**PATIENT PERCEPTIONS ABOUT A HOSPITAL-AT-HOME MODEL OF CARE FOR DECOMPENSATED HEART FAILURE**

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*Background*: Small European RCTs demonstrate Hospital-at-Home (HaH) models can increase time to readmission, improve health-related quality of life, and reduce total costs in Heart Failure (HF). However, the acceptability and efficacy of HaH is unclear in North American settings.

*Objectives*: With a view of developing a HaH model for decompensated HF, we aimed to 1) assess whether patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) with decompensated HF find HaH an acceptable alternative to traditional hospitalization. 2) Assess patients’ perceptions regarding safety and caregiver burden associated with HaH. Methods: Adult patients requiring admission for HF were approached in the ED of 2 large teaching hospitals in Ontario, Canada in 2016. A study nurse administered the 9-item patient questionnaire that included a 7-point Likert scale ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”.

*Results*: 123 patients completed the study questionnaire. Mean age was 77 (+/- 12) years, 55% were female, and mean EF was 45 (+/-15)%. 69% lived in their own home; 14% in a caregivers/family home; and 17% in a retirement/nursing home. On average, patients had at least 2 prior hospitalizations in the preceding year. Overall, 87% of patients were either neutral to (25%) or preferred (62%) HaH over traditional hospitalization. 90% perceived HaH as comfortable, and 67% felt medical care at home could be as effective as hospital care. A vast majority of patient deemed HaH to be a safer alternative (92%), resulting in fewer complications (89%), and faster recovery time (73%) than traditional hospitalization. Patients were not concerned about delayed response time should they require urgent medical attention at home (56%). 73% indicated they or their families would not be burdened if medical staff frequently visited their homes.

*Conclusions:* Patients requiring admission for heart failure prefer a hospital-at-home strategy and perceive it as a safer alternative over traditional hospitalization.