**LACK OF POST LVAD IMPLANTATION WEIGHT LOSS ASSOCIATED IS WITH VOLUME OVERLOAD DURING INTERMEDIATE FOLLOW UP**

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*Background*: We investigated the association between early (5 months) post LVAD implantation weight changes and volume status during subsequent follow-up visits, up to 24 months.

*Methods*: 359 individual consecutive follow-up patient-visits in 19 Heartmate-II recipients were included in the analysis. Patients were separated into groups based on the maximum weight loss, as compared to pre-LVAD weight, achieved during the first 5 months post LVAD implantation: group I with 0-5% weight loss, group II with 5-10%, group III with >10% .

*Results*: There were no significant between group differences in demographic parameters, etiology of cardiomyopathy, and prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, or pre-LVAD use of inotropic agents. Heartmate II speed, power, and pulsatility index were similar as well. Rates of reported dyspnea and/or rales during follow-up visits were not associated with post-LVAD weight loss. Despite of significantly increased use of post-LVAD diuretics, edema was observed more frequently in patients with minimal or no weight loss post-LVAD (group I, Table). The differences in rates of edema were significant at 5, 12 and 24 months (Table).

*Conclusion*: Weight change observed early post LVAD implantation may help to identify patients at risk for future fluid retention and signs of right-side ventricular failure.

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| End-point | 5 months post LVAD | | | | 12 months post LVAD | | | | 24 months post LVAD | | | |
| I | II | III | p-value | I | II | III | p-value | I | II | III | p-value |
| Edema (%) | 57.1 | 33.3 | 9.5 | <.001 | 51.4 | 40 | 8.6 | <.001 | 32.8 | 44.3 | 23.0 | <.001 |
| Loop diuretics (%) | 100 | 57.4 | 73.8 | <.002 | 97.7 | 57.5 | 69.2 | <.001 | 98.4 | 52.8 | 67 | <.001 |