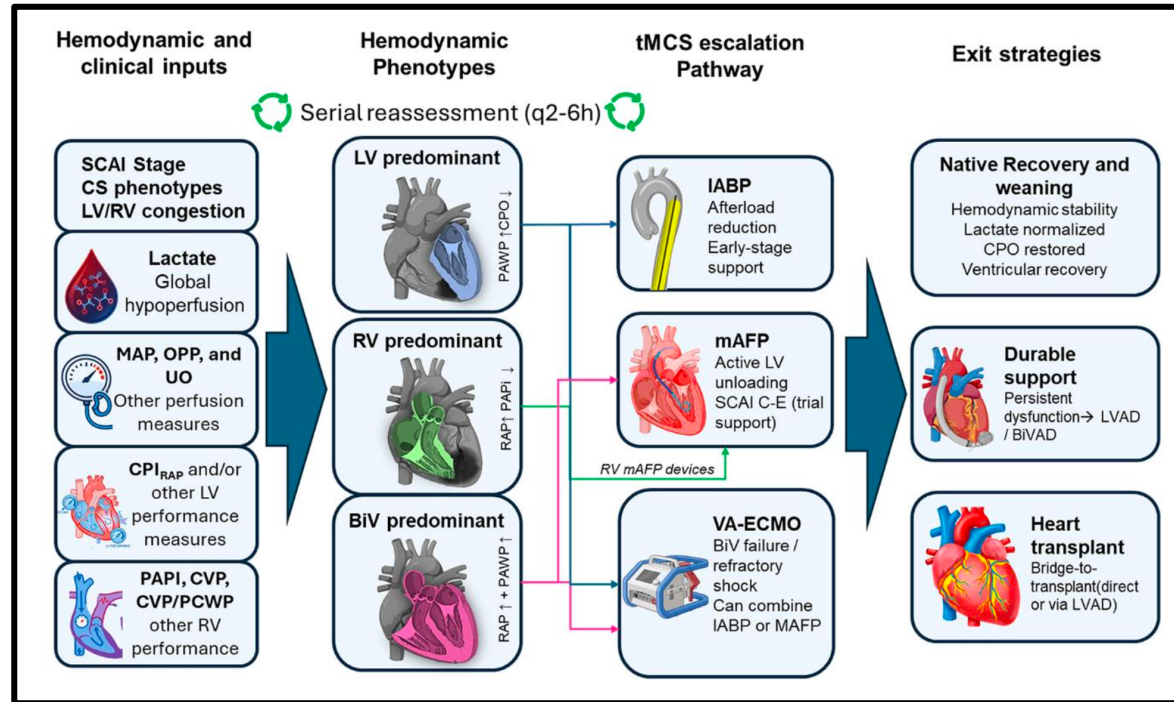
Highly variable and dynamic condition: despite initial stabilization frequent need for intensification of support

