Deactivation of left ventricular assist device (LVAD) after recovery of cardiac function: a case report

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Abstract

Recovery of heart function during support with durable LVAD is uncommon, and there are few reports of cases that address the issue of eliminating the LVAD without the need for a heart transplant. Radical surgical removal of the LVAD may cause distortion of left ventricular cavity and thus affect its function, in addition to the associated risks of the operation. Innovative ways to de-activate the LVAD, relying mainly on implantation of vascular plugs in the outflow graft have been used. Few reports have shown the success of this method. In this case report, we review the story of a young patient with advanced heart failure, who underwent LVAD implantation, and after 6-month, there was a dramatic improvement of heart function that enabled successful de-activation of the device.

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