

Left ventricular assist device ups QoL in ambulatory heart failure

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(HealthDay)—Left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) improve quality

of life in ambulatory patients with advanced heart failure, but increase lifetime costs, according to a study published online Jan. 11 in *JACC: Heart Failure*.

Jacqueline Baras Shreibati, M.D., from the Stanford University School of Medicine in California, and colleagues examined the cost-effectiveness of LVADs in ambulatory patients with advanced [heart failure](#). The costs of care were determined among Medicare beneficiaries before and after LVAD implant in 2009 to 2010. These costs and efficacy data from the literature were used in a Markov model to project the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) of destination LVAD therapy versus [medical management](#).

The researchers found that LVAD implant had a mean cost of \$175,420. The mean cost of readmission was significantly lower before versus after LVAD (\$12,377 versus \$19,465; P

"LVADs may provide good value if outpatient costs and adverse events can be reduced," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the medical device industry.

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

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