

PREFACE

Congestive heart failure (CHF) is one of the leading causes of hospitalization in the United States and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Pharmacologic therapies have had a significant impact on the disease, but have been primarily limited to angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and β -blockers. Inotropic agents and other vasodilators are available and effective for the acute management of heart failure, but are associated with poor long-term outcomes. Until recently, few surgical therapies were available for severe end-stage CHF short of cardiac transplantation. With the advent of better surgical techniques and improved pre- and postoperative medical management, traditional surgeries for severe left ventricular dysfunction can now be performed with reasonable success. Furthermore, the advances in mechanical circulatory support devices have made the concept of bridging to transplant and bridging to recovery a reality. Even permanent mechanical circulatory support is now available. Finally, other novel approaches using various devices are constantly being investigated.

The surgical options for the end-stage heart failure patient are now numerous and effective. The aim of *Surgical Management of Congestive Heart Failure* is to bring together the latest clinical, scientific, and investigational surgical approaches to improve the lives of this challenging group of patients. The book is written by leading authorities in both cardiovascular surgery and cardiology as the management of these patients has necessitated an increasingly multidisciplinary approach. We hope that the readers will get a broad yet in-depth understanding of the options that can be offered to their patients and what the future holds for the surgical and device-oriented treatment of heart failure.

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