NHS
Blood and Transplant

# ANNUAL REPORT ON MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT RELATED TO HEART TRANSPLANTATION

## REPORT FOR 2022/2023
## (1 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2023)

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PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH NHS ENGLAND

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# 1 Executive Summary

This report summarises key information about mechanical circulatory support (MCS) used in patients in the UK as a bridge to heart transplantation or for post-transplant support. MCS in this context includes long-term ventricular assist devices (VADs), short-term VADs, total artificial hearts (TAH) and veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). The period reported covers 10 years for both adults and paediatrics, from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023. Data were extracted from the UK VAD Database held by NHS Blood and Transplant on 16 October 2023. Results are generally presented separately for adult and paediatric patients, for long-term and short-term devices and for bridging and post-transplant strategies.

**Key findings**

Long-term bridging devices in adults:

- During 2022/2023 there were 59 long-term device implants, all long-term VADs. The number of implants was 31% greater than in 2021/2022, which was the lowest year of the decade.
- The most common INTERMACS profile for this patient group was 3 (stable but inotrope dependent) representing 47% of all patients.
- The median duration on long-term VAD support was 1169 days (3.2 years).
- At 1-year post-implant, 79% of patients remained on support, 5% had received a heart transplant, 1% were explanted without transplant and 15% died on support.
- The national 1-year patient survival rate from the point of first long-term VAD implant, irrespective of subsequent intervention (not censored at transplant or explant for recovery) was 83.3%. The 3-year survival rate was 67.2%, which has improved over the last 3 years (66.0% in 2021/2022; 63.2% in 2020/2021).

Short-term bridging devices in adults:

- During 2022/2023 there were 112 short-term device implants, comprising 59 VADs and 53 ECMO implants; an 18% increase from the previous year.
- The majority (69%) of implants were into INTERMACS profile 1 patients (critical cardiogenic shock).
- The median duration on short-term support was 14 days.
- At 30 days post-implant, 25% of patients remained on short term support, 18% had been transplanted, 9% transferred to a long-term device, 21% were explanted without transplant and 27% had died on support.
- The 1-year patient survival rate from the point of first short-term VAD implant (excluding those bridged to long-term support) was 55.7% (not censored for transplant/explant).

Short-term devices used for Primary Graft Dysfunction (PGD) in adults:

- During 2022/2023 there were 52 adult heart transplants requiring mechanical support for severe PGD, comprising 42 ECMO only, 8 short-term VAD and ECMO and 2 short-term VAD only. As a percentage of transplant performed, 28% required support.
- The 1-year patient survival rate from the point of implant for PGD was 63.8%.
- On average, patients spent 5 days on support.

Devices used in paediatric patients:

- During 2022/2023, 24 bridging device implants and 7 post-transplant implants were reported, 16 of which were VADs and 15 were ECMO.
- For 71 patients reported as having bridging support between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, the median duration of support was 75 days, 32% of patients received a transplant within 90 days of implant and the 1-year patient survival rate from the point of implant was 77.3%.

Use of the contents of this report should be acknowledged as follows:
*Annual Report on Mechanical Circulatory Support Related to Heart Transplantation 2022/2023, NHS Blood and Transplant*

# INTRODUCTION

## 2 Introduction

In the United Kingdom, mechanical circulatory support (MCS) therapy is commissioned as a bridge to heart transplantation or for post-transplant support due to primary graft dysfunction (PGD) or rejection. MCS in this context includes long-term ventricular assist devices (VADs), short-term VADs, total artificial hearts (TAH) and veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). The seven centres that provide this service are those that also provide heart transplantation: Birmingham Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Harefield Hospital, Manchester Wythenshawe Hospital, Newcastle Freeman Hospital, Royal Papworth Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital and Glasgow Golden Jubilee Hospital. Great Ormond Street Hospital provide a paediatric service only, Newcastle provide both adult and paediatric services, and the remaining centres provide adult services only. Patients aged less than 16 implanted at Newcastle are reported as paediatric patients, while patients aged 16 or over implanted at Newcastle are reported as adults, otherwise adult centre data are reported in the adult sections and paediatric centre data are reported in the paediatric section, regardless of the age of the patient.

All centres are required to submit data to the national database hosted by NHS Blood and Transplant, known as the VAD Database. The database collects extensive data prior to and at time of device implant, explant, transplant and death along with follow-up at various time points post-implant and post-explant. These data are audited and reported annually herein in order to provide centres, commissioners and patients with relevant and transparent information about the UK MCS service. The report also incorporates data from the UK Transplant Registry on listing for heart transplantation and survival after transplant for patients receiving MCS.

The cohort covered in this report is from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023. Data were extracted for this report on 16 October 2023 by which date it was expected that most devices used during the audit period had been reported to the database. Patients who were transferred on support are excluded from this analysis.

Prior to the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in May 2018, consent had to be gained from patients to record their data on the VAD Database. During this time 16 patients refused consent and so these patients are excluded from this report. From May 2018, patient data are recorded lawfully without explicit consent under Section 6(1)e of the GDPR. Use of Section 6(1)e requires a specific exemption, and the patient data is being collected and processed under Section 9(2)h “management of healthcare”.

The report is split into four main parts:

- Adult long-term devices used for bridging (long-term VADs and TAH)
- Adult short-term devices used for bridging (short-term VADs and ECMO)
- Adult short-term devices used post-heart transplant (short-term VADs and ECMO)
- Paediatric devices used for bridging (VAD and ECMO)

Each part includes an activity section where data are analysed on a per-implant basis (except short-term devices used post-heart transplant which are also analysed on a per-transplant basis, and paediatric bridging devices which are also analysed on a per-episode basis) and a patient outcome section where data are analysed on a per-patient basis. Activity is analysed over the decade whilst outcomes are typically analysed for more recent implants. See

Appendix A1 for a breakdown of the number of observations analysed in each section and notes on classifications and limitations.

Methods used to produce the report are described in Appendix A2.

Patient survival is analysed in two ways; from the point of first device implant to death, irrespective of subsequent intervention, and survival on support which is time from implant to death on support where explant or transplant events are censored. The reader should note that in both cases the results are not adjusted for potential differences in risk between patients treated at different centres. Such differences in "case-mix" may explain any variation in the centre-specific survival rates, thus no conclusions can be made about differences in the standard of care between centres.

## 2.1 Overview

**Figure 2.1** shows the number of bridging implants reported in the last ten years, split by device type, for adult patients. Up to 2015/2016, long-term implant activity increased steadily to a peak of 124 devices but has since decreased to 59 in 2022/2023. Short-term device usage has generally increased over the decade, with 112 devices in 2022/2023. **Figure 2.2** shows a breakdown of paediatric bridging implants in the last ten years. The number of VAD implants was comparatively low over the last three years, with just 11, 13, and 16 respectively, and the use of ECMO in paediatric patients has remained low across the period.

In total (adult and paediatric combined) there were 2,079 bridging implants reported across the decade in 1,659 patients; 1,309 (79%) patients had a single device implant, 292 (18%) had two implants, 48 (3%) had three, 8 (0.5%) had four, and 2 (0.1%) had five (see **Table A1.4** and **Table A1.5** in Appendix A1 for details of device histories).

**Figure 2.1 Total number of adult bridging device implants in the UK, by device type and financial year, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

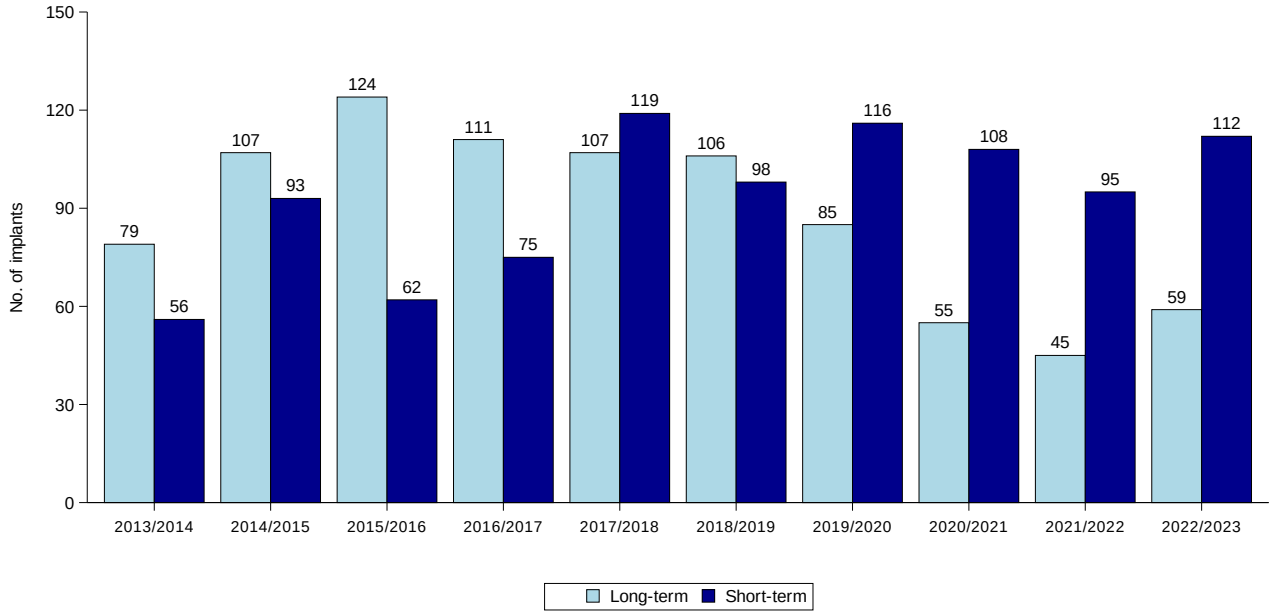


**Figure 2.2 Total number of paediatric bridging device implants in the UK, by device type and financial year, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