Different etiologies with different physiology and prognosis

Differences at patient and center levels, leading to uneven care pathways

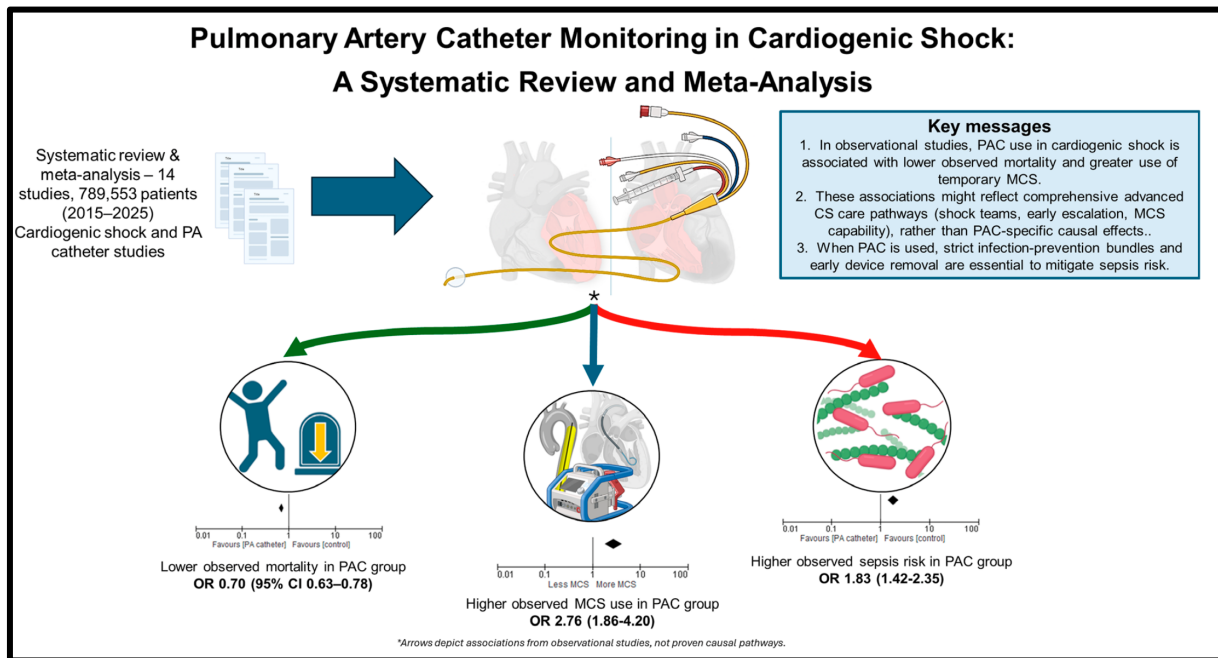


The Right Support for the Right Physiology



Ortega Hernandez JA, Baldetti L, Gallone G, Cacioli G, 2026 (under review)





Ortega-Hernández JA, Baldetti L, Gallone G, Cacioli G, Shock. 2026 Apr 1;65(4):648-659.

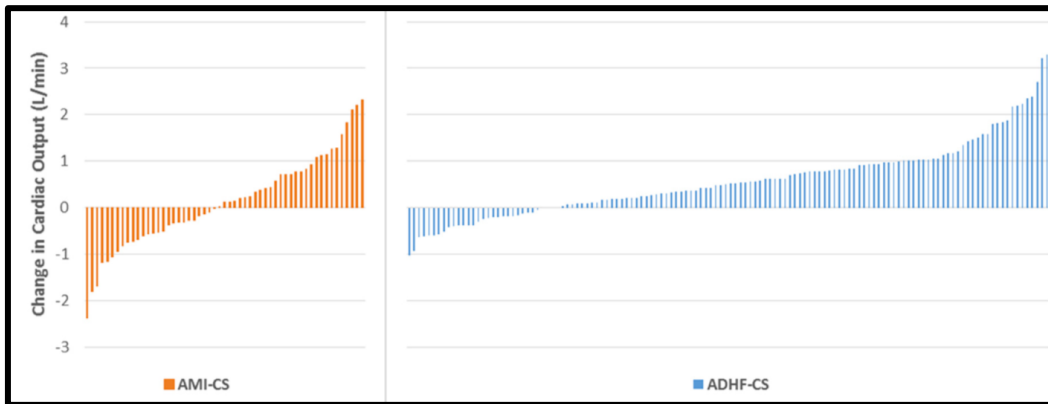


Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump (IABP) - *tMCS in CS*

IABP may be considered in patients with cardiogenic shock as a BTR, BTD, BTB, including treatment of the cause of cardiogenic shock (i.e. mechanical complication of acute MI) or long-term MCS or transplantation. ⁴⁵⁰	IIb	C
IABP is not routinely recommended in post-MI cardiogenic shock. ^{500–502}	III	B



Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump (IABP) – *tMCS in CS*



***Acute Cardiac Injury
No Reserve***

***Hypervolemia
Dilated LV
Afterload-mismatch***

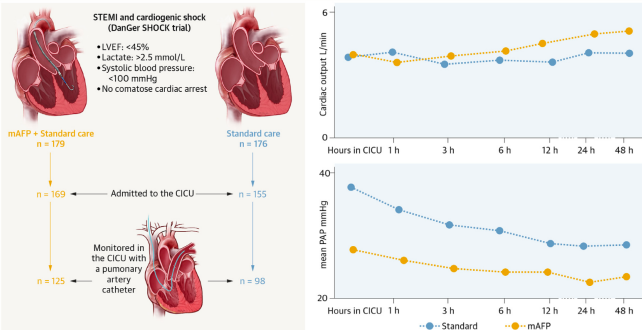
***IABP is a volume-displacement pump and
requires contractile reserve!***

Malick W et al. Am J Cardiol (2019);00:1–7



CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION PAC Monitoring in DanGer Shock

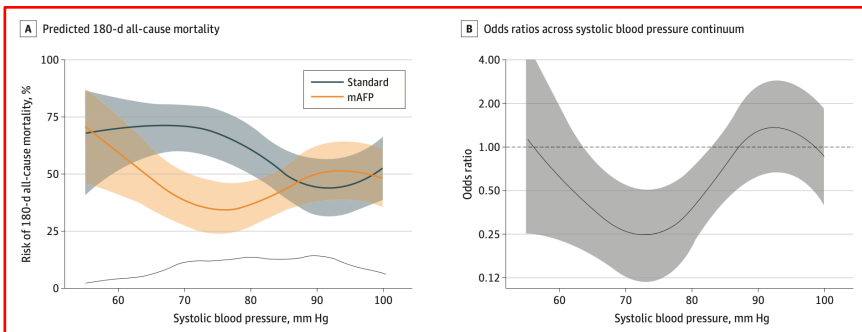
Effect of Microaxial Flow Pump (mAFP) on Hemodynamics in Infarct-Related Cardiogenic Shock in the DanGer SHOCK Randomized Trial
The hemodynamic basis for reduced 180-day all-cause mortality in DanGer SHOCK remain unstudied



CONCLUSION: Using mAFP in STEMI-CS unloads the left ventricle by reducing filling pressure but maintaining and augmenting cardiac output.

