

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF



Dear Readers,

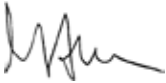
The use of ventricular assist devices in patients with congestive heart failure (CHF) has been rapidly increasing. Today, a large number of patients are living with these devices, which are now being used as destination therapy rather than simply a bridge to cardiac transplantation. Importantly, patients with severe left ventricular dysfunction and assist devices often also have ventricular arrhythmias that are challenging to treat.

This issue of *The Journal of Innovations in Cardiac Rhythm Management* contains an excellent article by Drs. Arkles and Marchlinski describing their approach to the treatment of ventricular arrhythmias in these unique individuals. Their manuscript, titled “When Should the Electrophysiologist be Involved in Managing Patients with Ventricular Assist Devices and Ventricular Arrhythmias?”,¹ provides guidance to the practicing electrophysiologist on

how to approach these patients. In it, the authors start by describing the benefit of involving cardiac electrophysiologist specialists at different stages of treatment and then demonstrate the benefits of the early involvement of cardiac electrophysiologists before the mechanical assist device is even implanted. They also explain the mechanisms of different types of ventricular tachycardias in this setting. Most importantly, they provide a practical guide to the treatment of ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation in this special patient population, including technical details on how to perform catheter ablation and how to navigate different types of challenges that may arise.

I enjoyed reading the abovementioned article because of its clarity and outlined elegant and practical approach to a complex problem. I am confident that you too will find its content educational and relevant to your daily practice.

Sincerely,



Moussa Mansour, MD, FHRS, FACC

Editor in Chief

The Journal of Innovations in Cardiac Rhythm Management

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Reference

1. Arkles JS, Marchlinski F. When should the electrophysiologist be involved in managing patients with ventricular assist devices and ventricular arrhythmias?. *J Innov Cardiac Rhythm Manage.* 2019;10(4):3605–3610.

Dr. Mansour reports the reception of research grants from Abbott Laboratories, Biosense Webster, Johnson & Johnson, Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Sentre Heart. He is also a consultant for Abbott Laboratories, Biosense Webster, Johnson & Johnson, Boston Scientific, Janssen, Medtronic, Phillips, Novartis, and Sentre Heart and reports an equity relationship with EPS Solutions. All aforementioned relationships are in the area of atrial fibrillation; Dr. Mansour additionally reports an equity relationship in the area of ventricular fibrillation with NewPace Ltd.