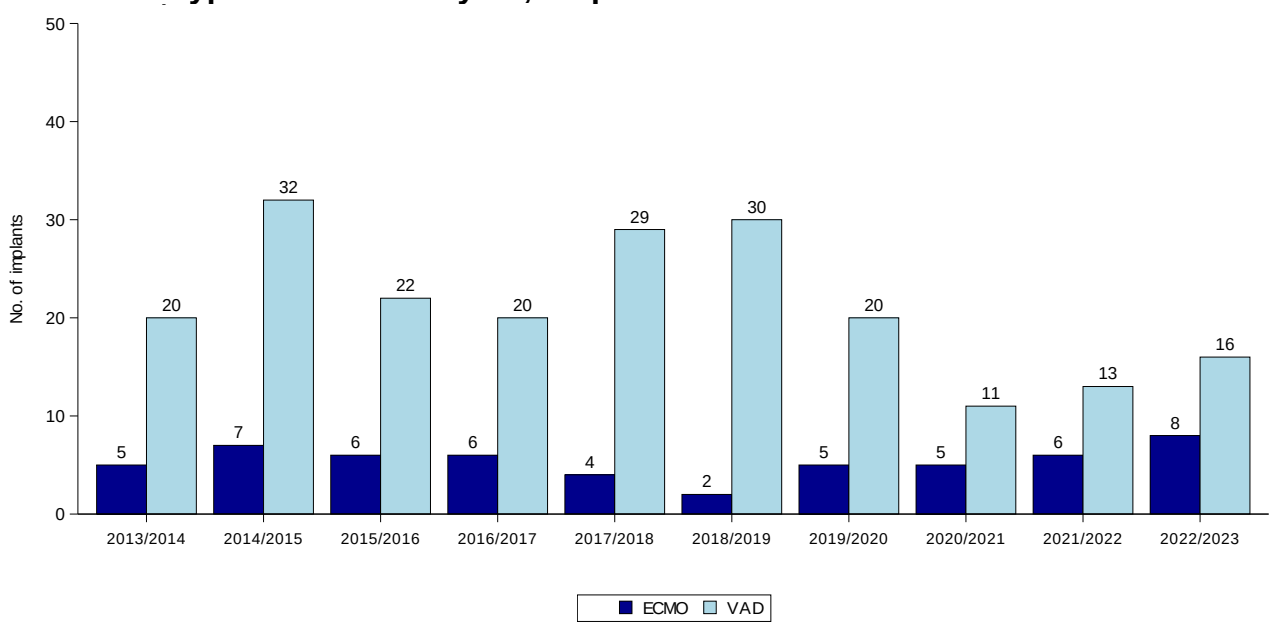
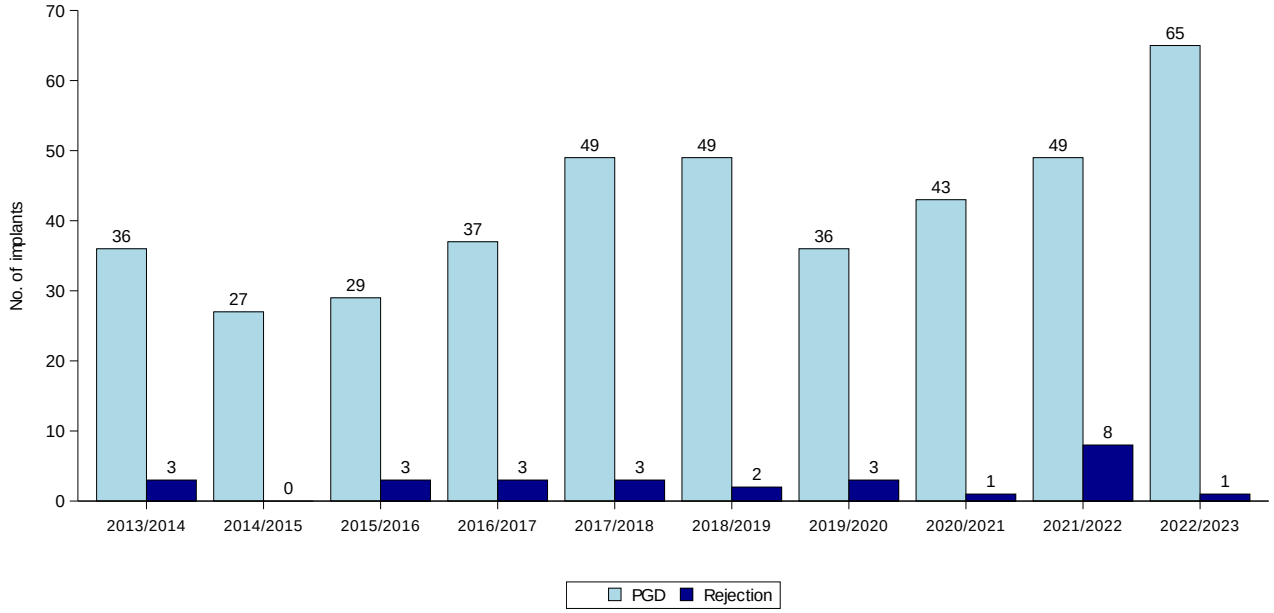



**Figure 2.3** shows the number of post-heart transplant implants reported in the last ten years, split by primary graft dysfunction and rejection (short-term implants beyond 30 days post-transplant) strategies for adult patients. The number of implants for PGD has increased over the period, with 65 in 2022/2023. Devices used for rejection are relatively rare, but the highest number was reported in 2021/2022. **Figure 2.4** shows the same breakdown for paediatric post-transplant implants in the last ten years.

In total (adult and paediatric combined) there were 506 post-transplant implants across the decade in 415 patients; 336 (81%) patients had a single device implant, 68 (16%) had two implants, 10 (2%) had three and 1 (0.2%) had four (see **Table A1.4** and **Table A1.5** in Appendix A1 for details of device histories).

## Figure 2.3 Total number of adult post-transplant device implants in the UK, by strategy and financial year, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023




## Figure 2.4 Total number of paediatric post-transplant device implants in the UK, by strategy and financial year, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023

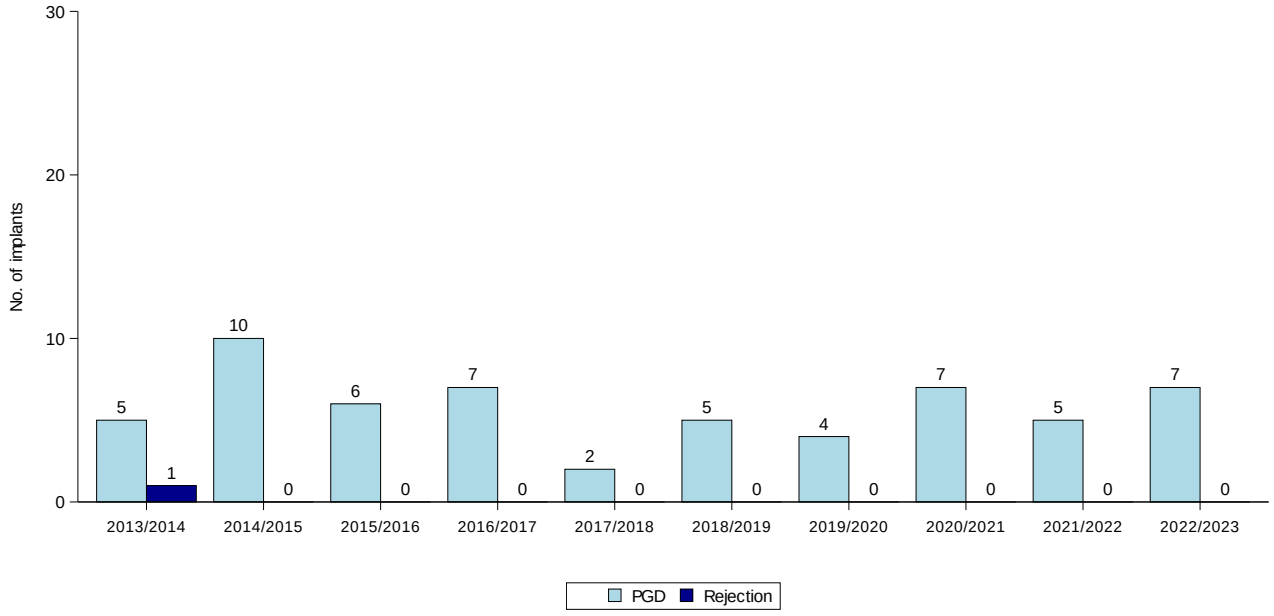


**Figure 2.5** shows the number of adult patients reported as alive on bridging support as of 31 March 2023 by centre and device type. In total, there were 294 patients alive on a long-term device and 8 alive on short-term support, with Birmingham having the highest number of patients on long-term support. **Figure 2.6** shows the same information but for paediatric patients. There were 9 paediatric patients alive on support on 31 March 2023, all of which were on a VAD and none on ECMO support.

