The LVADs Are Coming, the LVADs Are Coming! The Anticipated Growth of LVAD Use and the Role of the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Specialist in LVAD Patient Care (FR461)

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Objectives
• Describe the existing evidence base and current guidelines for specialty-level palliative care for patients with mechanical circulatory support (MCS).
• Define an algorithm for shared decision making and advance care planning for patients being considered for a left ventricular assist device (LVAD).
• Recognize the role of the nurse VAD coordinator in the continuity of care for patients with VADs.

As the population of patients with mechanical circulatory support continues to grow dramatically, the role of palliative care for these patients is also evolving. Increasingly the benefit of palliative care support for these patients is being recognized, and palliative programs will need to anticipate these patients’ needs. Recently the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services began mandating that a palliative care expert be a part of the mechanical circulatory support team. In this session, participants will identify strategies to improve clinical and psychosocial care for this patient population from an expert multidisciplinary panel.