Moeller JE, et al. JACC. 2025;85(25):2456-2468.

Effect of the microaxial flow pump (mAFP) on cardiac output and mean pulmonary artery pressure (mPAP) in patients enrolled in the DanGer Shock randomized trial and with hemodynamic monitoring with a pulmonary artery catheter (PAC). (Left) Flow chart of study. (Right) Cardiac output, (bottom) mPAP.



DIRECT LV UNLOADING
Not dependent upon contractile reserve

The lower the SBP at randomization
The higher the survival benefit at 180 days

Moeller et al. N Engl J Med . 2024 Apr 18;390(15):1382-1393.

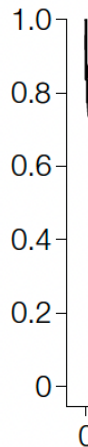
Hochman et al. JAMA. 2001;285: 190-192.



Cu

8.2. MCS in Patients With ACS and Cardiogenic Shock

Proportion Alive



Recommendations for MCS in Patients With ACS and Cardiogenic Shock
Referenced studies that support recommendations are summarized in the Evidence Table.

COR	LOE	Recommendations
2a	B-R	1. In selected* patients with STEMI and severe or refractory cardiogenic shock, insertion of a microaxial intravascular flow pump is reasonable to reduce death. ¹

care alone

standard care

50 180

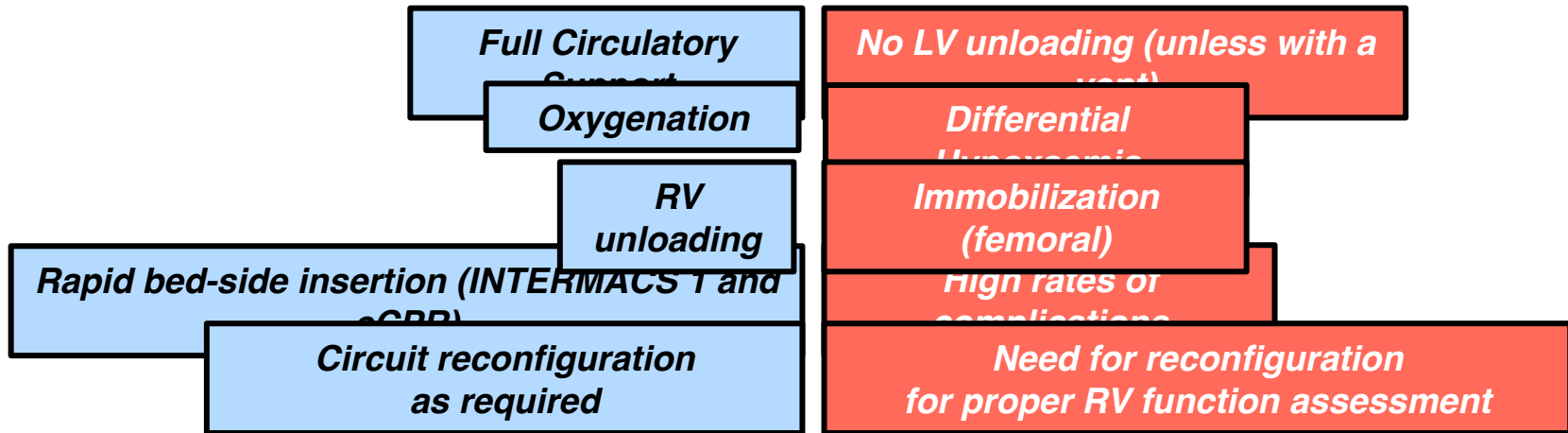
Routine mAFP use in AMI-related CS reduces 180-day mortality

Hochman et al. JAMA. 2001;285: 190-192.

Moeller et al. N Engl J Med . 2024 Apr 18;390(15):1382-1393.