**Figure 2.5 Number of adult patients alive on bridging support on 31 March 2023, by device type and centre**

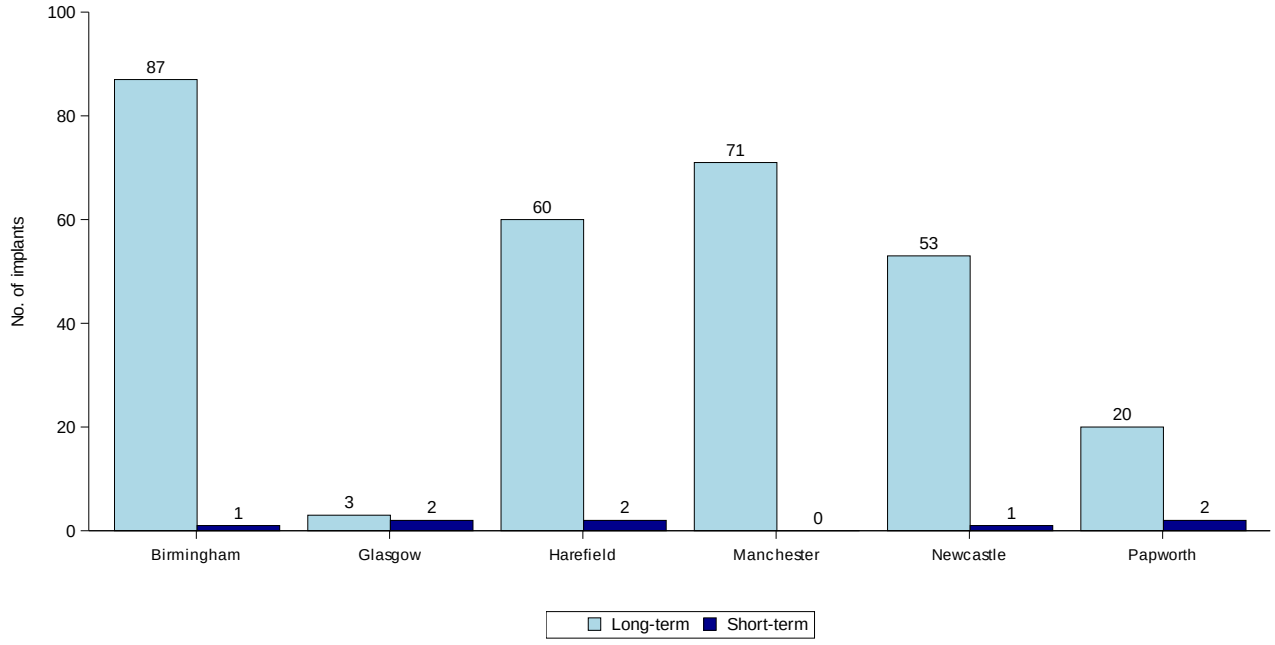
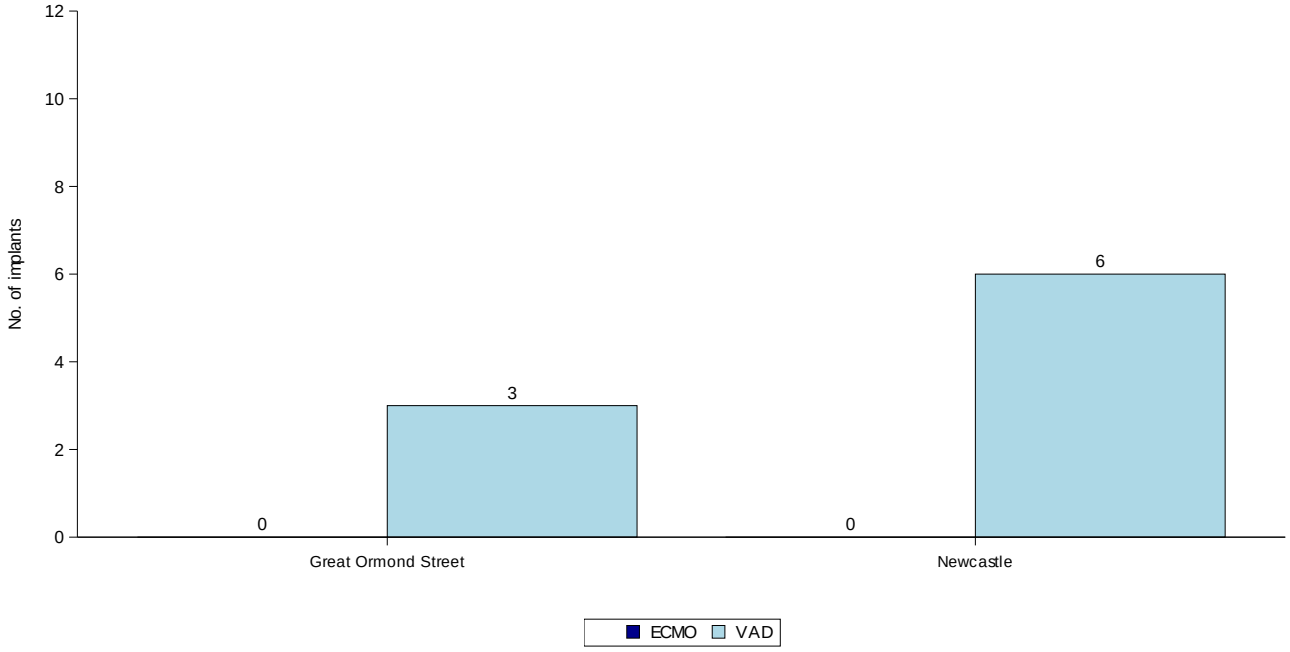



**Figure 2.6 Number of paediatric patients alive on bridging support on 31 March 2023, by device type and centre**



**Tables 2.1** and **2.2** show a summary of the number of adult and paediatric patients and implants that have been reported to the VAD Database by centres for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023, and separately for the most recent year, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. **Table 2.1** reflects the adult data while **Table 2.2** reflects the paediatric data.

**Table 2.1 Number of adult patients receiving devices and number of implants, by strategy and centre, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

| Strategy | Centre | 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2023 | | | | | | 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | No. of implants | Type of device | | | | No. patients | No. of implants | Type of device | | | | No. patients |
| | | | LT VAD | TAH | ST VAD* | ECMO | | | LT VAD | TAH | ST VAD* | ECMO | |
| Bridging | Birmingham | **352** | 166 | 0 | 141 | 45 | 277 | **27** | 11 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 26 |
| | Glasgow | **126** | 11 | 0 | 43 | 72 | 109 | **31** | 1 | 0 | 6 | 24 | 27 |
| | Harefield | **487** | 236 | 23 | 120 | 108 | 339 | **23** | 9 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 22 |
| | Manchester | **289** | 135 | 0 | 101 | 53 | 248 | **24** | 13 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 22 |
| | Newcastle | **328** | 217 | 1 | 21 | 89 | 285 | **35** | 16 | 0 | 7 | 12 | 30 |
| | Papworth | **230** | 89 | 0 | 110 | 31 | 194 | **31** | 9 | 0 | 17 | 5 | 27 |
| | **Total** | **1812** | **854** | **24** | **536** | **398** | **1452** | **171** | **59** | **0** | **59** | **53** | **154** |
| Post-transplant | Birmingham | **130** | 0 | 0 | 50 | 80 | 91 | **22** | 0 | 0 | 9 | 13 | 15 |
| | Glasgow | **61** | 0 | 0 | 12 | 49 | 48 | **19** | 0 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 17 |
| | Harefield | **66** | 0 | 0 | 3 | 63 | 59 | **8** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| | Manchester | **67** | 0 | 0 | 11 | 56 | 55 | **3** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| | Newcastle | **70** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 69 | 62 | **4** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| | Papworth | **53** | 0 | 0 | 10 | 43 | 43 | **10** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9 |
| | **Total** | **447** | **0** | **0** | **87[1]** | **360[1]** | **358** | **66** | **0** | **0** | **12[2]** | **54[2]** | **56** |

* Includes Berlin Heart devices
[1] Includes 14 ST VAD and 13 ECMO used for rejection which are excluded from the rest of the report
[2] Includes 1 ST VAD used for rejection which are excluded from the rest of the report

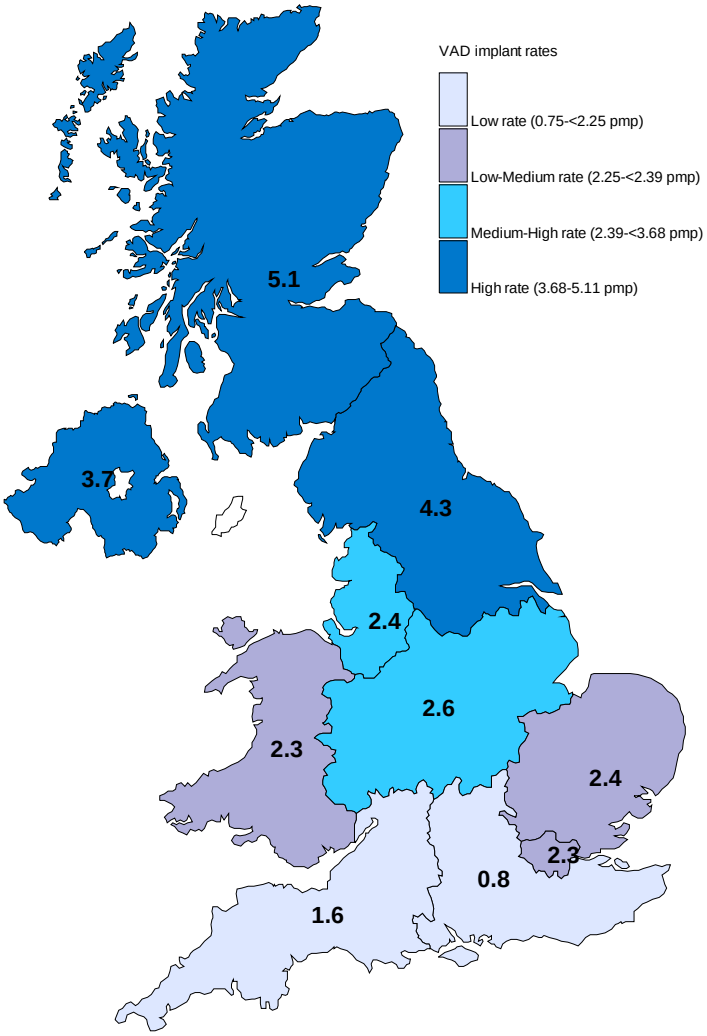
**Table 2.2 Number of paediatric patients receiving devices and number of implants, by strategy and centre, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

| Strategy | Centre | 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2023 | | | | 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | No. of implants | Type of device | | No. patients | No. of implants | Type of device | | No. patients |
| | | | VAD | ECMO | | | VAD | ECMO | |
| Bridging | Great Ormond Street | **132** | 98 | 34 | 104 | **13** | 8 | 5 | 11 |
| | Newcastle | **135** | 115 | 20 | 103 | **11** | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| | **Total** | **267** | **213** | **54** | **207** | **24** | **16** | **8** | **20** |
| Post-transplant | Great Ormond Street | **28** | 1 | 27 | 28 | **4** | **0** | 4 | 4 |
| | Newcastle | **31** | 1 | 30 | 29 | **3** | **0** | 3 | 3 |
| | **Total** | **59** | **2** | **57** | **57** | **7** | **0** | **7** | **7** |

**Figure 2.7** shows the number of patients receiving MCS as a bridge to heart transplant per million population (pmp) between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, by country/NHS region of patient residence. No adjustments have been made for potential demographic differences in populations. Note that this analysis only considered NHS Group 1 patients. Overall, the number of patients receiving MCS was 2.6 pmp of the UK.

