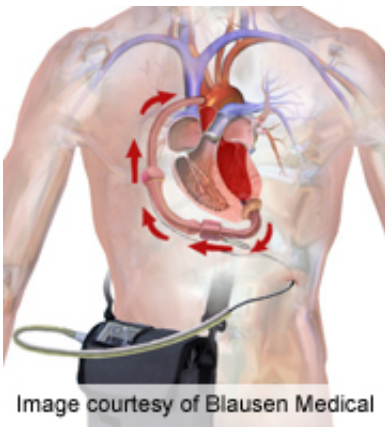


# Improved outcomes seen with ventricular assist devices

January 31 2014

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(HealthDay)—Among Medicare patients receiving implantation of ventricular assist devices (VADs) for advanced heart failure, mortality has decreased, but readmission rates did not change, according to research published online Jan. 29 in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Prateeti Khazanie, M.D., M.P.H., of Duke University in Durham, N.C., and colleagues retrospectively analyzed data for all Medicare fee-for-service patients who received an implantable VAD between 2006 and 2011 (2,507 patients) to examine trends in mortality and [readmission rates](#).

The researchers found that, during the study period, in-hospital mortality decreased from 30 to 10 percent (P

"Short-term and long-term mortality after VAD implantation among Medicare beneficiaries improved, but readmission remained common," the authors write. "Higher volume of VAD implants was associated with lower risk of mortality but not readmission."

Two of the study authors disclosed financial ties to Thoratec.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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