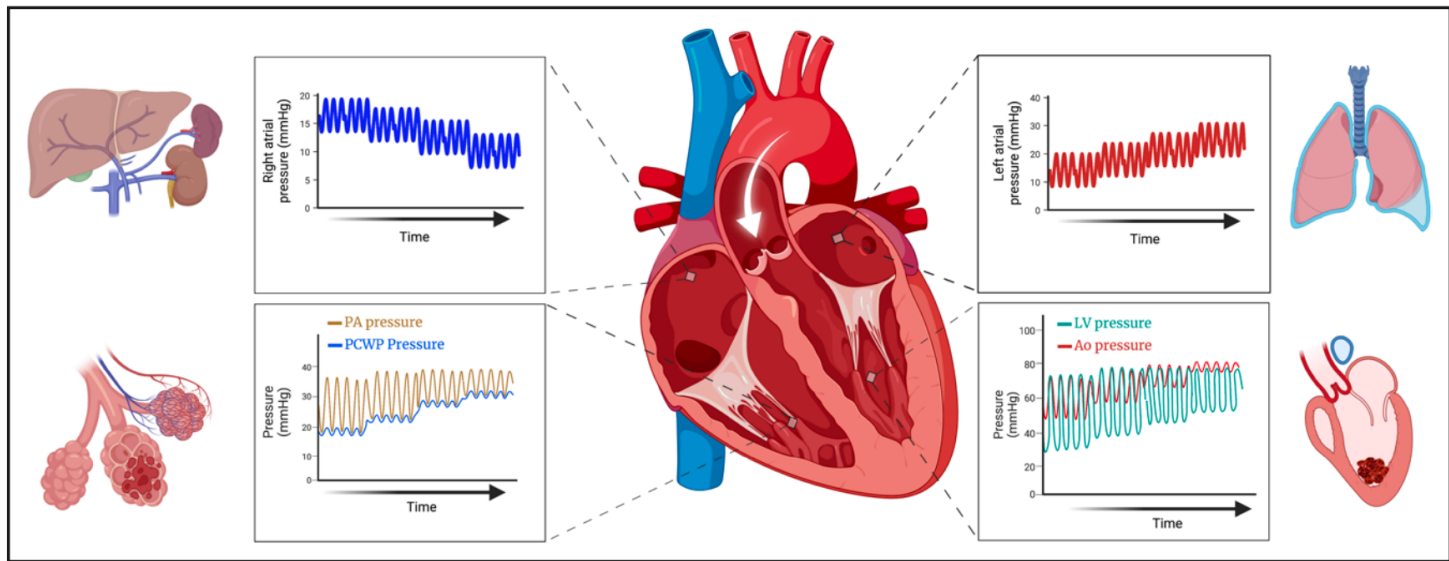
Peripheral VA-ECMO - *tMCS in CS*



**VA-ECMO =
TIME**



Peripheral VA-ECMO - *tMCS in CS*

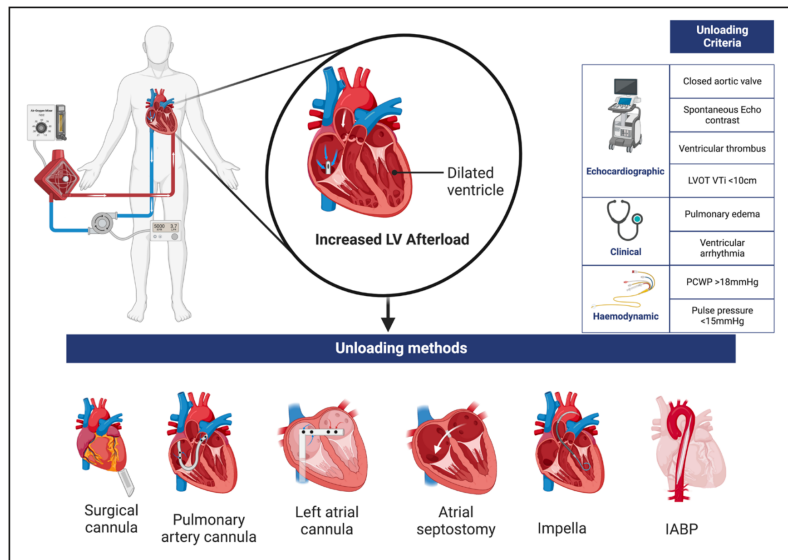


HEMODYNAMIC CHAIN OF VA-ECMO

Saad ME, et al. Circulation. 2023;147:1237-1250.

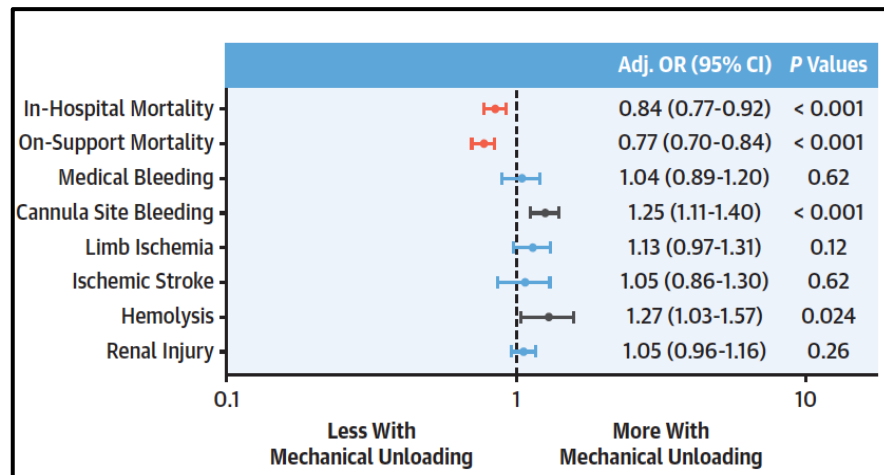


LV Unloading in VA-ECMO - *tMCS in CS*



HOW TO

Saad ME, et al. Circulation. 2023;147:1237–1250.