Since there will inevitably be some random variation in rates between areas, the systematic component of variation (SCV) was used to identify if the variation is more (or less) than a random effect for the different NHS regions in England only. The larger the SCV the greater the evidence of a high level of systematic variation between areas. Implant rates yielded an SCV of 0.13 (p-value = 0.001). The p-value shows the probability that an SCV of this size (or higher) would be observed by chance if only random variation existed and therefore, there is strong evidence of geographical variation beyond what would be expected at random. No adjustment has been made for area-specific demographic characteristics that may impact the rates of implantation such as age and sex. Therefore, these results should be interpreted with caution.

**Figure 2.7 Number of patients receiving MCS as a bridge to heart transplantation per million population (pmp) in the UK, 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023, by country/NHS region of patient residence**




| Country/ NHS region | Patients | (pmp) |
|---|---|---|
| North East and Yorkshire | 35 | (4.3) |
| North West | 18 | (2.4) |
| Midlands | 28 | (2.6) |
| East of England | 15 | (2.4) |
| London | 20 | (2.3) |
| South East | 7 | (0.8) |
| South West | 9 | (1.6) |
| **England** | **132** | **(2.3)** |
| **Isle of Man** | **0** | **(0.0)** |
| **Channel Islands** | **0** | **(0.0)** |
| **Wales** | **7** | **(2.3)** |
| **Scotland** | **28** | **(5.1)** |
| **Northern Ireland** | **7** | **(3.7)** |
| **TOTAL** | **174** | **(2.6)** |

# ADULT LONG-TERM DEVICES USED FOR BRIDGING

## Activity

## 3 Long-term bridging devices in adults

This section considers all patients who received a long-term device as a bridge to heart transplantation. All figures and tables in this section present information on a per implant basis as opposed to per patient, so if a single patient had more than one long-term device implantation in the time period, each is included. If a patient had a previous short-term device, their long-term device is included.

**Figure 3.1** shows the total number of long-term bridging device implants in the last ten years nationally by device type (long-term VAD or TAH). During 2022/2023 there were 59 implants reported: 31% more than in 2021/2022. In total there were 24 TAH implants. **Figure 3.2** shows the trend per centre, with Harefield having the most marked decline in implants over the decade, but generally numbers have fallen in recent years for most centres. Last year's activity is shown by centre and device type in **Figure 3.3**. The highest number of implants last year was performed by Newcastle.

**Figure 3.1 Number of adult long-term bridging device implants in the UK, by financial year and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

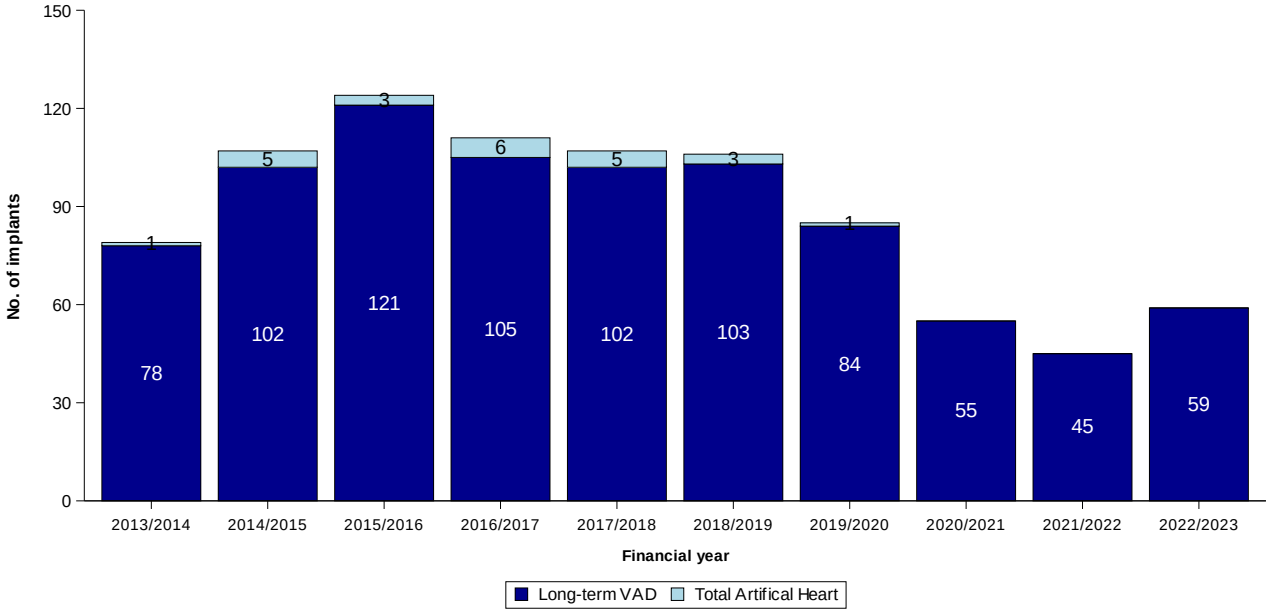


**Figure 3.2 Number of adult long-term bridging device implants in the UK, by financial year, centre and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

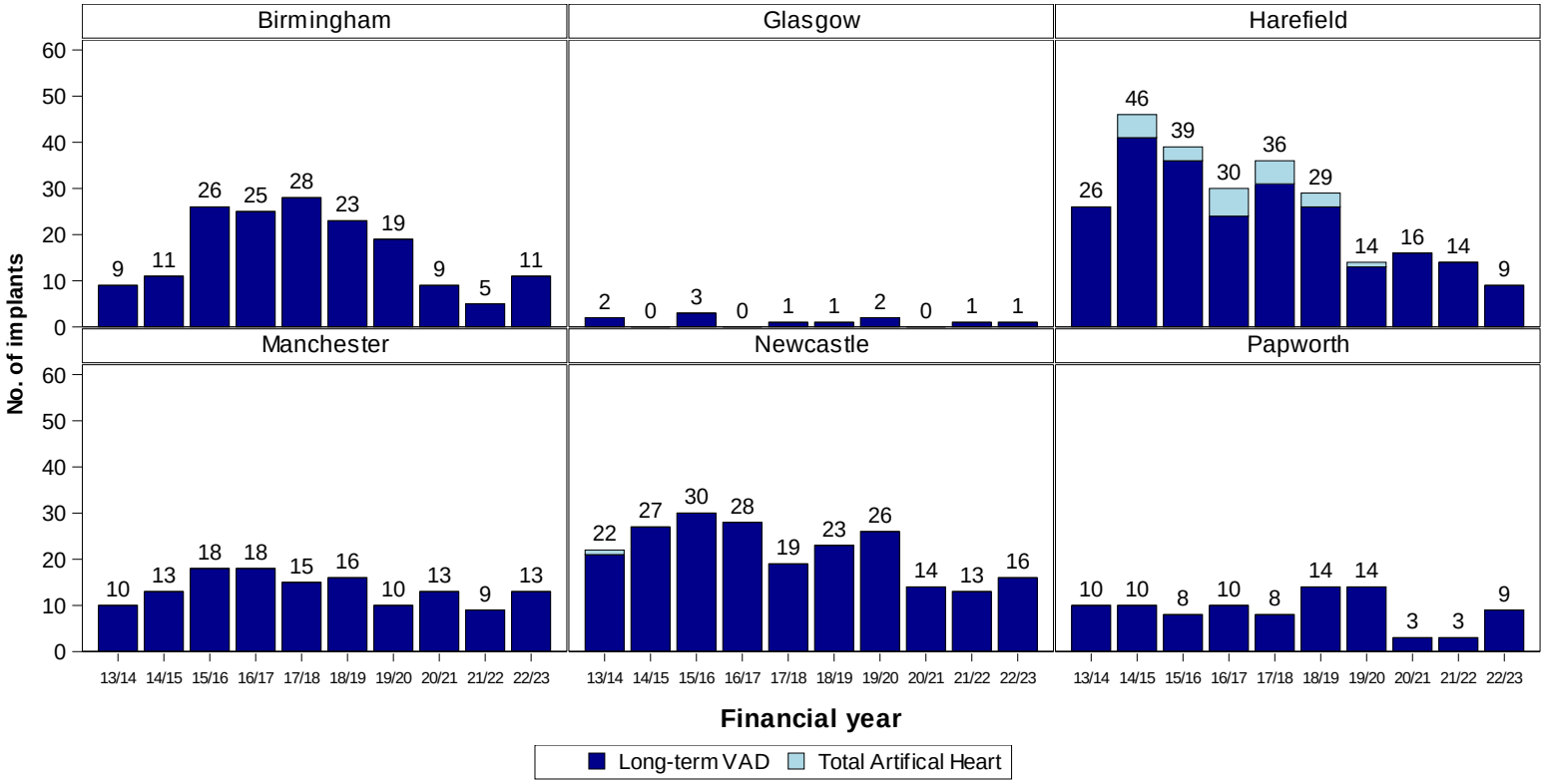


**Figure 3.3 Number of adult long-term bridging device implants in the UK, by centre and device type, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

