**DOES AGE AND SEX PREDICT MORTALITY IN PATIENTS WITH SEVERE SYSTOLIC HEART FAILURE?**

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Background: Systolic heart failure (SHF) is the leading cause of death in the United States. The prognosis of patients with severe SHF is variable depends on multiple predictors of mortality.

Objective: To investigate the correlation between age and sex with mortality in patients with severe SHF.

Methods: This was a retrospective analysis. We reviewed our echocardiography database from October 2008 until October 2011 to identify patients with SHF defined as left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF)<25%. We identified 944 patients with EF<25%. The mortality rate in 3 years was 16% (n=192). T-test was used to compare parameters in patients who died (group D) versus who are still alive

(group A).

Results: The average age of patients with severe SHF who died was 71 years compared to 56 years in the alive group, the age difference was statistically significant (p<0.001). The total number of males in both groups was 697 (74%) and 247 were females (26%). The rate of death among females was significantly higher (26%) compared to males (18.5%), P<0.05.

Conclusion: Multiple predictors of mortality in patients with SHF have been identified. In our retrospective study, we found that severe SHF was significantly more prevalent in males; however the mortality rate was significantly higher among females and elderly. We conclude that sex and age are 2 major predictors of mortality in severe SHF.