WHY

Grandin EW, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2022;79(13):1239–1250.



Impella 5.5 - *tMCS in CS*

IMPELLA 5.5 vs IMPELLA CP

Surgical Insertion (Axillary or Trans-Aortic)

Longer Durability (>30 d vs 14 d)

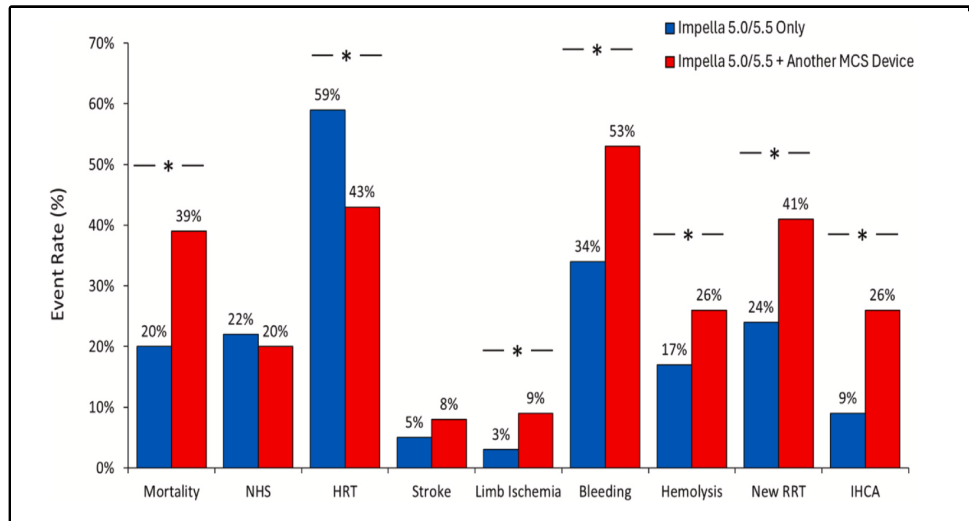
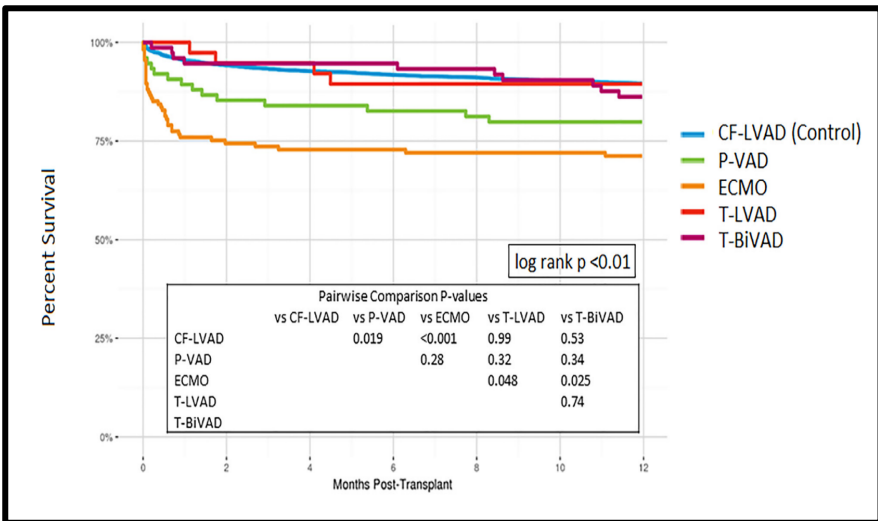
Increased support (>5 lpm vs 4.5 lpm)

Chance for Movement and Rehabilitation

**IMPELLA 5.5 BRIDGE TO:
RECOVERY, CANDIDACY, HT/LVAD**



Impella 5.5 - *tMCS in CS*



**tMCS BRIDGE TO
TRANSPLANT:
WORSE PROGNOSIS**

Yin MY, et al. J Heart Lung Transplant. 2019 Aug;38(8):858-869.

**IMPELLA 5.5 BRIDGE TO
TRANSPLANT:
SUPPOSED SURVIVAL BENEFIT**

Friedl J, et al. J Heart Lung Transplant. 2024 Sep;43(9):1478-1488

Hess NR, et al. J Heart Lung Transplant. 2023 Jan;42(1):76-86.