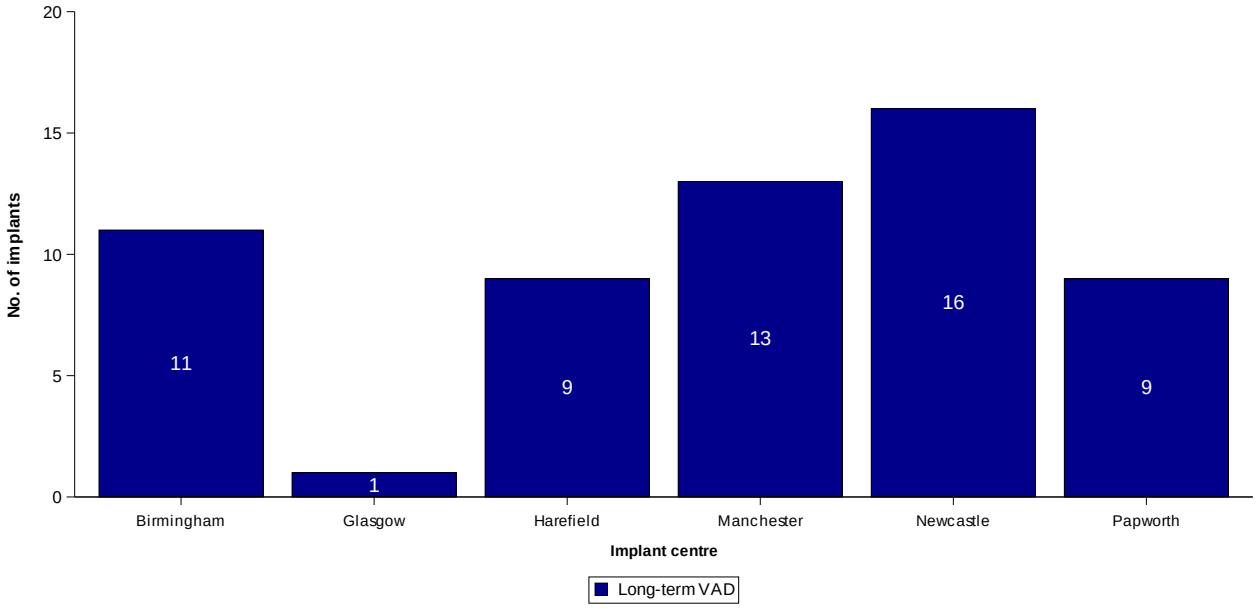
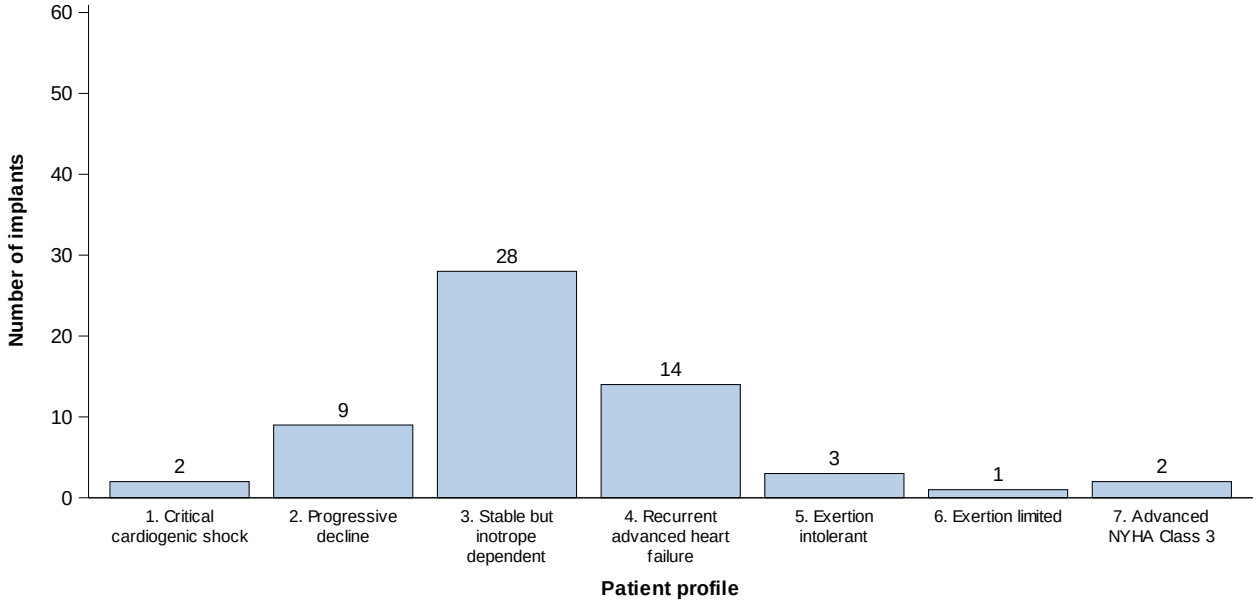



**Figure 3.4** shows the INTERMACS patient profile at time of long-term VAD implantation for patients implanted during 2022/2023. Level 3 (stable but inotrope dependent) was the most common, followed by level 4 (recurrent advanced heart failure) and level 2 (progressive decline).

**Figure 3.4 INTERMACS patient profile of adult patients receiving long-term bridging device implants during 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023**



# ADULT LONG-TERM DEVICES USED FOR BRIDGING

## Patient Outcomes

## 4 Outcomes for adult patients with long-term bridging devices

This section only considers patients whose first long-term device was a continuous-flow long-term VAD. Patients who received prior short-term support are included in this section. All patients had follow-up information available (as detailed in **Table A1.3** in Appendix A1). Patients are analysed on a per-patient basis and patients who received a Total Artificial Heart are considered separately in Section 4.7.

### 4.1 Demographic characteristics

The demographic characteristics of the 282 patients analysed in this section are shown below in **Table 4.1**, by centre and overall. Nationally, 78% of patients were male, the median age was 54 years and 58% of patients received a Heartmate III device. Note that for some characteristics, such as BMI, there is a high proportion of missing data, and some summary statistics are not presented for Glasgow due to small numbers. Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

**Table 4.1 Characteristics of adult patients who received a first long-term VAD between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of patients | | 55 | 4 | 66 | 48 | 75 | 34 | **282** |
| Recipient age (years) | Median (IQR)[1] | 55 (49-62) | - | 53 (41-58) | 51 (39-58) | 55 (45-60) | 53 (44-58) | **54 (44-59)** |
| | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Recipient sex | Male | 42 (76) | 4 (100) | 54 (82) | 41 (85) | 59 (79) | 21 (62) | **221 (78)** |
| | Female | 13 (24) | 0 (0) | 12 (18) | 7 (15) | 16 (21) | 13 (38) | **61 (22)** |
| Primary disease | Dilated cardiomyopathy | 23 (42) | 3 (75) | 37 (56) | 33 (69) | 31 (41) | 17 (50) | **144 (51)** |
| | Ischaemic heart disease | 26 (47) | 1 (25) | 24 (36) | 12 (25) | 30 (40) | 15 (44) | **108 (38)** |
| | Congenital heart disease | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 2 (3) | 1 (2) | 11 (15) | 0 (0) | **15 (5)** |
| | Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 2 (3) | 2 (4) | 3 (4) | 2 (6) | **9 (3)** |
| | Valvular heart disease | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (0)** |
| | Infiltrative heart muscle disease | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (0)** |
| | Other | 3 (5) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **3 (1)** |
| | Unknown | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (0)** |

**Table 4.1 Characteristics of adult patients who received a first long-term VAD between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| INTERMACS patient profile | 1. Critical cardiogenic shock | 6 (11) | 0 (0) | 9 (14) | 9 (19) | 6 (8) | 0 (0) | **30 (11)** |
| | 2. Progressive decline | 5 (9) | 3 (75) | 37 (56) | 8 (17) | 12 (16) | 3 (9) | **68 (24)** |
| | 3. Stable but inotrope dependent | 37 (67) | 0 (0) | 19 (29) | 23 (48) | 28 (37) | 16 (47) | **123 (44)** |
| | 4. Recurrent advanced heart failure | 7 (13) | 1 (25) | 1 (2) | 8 (17) | 29 (39) | 10 (29) | **56 (20)** |
| | 5. Exertion intolerant | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | 6. Exertion limited | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 2 (6) | **2 (1)** |
| | 7. Advanced NYHA Class 3 | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 3 (9) | **3 (1)** |
| Pre-implant BMI | Median (IQR)[1] | 27 (25-30) | - | 28 (24-31) | 27 (23-29) | 27 (25-30) | 26 (24-29) | **27 (24-30)** |
| | Missing | 4 | 0 | 22 | 5 | 22 | 11 | **64** |
| Pre-implant creatinine | Median (IQR)[1] | 105 (83-134) | - | 103 (75-125) | 84 (71-110) | 114 (95-134) | 122 (90-153) | **106 (78-133)** |
| | Missing | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 4 | **22** |
| Pre-implant bilirubin | Median (IQR)[1] | 16 (11-25) | - | 18 (13-30) | 18 (10-32) | 16 (12-41) | 15 (9-20) | **16 (12-30)** |
| | Missing | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 32 | 9 | **49** |
| LVAD device name | Heartmate II | 0 (0) | 1 (25) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (0)** |
| | Heartware | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 52 (79) | 0 (0) | 64 (85) | 1 (3) | **117 (41)** |
| | HeartMate III | 55 (100) | 3 (75) | 14 (21) | 48 (100) | 11 (15) | 33 (97) | **164 (58)** |
| Device configuration | LVAD | 54 (98) | 4 (100) | 66 (100) | 48 (100) | 69 (92) | 34 (100) | **275 (98)** |
| | RVAD | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 6 (8) | 0 (0) | **7 (2)** |
| Conjunction ST RVAD support | No | 42 (76) | 3 (75) | 59 (89) | 37 (77) | 63 (84) | 33 (97) | **237 (84)** |
| | Yes | 13 (24) | 1 (25) | 7 (11) | 11 (23) | 12 (16) | 1 (3) | **45 (16)** |
| Previous transplant | No | 55 (100) | 4 (100) | 66 (100) | 48 (100) | 75 (100) | 34 (100) | **282 (100)** |
| Previous ST support | No | 48 (87) | 4 (100) | 46 (70) | 45 (94) | 69 (92) | 30 (88) | **242 (86)** |
| | Yes | 7 (13) | 0 (0) | 20 (30) | 3 (6) | 6 (8) | 4 (12) | **40 (14)** |

