



The Lived Experience of Patients in Singapore after Left Ventricular Assist Device Implantation

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Background

A Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) is an implantable mechanical pump that helps pump blood from the left ventricle to the rest of the body (Bozkurt et al., 2021). Patients experience significant improvement in their health status after LVAD implantation, but emotional distress may remain high after device implantation. However, the information on the lived experience of patients after LVAD implantation in Singapore is limited.

Aim

This study aimed to explore and describe the lived experience of patients after LVAD implantation in Singapore.

Methodology

Participants were recruited from a tertiary centre in Singapore in the outpatient setting. This study included adult patients with at least three months of LVAD support. A face-to-face interview was conducted using a set of semi-structured questions to gain a deeper understanding of participants' lived experience with the LVAD using a phenomenological theory approach.

Results

Demographic Profiles

A total of 15 participants with LVAD completed the interview. Majority of the participants were male (80%). The mean age of the participants was 47.3 (Range 21 to 70 years old). Majority of the participants were Chinese (40%) and Indian (40%) followed by Malay (20%) ethnicity. More than half of the participants were married (60%). Of the 15 participants, 14 (93.3%) of them had support from caregivers after LVAD implantation.

Clinical Profiles

73.3% of the participants received LVAD implantation while waiting for heart transplant and 26.7% of them had LVAD implantation for destination therapy. The average duration of LVAD support was 29.9 months.

Data Analysis

The findings of this study were presented in themes and subthemes displayed in Diagram 1. A total of seven main themes and subthemes describing the experience of participants with LVAD emerged from the analysis.

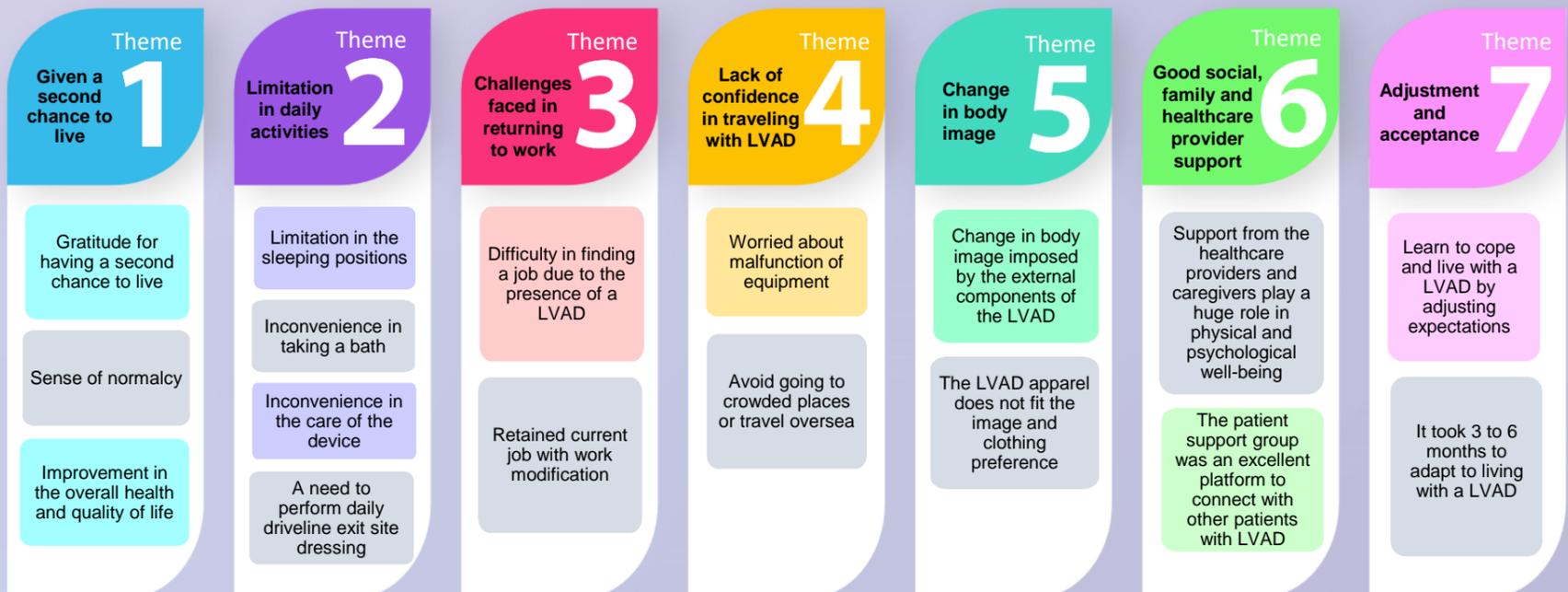


Diagram 1: Themes and Subthemes Identified

Limitations

The knowledge generated from this study was unique and specific to patients living with a LVAD. The findings of the study might not be transferrable to other population or care setting.

Conclusions

This study provided insight into perspective and challenges patients faced in living with a LVAD, Interventions to support self-care, emotional coping and returning to work would be helpful to optimise patients' quality of life in living with a LVAD.

Reference

Bozkurt, B., Hershberger, R. E., Butler, J., Grady, K. L., Heidenreich, P. A., Isler, M. L., Kirklın, J. K., & Weintraub, W. S. (2021). 2021 ACC/AHA Key Data Elements and Definitions for Heart Failure: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Data Standards (Writing Committee to Develop Clinical Data Standards for Heart Failure). *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 77(16), 2053–2150. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2020.11.012>