Impella 5.5 - *tMCS in CS*



ELSEVIER

The Journal of
Heart and Lung
Transplantation

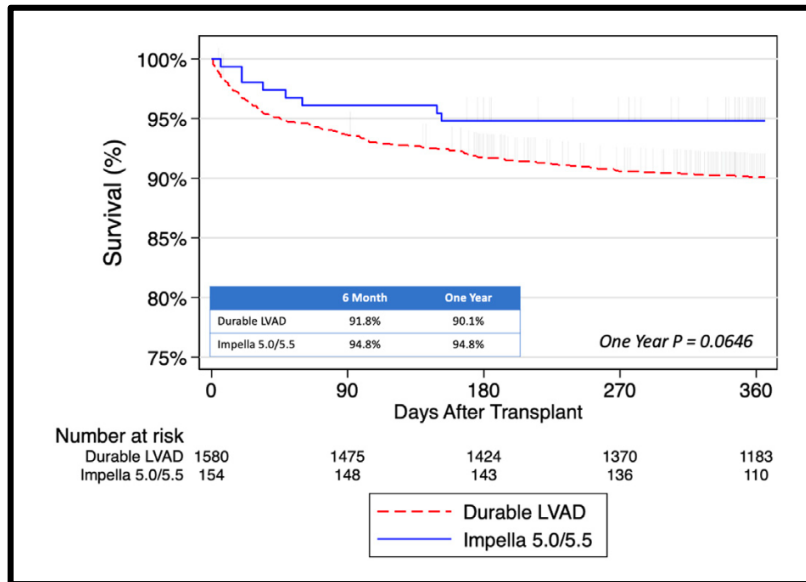
<http://www.jhltonline.org>

ORIGINAL CLINICAL SCIENCE

Left ventricular assist device bridging to heart transplantation: Comparison of temporary versus durable support



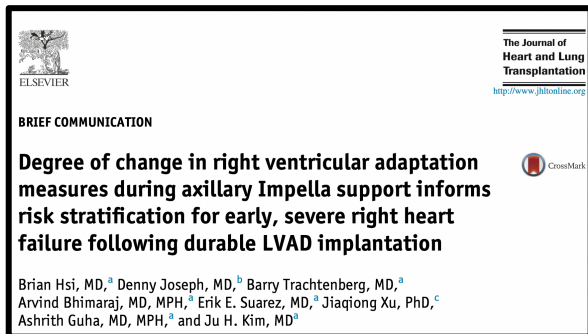
Nicholas R. Hess,^a Gavin W. Hickey,^b Mary E. Keebler,^b Jessica H. Huston,^b Dennis M. McNamara,^b Michael A. Mathier,^b Yisi Wang,^b and David J. Kaczorowski, MD^{a,b}



**BRIDGE TO TRANSPLANT:
IMPELLA 5.5 vs dLVAD**



Impella 5.5 - *tMCS in CS*



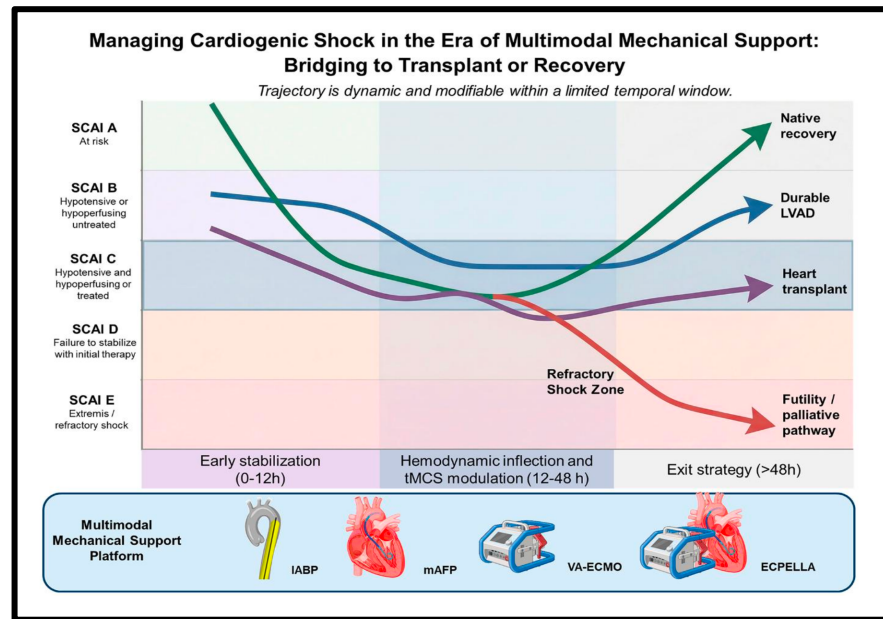
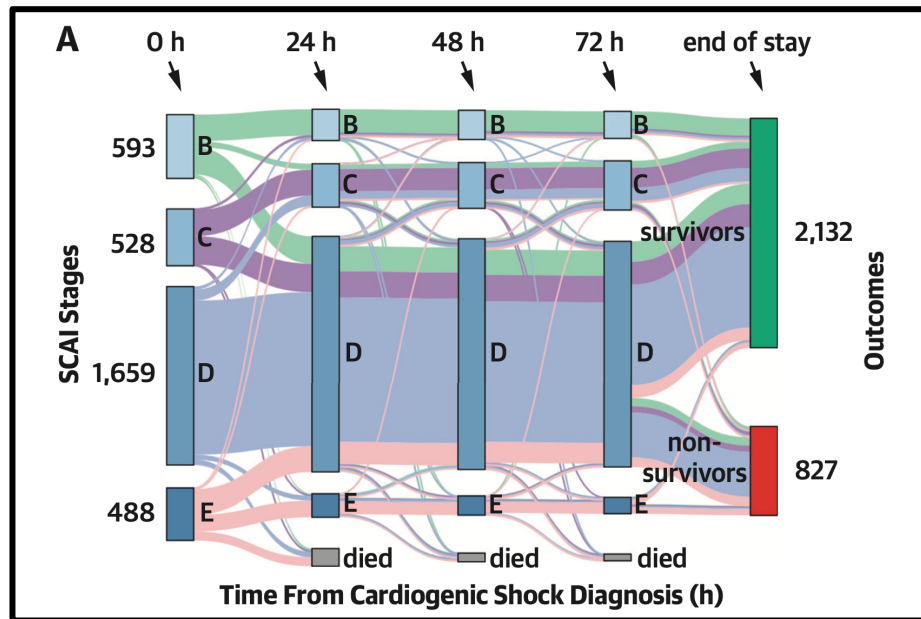
Impella reproduces the RV afterload reduction and increase in preload determined by dLVAD.