[1] Medians not presented for centres with less than 10 patients

## 4.2 Duration on support

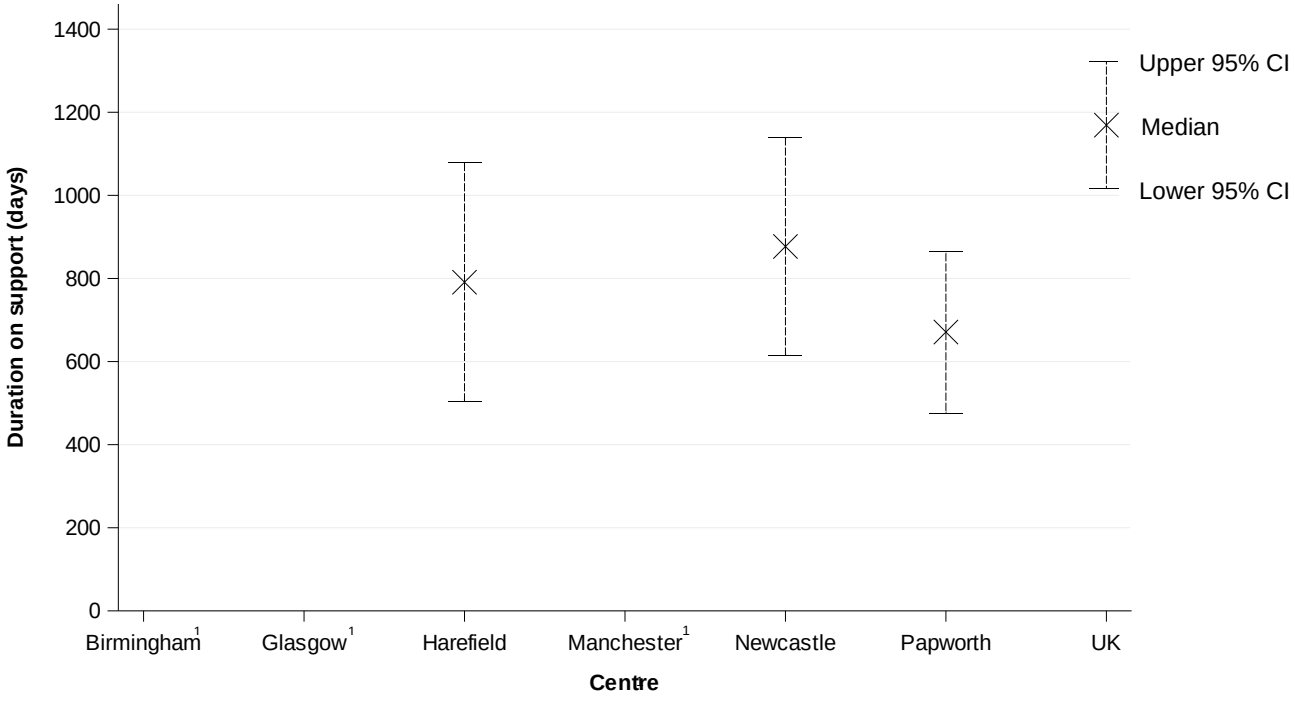
**Table 4.2** and **Figure 4.1** show the median duration on long-term VAD support for patients implanted in the analysis period, both nationally and by centre. The medians and confidence intervals are estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method since not all patients have come to the end of their support, and this method allows these (censored) patients to be included in the analysis. Transplant, explant or death signify end of support. If a patient was subsequently given a short-term device, only time on the long-term device is counted. Nationally, the median time on long-term support was 1169 days (3.2 years). The duration varies significantly across centres (log-rank p<0.0001) with medians not estimable for Birmingham and Manchester as insufficient numbers of patients had come to the end of support at time of analysis, or for Glasgow due to small numbers of patients.

**Table 4.2 Median duration on long-term VAD support for adult patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | Time on support (days) Median | (95% confidence interval) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham[1] | 55 | - | - |
| Glasgow[2] | 4 | - | - |
| Harefield | 66 | 791 | 504 - 1078 |
| Manchester[1] | 48 | - | - |
| Newcastle | 75 | 877 | 615 - 1139 |
| Papworth | 34 | 671 | 476 - 866 |
| **Overall** | **282** | **1169** | **1016 - 1322** |

[1] Median duration on support cannot be estimated as insufficient numbers of patients have come to the end of support
[2] Median duration on support not presented due to a small number of patients

**Figure 4.1 Median duration on long-term VAD support for adult patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022**




[1] Median duration on support cannot be estimated

## 4.3 Rate of transplant listing

**Figure 4.2** and **Table 4.3** show the rate of transplant listing for patients first implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre. This includes listing on either the super-urgent, urgent or non-urgent heart transplant lists (whichever occurred first). Overall, 26% of patients were on the list at implant, but this proportion ranged significantly across centres (chi-squared p<0.0001). The proportion still on a VAD at one year and not listed was 22% overall and was highest at Birmingham (60%). Note that Glasgow's figures are based on just four patients.

**Figure 4.2 Heart transplant listing status with respect to long-term VAD implantation for adult patients receiving a first device 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre and overall**

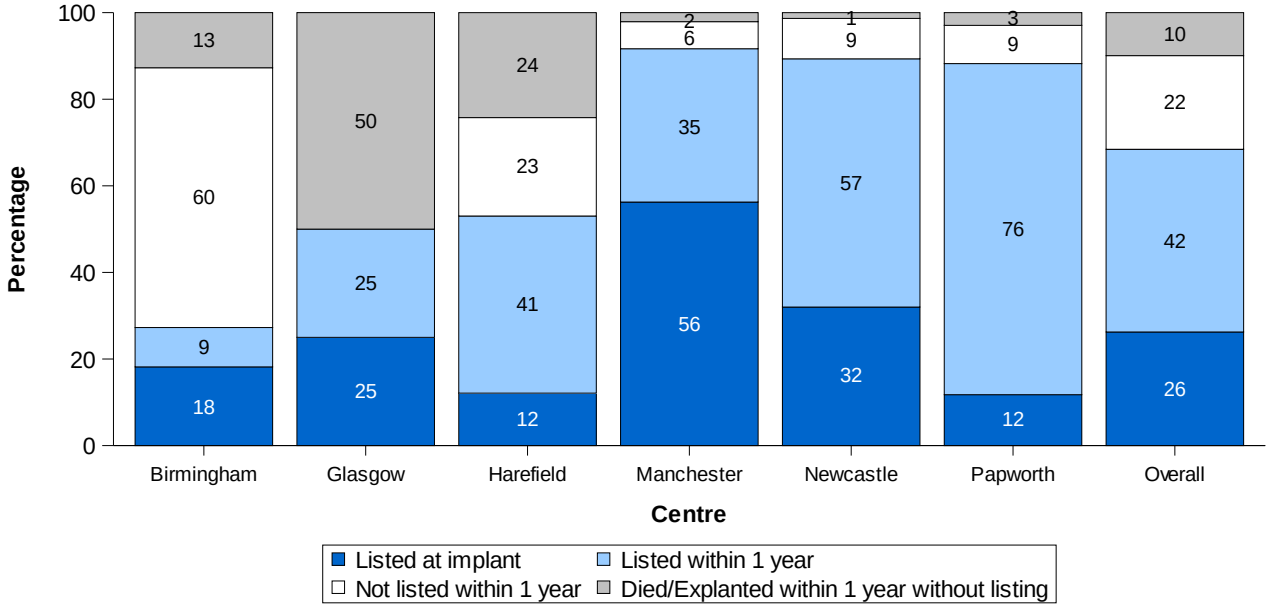



**Table 4.3 Heart transplant listing status with respect to long-term VAD implantation for adult patients receiving a first device 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre and overall**

| Centre | Number of patients | Listed at VAD implant | Listed within 1 year | Not listed within 1 year | Died/explanted within 1 year without listing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | N (%) | N (%) | N (%) | N (%) |
| Birmingham | 55 | 10 (18) | 5 (9) | 33 (60) | 7 (13) |
| Glasgow | 4 | 1 (25) | 1 (25) | 0 (0) | 2 (50) |
| Harefield | 66 | 8 (12) | 27 (41) | 15 (23) | 16 (24) |
| Manchester | 48 | 27 (56) | 17 (35) | 3 (6) | 1 (2) |
| Newcastle | 75 | 24 (32) | 43 (57) | 7 (9) | 1 (1) |
| Papworth | 34 | 4 (12) | 26 (76) | 3 (9) | 1 (3) |
| **Overall** | **282** | **74 (26)** | **119 (42)** | **61 (22)** | **28 (10)** |

## 4.4 Competing outcomes

Whilst on VAD support, patients are susceptible to different outcomes. Death on support, transplant, and explant without transplant (with or without recovery) are all possible outcomes. **Figure 4.3** shows the cumulative incidence of each of these outcomes occurring from time of implant, for the cohort of patients receiving a first long-term device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022. This is calculated using the Aalen-Johansen method to account for competing outcomes. At time zero, 100% of patients are on support and as time passes, patients either experience death on support, transplant or explant without transplant. At any time point, the proportion alive on support plus the proportions experiencing each outcome will sum to 100%. Deaths after transplant are not counted and these patients are classed simply as transplanted. Patients who were explanted and died within 30 days of explant are counted as deaths at time of explant. Any subsequent VAD support post-explant is not counted and any such patients are classed simply as explanted. If a patient is moved from one long-term device to another without a period free of support, this counts as time on support.

For this cohort, nationally, at one year post- long-term implant, 79% of patients remained alive on support, 15% died on support, 5% received a heart transplant and 1% had their device explanted without transplant or immediate re-implant. At two years, the incidence of transplantation rose to 10%, however so did the incidence of death, to 23%, with the remaining 65% of patients still alive on support and 2% explanted. At three years, the incidence of death on support rose to 30%, the incidence of transplant rose to 13%, 5% had been explanted and 52% remained alive on support.

