

January / February 2022

STS National Database News INTERMACS



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Annual Report Details Volume Drops, Improved Survival, and More

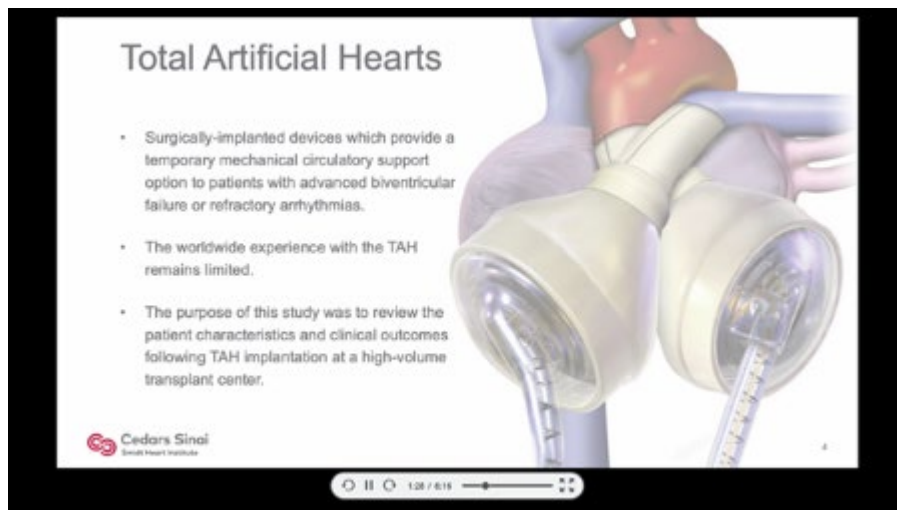
The most recent Intermacs annual report highlights outcomes for 26,688 continuous-flow left ventricular assist device (LVAD) patients over the past decade (2011-2020). In 2020, the authors observed the largest drop in yearly LVAD implant volumes since the registry's inception, reflecting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, they reported lower mortality rates and fewer adverse events, even in the face of an older and sicker cohort. Read about these findings and more in [The Annals of Thoracic Surgery](#).

STS 2022 Presentations Highlight Utility, Integrity of Intermacs Data

During the STS Annual Meeting last month, several scientific abstracts used data from the STS National Database to illuminate trends in surgical outcomes, touting the Database as the most complete resource for multifactor analysis. Your hard work and dedication with Intermacs and Pedimacs helped enable important discoveries like these:

- **Advancing Quality Metrics for Durable Left Ventricular Assist Device Implant: An Analysis of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Intermacs Database** was among the first to report substantial interhospital variability in performance with LVAD implants, underscoring the need to report and benchmark hospital-level performance.
- **100 Total Artificial Hearts: Patient Characteristics and Clinical Outcomes at a High-Volume Transplant Center** used Intermacs as a benchmarking tool to evaluate the experience of the first 100 total artificial hearts implanted at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Registrants can access these presentations as part of the [full STS 2022 program](#). For those who were unable to attend the meeting, Annual Meeting Online will be available for purchase in mid-March.



Minor Data Requests Let You Pull Internal Quality Reports

Minor data requests are available to current STS National Database participants interested in requesting ad hoc queries of Database data for internal quality improvement purposes. If you're looking for data for your site's own quality improvement—not for research, publication, or external publication, [Database staff can help](#).

Don't Miss Today's User Group Call

Live discussions with colleagues and Database staff are the best way to talk through data recording methods, share your experiences, and learn new tips and tricks. The next Intermacs/Pedimacs User Group call is **today, February 23, at 1:00 p.m. CT**. Get dial-in details on the [Database webinars page](#).

STS/ACC Launch TAVR Public Reporting Site

The STS/American College of Cardiology (ACC) TVT Registry Public Reporting site is now open to the public, providing benchmarked ratings for outcomes in transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedures in the United States. The new platform employs a "site difference" method to give participants the evidence they need to understand their institution's performance and consequently improve quality of care—as well as show off their success. A 3-star rating system provides a visual illustration of how each hospital stacks up against the average for transcatheter aortic

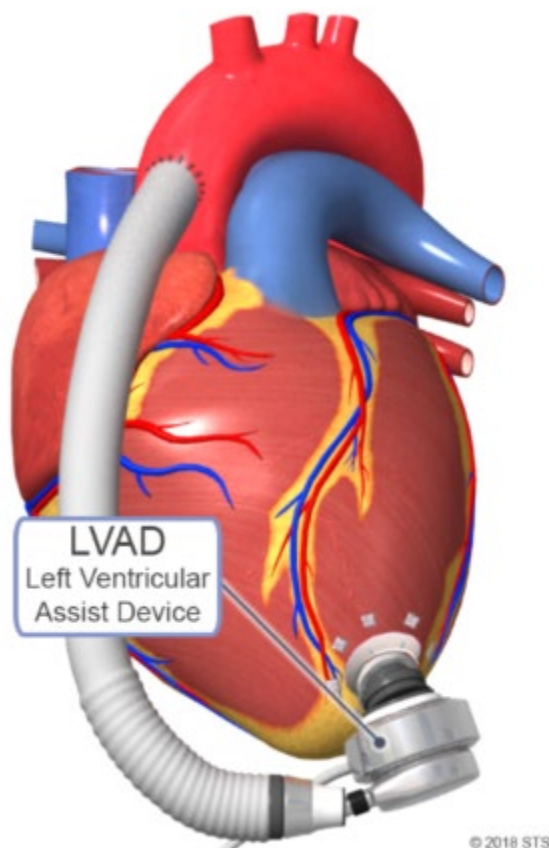
procedures. Participation in this program is voluntary for all sites. [Learn more about the launch.](#)

Sites that did not consent to the first round of public reporting will be able to participate in the next refresh planned for Fall 2022. This will include data through September 30, 2021.

Help Ease Patients' Understanding of LVAD

If you interact with families at your institution, you have the opportunity to help them make sense of their medical conditions. The STS patient website, ctsurgerypatients.org, is filled with easy-to-understand language and helpful illustrations, animations, and videos for explaining cardiothoracic conditions and procedures. The [Left Ventricular Assist Device](#) page, for example, walks patients through how the device works, the associated risks, detailed information about the implantation procedure, and what life can look like afterward.

You can download and print handouts in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to let your patients know about this important patient website. Contact Jennifer Bagley at jbagley@sts.org with feedback or questions.



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