Inability to sustain such load is suggestive of RV dysfunction and predictive of post-LVAD RHF

Hemodynamic variable	Pre-impella insertion			Post-impella insertion		
	No RHF(N = 11)	RHF(N = 7)	p-value	No RHF(N = 11)	RHF(N = 7)	p-value
Measures of RV Adaptation						
RAP (mmHg)	17.00 (11.00-20.00)	12.00 (8.00-12.00)	0.02	6.00 (3.00-12.00)	10.00 (4.00-12.00)	0.38
ΔRAP (mmHg)	-	-	-	-12.00 (-14.00-8.00)	-2.00 (-8.00-4.00)	0.008
PCWP (mmHg)	30.00 (24.00-31.00)	23.00 (20.00-26.00)	0.051	17.00 (15.00-19.00)	18.00 (15.00-25.00)	0.40
ΔPCWP (mmHg)	-	-	-	-13.00 (-21.00-8.00)	0.00 (-12.00-5.00)	0.041
RAP:PCWP	0.61 (0.48-0.71)	0.46 (0.36-0.50)	0.03	0.38 (0.17-0.52)	0.40 (0.28-0.64)	0.47
ΔRAP:PCWP	-	-	-	-0.28 (-0.33-0.21)	-0.11 (-0.13-0.19)	0.05
PAPi	1.28 (1.00-1.64)	2.46 (1.67-3.83)	0.006	4.67 (2.29-8.33)	2.67 (1.94-3.50)	0.29
ΔPAPi	-	-	-	4.54 (1.20-8.03)	0.55 (-1.58-1.44)	0.025

Hsi B, et al. J Heart Lung Transplant. 2022 Mar;41(3):279-282.





Circulation: Heart Failure

CURRENT ISSUE

Originally Published 24 April 2026 | 

 Check for updates

Circulatory Support Escalation in Cardiogenic Shock Outcomes and Predictors of Successful Escalation from an International, Multi-Center Cardiac Intensive Care Registry

Luca Baldetti , Guglielmo Gallone, Jorge A. Ortega-Hernandez, Giulio Cacioli, Mariagiulia Festi, Francesca Pirone, Federica Curro Dossi, ...

[SHOW ALL](#) ..., and Anna Mara Scandroglio | [AUTHOR INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

Circulatory Support Escalation

Any incremental change in the support strategy after an initial bundle of care was established for at least 4 hours.

Escalation in 30% of patients with CS after a median of 38 hrs from CICU admission

Independent predictor of:
In-hospital mortality; ICU length of stay; major complications

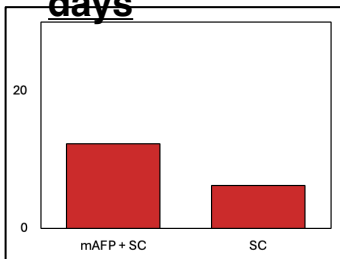
Predictors of successful escalation:
younger age, SCAI B–C, preserved RV function (higher TAPSE), greater diuresis in the previous 6 hours

Baldetti L, Gallone G, Ortega-Hernandez JA, Cacioli G, Bocchino P, et al. *Circ Heart Fail*. 2026 Apr 24.