**Figure 4.3 Cumulative incidence of transplant, death and explant for adult patients implanted with a first long-term VAD, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

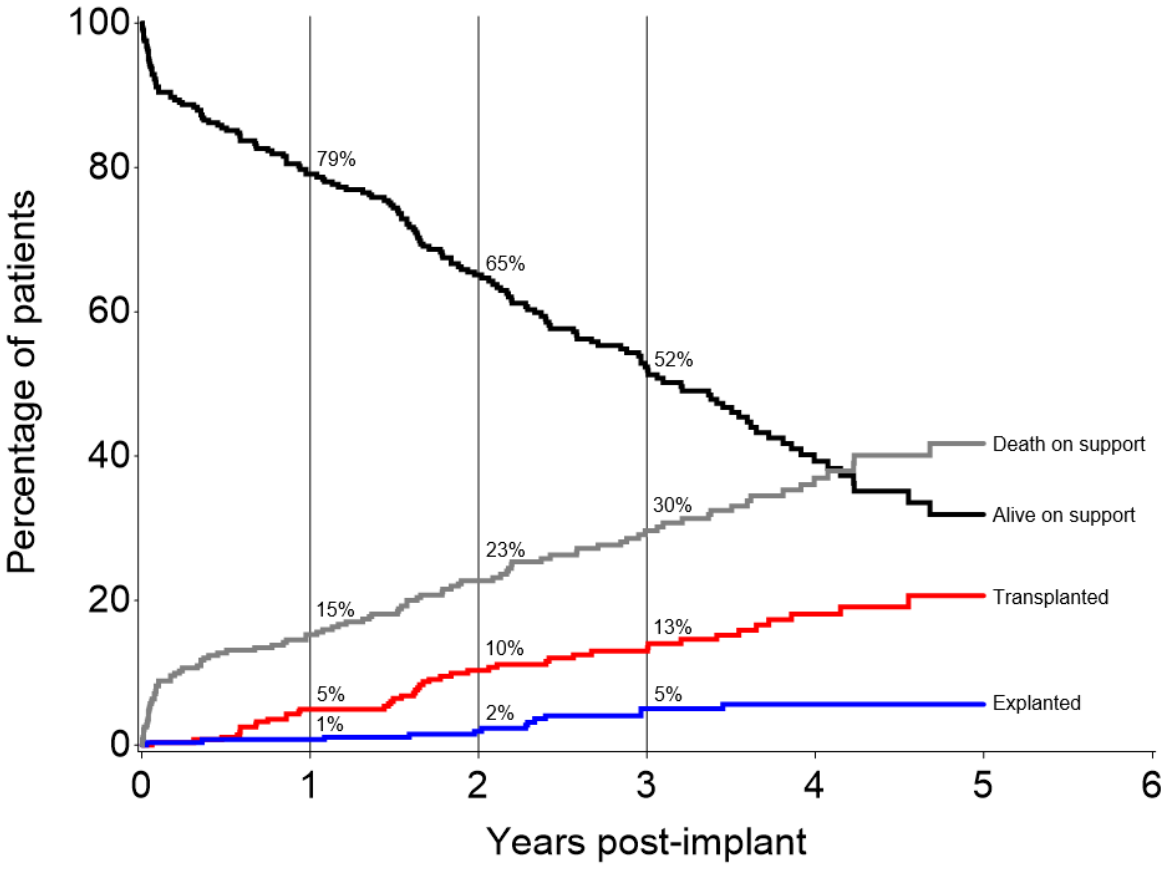


**Table 4.4a** and **Table 4.4b** shows the centre-specific one-year and three-year estimates for each competing outcome, respectively. The incidence of each outcome varies across centres.

**Table 4.4a Cumulative incidence of each outcome at 1 year, by centre, for adult patients implanted with a first long-term VAD, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

| Centre | Number of patients | Transplanted % | Explanted % | Alive on support % | Death on support % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 55 | 0 | 2 | 82 | 16 |
| Glasgow | 4 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 |
| Harefield | 66 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 29 |
| Manchester | 48 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 6 |
| Newcastle | 75 | 7 | 1 | 80 | 12 |
| Papworth | 34 | 27 | 0 | 70 | 3 |
| **Overall** | **282** | **5** | **1** | **79** | **15** |

**Table 4.4b Cumulative incidence of each outcome at 3 years, by centre, for adult patients implanted with a first long-term VAD, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

| Centre | Number of patients | Transplanted % | Explanted % | Alive on support % | Death (before transplant) % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 55 | 2 | 2 | 68 | 29 |
| Glasgow | 4 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 |
| Harefield | 66 | 3 | 2 | 38 | 57 |
| Manchester | 48 | 9 | 8 | 77 | 6 |
| Newcastle | 75 | 18 | 11 | 41 | 31 |
| Papworth | 34 | 46 | 0 | 45 | 9 |
| **Overall** | **282** | **13** | **5** | **52** | **30** |

## 4.5 Survival on support

This section presents Kaplan-Meier estimates of patient survival during long-term VAD support. All patients who received a long-term VAD were included, whether this was their first VAD or after a short-term VAD. Survival time is calculated as the time on long-term VAD support only, and death on long-term support (including patients who died within 30 days of explant) is the only event considered. Times were censored if the patient had their long-term VAD explanted, received a transplant from support or were alive on support at last report. This differs from the analysis in Section 4.6 which considers a patient's overall survival from the point of implant and includes time after explant or transplant, as well as time on other subsequent devices.

**Figure 4.4** shows the unadjusted survival curve on long-term support for the UK VAD population. **Table 4.5** shows the unadjusted centre-specific survival on support rates at 30 days, 1 year and 3 years respectively. The national survival on support rates were 93.2%, 85.8%, and 68.8% at 30 days, 1 year, and 3 years respectively. There was a significant

difference between unadjusted survival on support at each time point between centres for 30-day (log-rank p=0.02) and for 1 and 3-year (log-rank p<0.0001).

**Figure 4.4 Patient survival during long-term VAD support for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022**

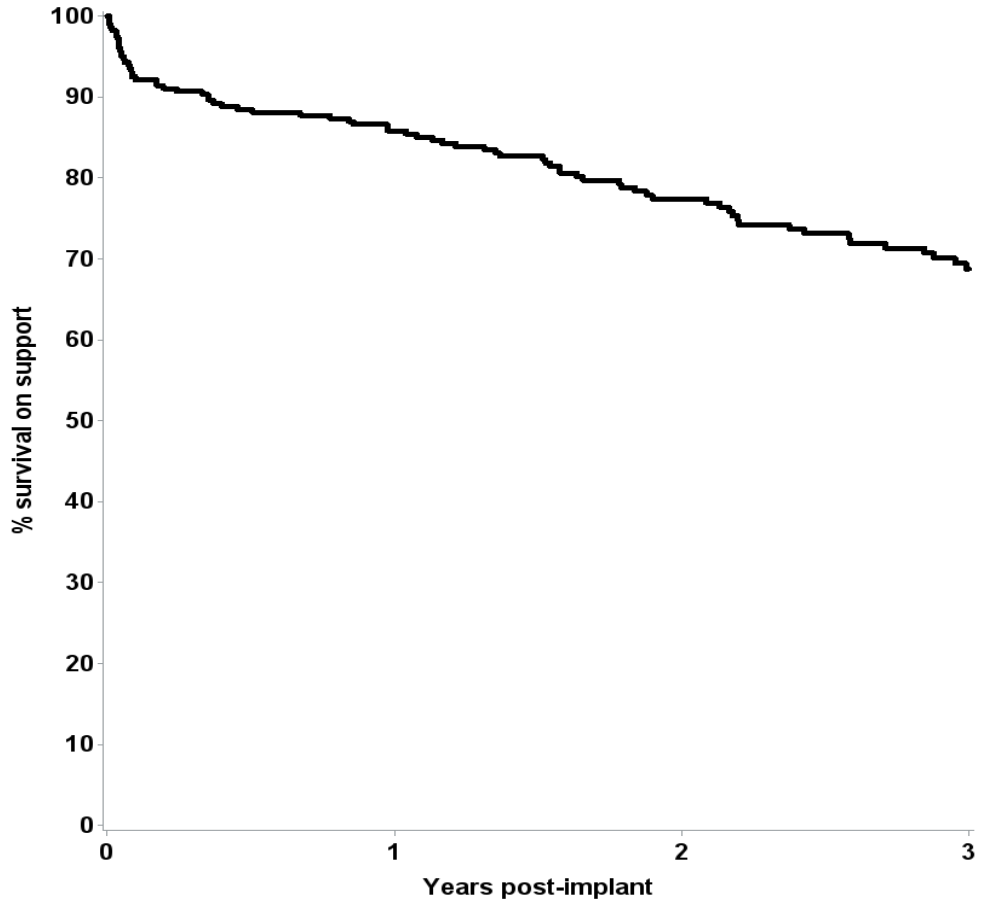



**Table 4.5 Unadjusted survival during long-term VAD support, by centre, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

| Centre | No. of patients | % 30 day survival (95% CI) | | % 1 year survival (95% CI) | | % 3 year survival (95% CI) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 55 | 94.4 | (83.6 - 98.2) | 86.7 | (74.2 - 93.4) | 73.4 | (58.4 - 83.7) |
| Glasgow[1] | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Harefield | 66 | 84.7 | (73.4 - 91.4) | 73.7 | (61.2 - 82.8) | 43.2 | (29.0 - 56.7) |
| Manchester | 48 | 95.8 | (84.4 - 98.9) | 93.8 | (81.9 - 97.9) | 93.8 | (81.9 - 97.9) |
| Newcastle | 75 | 96.0 | (88.1 - 98.7) | 87.6 | (77.5 - 93.4) | 63.6 | (48.9 - 75.1) |
| Papworth | 34 | 100 | - | 97.1 | (80.9 - 99.6) | 88.2 | (67.1 - 96.1) |
| Number at risk | | 260 | | 221 | | 102 | |
| **Log-rank p-value** | | **0.02** | | **<0.0001** | | **<0.0001** | |
| **UK** | **282** | **93.2** | **(89.5 - 95.6)** | **85.8** | **(81.1 - 89.4)** | **68.8** | **(62.1 - 74.5)** |

[1] Survival rates for groups with fewer than 10 patients are not presented due to small numbers

## 4.6 Patient survival from implant

Overall survival rates from the point of first long-term VAD implant, not censored for transplant or explant, are presented in this section. Survival data from the UK Transplant Registry were incorporated, as was any additional survival time recorded on the VAD Database for patients who were explanted. Time on additional devices is also counted, so for example if a patient had a period of long-term support, then a period of short-term support, all this time is included. Times are censored if the patient was still alive at last known event or follow-up.

