Response to Letter Regarding Article, “Outcomes of Patients With Peripartum Cardiomyopathy Who Received Mechanical Circulatory Support: Data From the Interagency Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support”

In patients with end-stage heart failure who are supported by mechanical circulatory support devices, myocardial recovery leading to explantation of the device would be an ideal outcome. Isolated initial reports suggested that maximization of heart failure medications could lead to an increased recovery rate in these patients. Unfortunately, prospective studies designed to evaluate recovery of myocardial function in patients with mechanical circulatory support devices have been disappointing and show that its occurrence is low. We agree with Dr Dalzell that the low rate of recovery observed in our report may have multiple explanations; however, this registry data reflect current observed rates in the United States. In addition, even when manifestations of recovery are observed in patients with mechanical circulatory support devices, the degree of recovery may not be sufficient to allow device explantation. Standardized weaning protocols across mechanical circulatory support devices implanting centers would be desirable to evaluate the true potential for recovery in this patient group better.

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