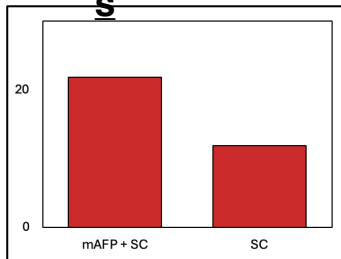


Complications – tMCS in CS

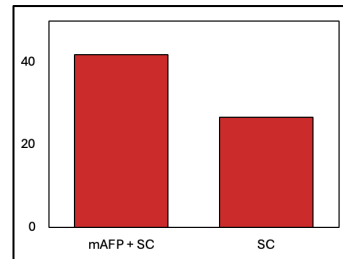
ICU stay ≥ 30 days



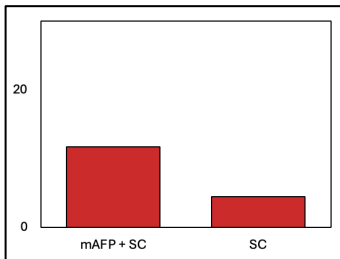
Bleeding



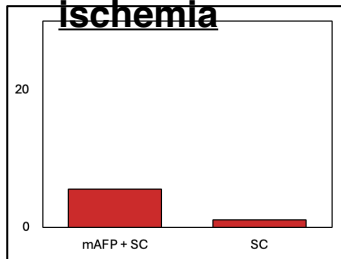
RRT



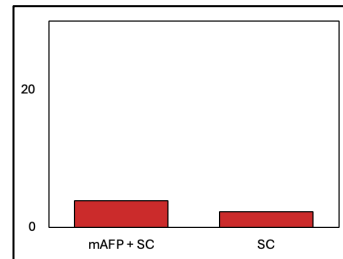
Sepsis



Limb Ischemia



Stroke



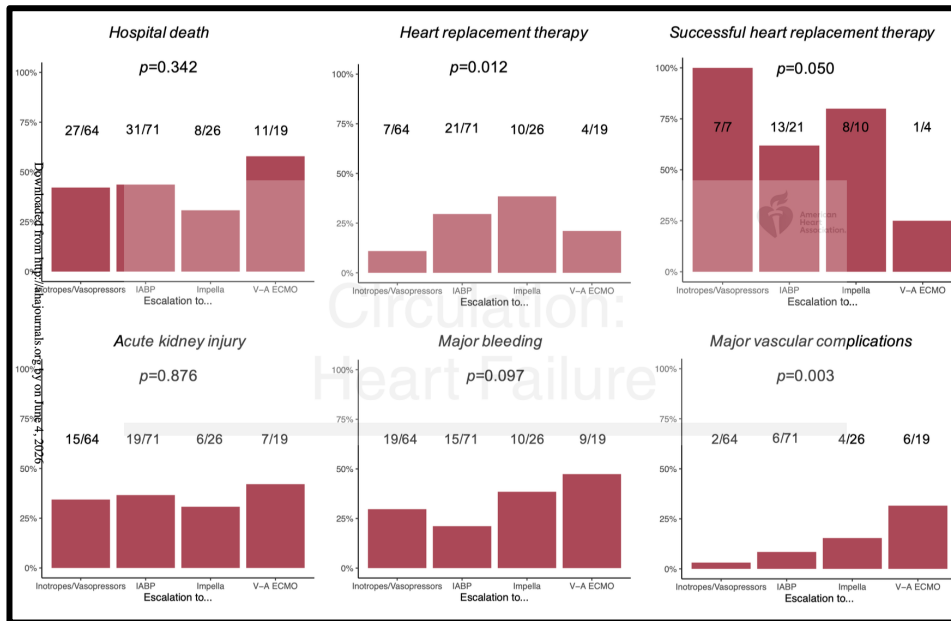
Complication Rate in a Clinical Trial

Adapted from Moeller et al. N Engl J Med . 2024 Apr 18;390(15):1382-1393

Credits to Guglielmo Gallone, MD «Città della Salute e della Scienza» Hospital, Turin



Complications – tMCS in CS



In a real world cohort of CS Complications explained 24% (95%CI 9-40%; $p<0.001$) of the association between escalation and hospital death (OR 2.44; 95%CI 1.64-3.63).



Conclusions

In the modern era, cardiogenic shock management is less about device selection and more about trajectory recognition.

Escalation or de-escalation decisions should not be based on isolated hemodynamic thresholds, but on integrated assessments that incorporate clinical evolution, invasive hemodynamics, echocardiographic data, and organ damage.

Paradigm shift: from rescue to physiology-driven support, recovery-oriented bridge, which goes beyond short-term survival and looks at optimizing the patient for definitive therapy (LVAD or transplant).

Proactive approach with multidisciplinary teams and serious reassessments to define trajectory and optimize patient outcomes.



Grazie!

Giulio Cacioli, MD

Contact: giulio.cacioli@gmail.com

Thanks to the ITA-MEX Registry Investigators