Survival rates are calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method and are based on those patients recorded as receiving a first device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022. In **Tables 4.6**-**4.8** and **Figures 4.5**-**4.7** the centre-specific survival rates are presented for 30 days, 1 year and 3 years respectively. The national survival rates were 92.6%, 83.3%, and 67.2% at 30 days, 1 year, and 3 years respectively.

The centre-specific rates are not adjusted for differences in risk between patients treated at different centres. These differences can be seen at the start of this section in **Table 4.1** which displays the baseline characteristics of the 282 patients included in this analysis (including the number of patients who received prior short-term support). The survival rates are compared with the national rate and the uncertainty around this rate using funnel plots where outliers appear outside of the funnels; rates above the funnel are significantly high while rates below the funnel are significantly low. Rates for Glasgow are not included due to low numbers.

The unadjusted centre-specific 30-day survival rates for patients implanted in the recent period are shown in **Table 4.6** and **Figure 4.5**. The rate for Papworth exceeded the upper 99.8% confidence limit, indicating a higher unadjusted rate than the national rate. There was also some evidence of a lower rate at Harefield.

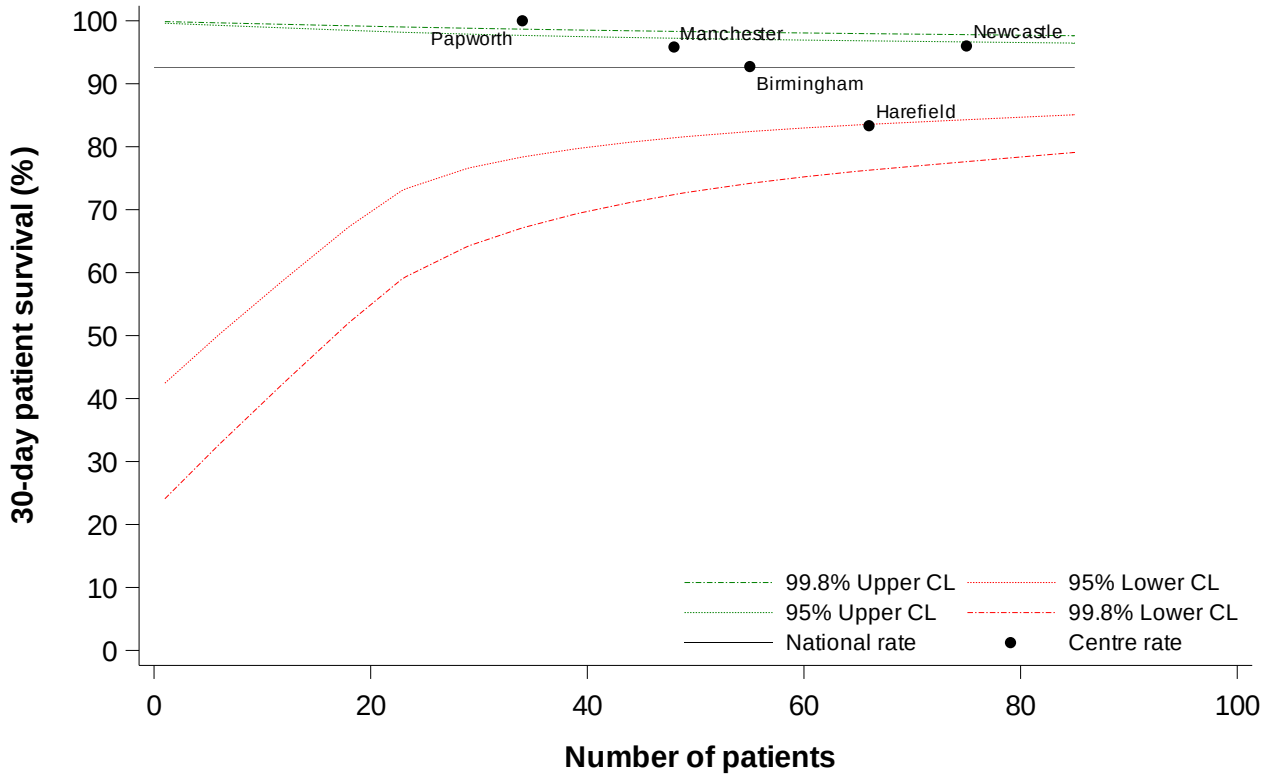
**Table 4.6 30-day patient survival rates after long-term VAD implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | % 30-day survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 55 | 92.7 | (81.8 - 97.2) |
| Glasgow[1] | 4 | - | - |
| Harefield | 66 | 83.3 | (71.9 - 90.4) |
| Manchester | 48 | 95.8 | (84.4 - 98.9) |
| Newcastle | 75 | 96.0 | (88.1 - 98.7) |
| Papworth | 34 | 100 | ( - ) |
| **UK** | **282** | **92.6** | **(88.8 - 95.1)** |

Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit

[1] Survival rates for groups with fewer than 10 patients are not presented due to small numbers

**Figure 4.5 Unadjusted 30-day patient survival rates after long-term VAD implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**



The unadjusted centre-specific 1-year survival rates are shown in **Table 4.7** and **Figure 4.6**. The centre-specific rates ranged between 71.2% and 93.8% with there being some evidence of Manchester having a higher unadjusted rate than the national rate, and some evidence of a lower rate at Harefield.

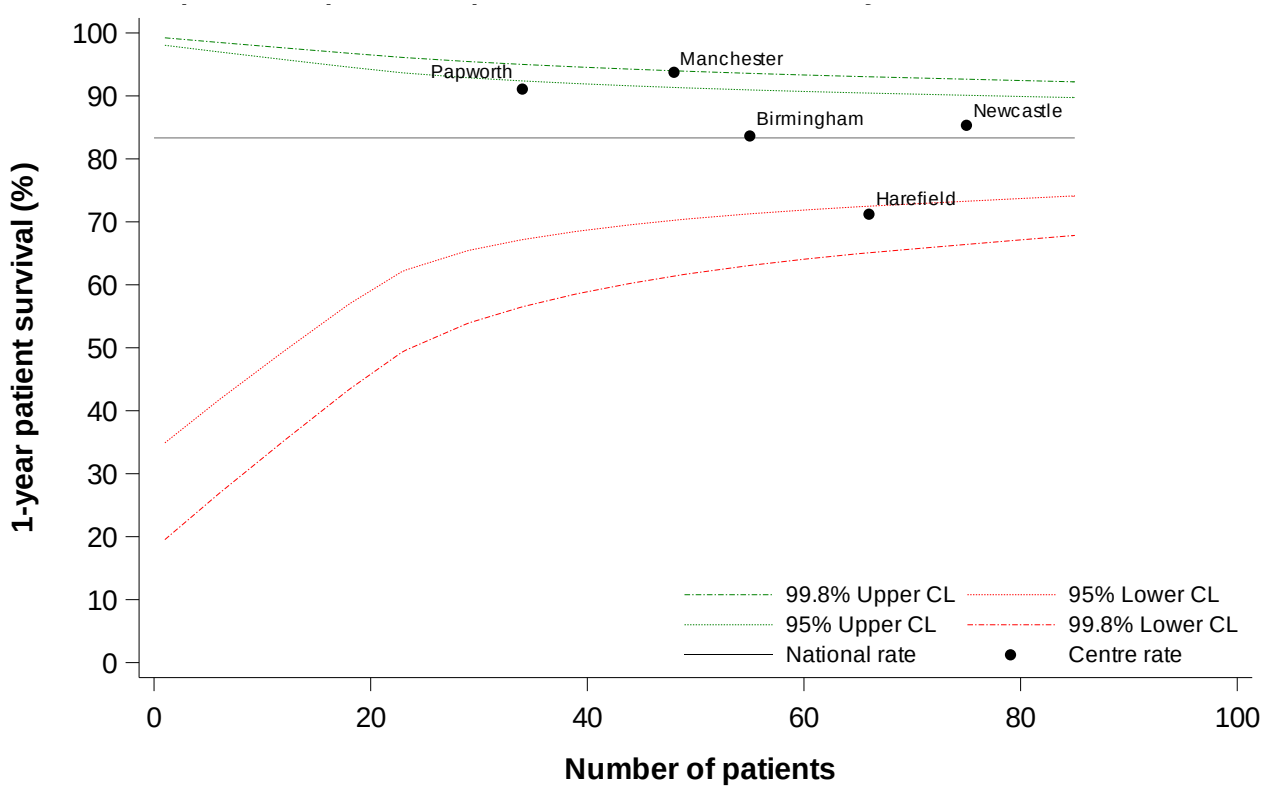
**Table 4.7 1-year patient survival rates after long-term VAD implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | % 1-year survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 55 | 83.6 | (70.9 - 91.1) |
| Glasgow[1] | 4 | - | - |
| Harefield | 66 | 71.2 | (58.7 - 80.6) |
| Manchester | 48 | 93.8 | (81.9 - 97.9) |
| Newcastle | 75 | 85.3 | (75.1 - 91.6) |
| Papworth | 34 | 91.1 | (74.8 - 97.0) |
| **UK** | **282** | **83.3** | **(78.4 - 87.2)** |

Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit

[1] Survival rates for groups with fewer than 10 patients are not presented due to small numbers

**Figure 4.6 Unadjusted 1-year survival rates after long-term VAD implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**



The unadjusted centre-specific 3-year survival rates are shown in **Table 4.8** and **Figure 4.7**. The rate for Manchester exceeded the upper 99.8% confidence limit, indicating a higher unadjusted rate than the national rate. The rate for Harefield fell below the lower 99.8% confidence limit, indicating a lower unadjusted rate than the national rate. There was also some evidence of a higher rate at Papworth.

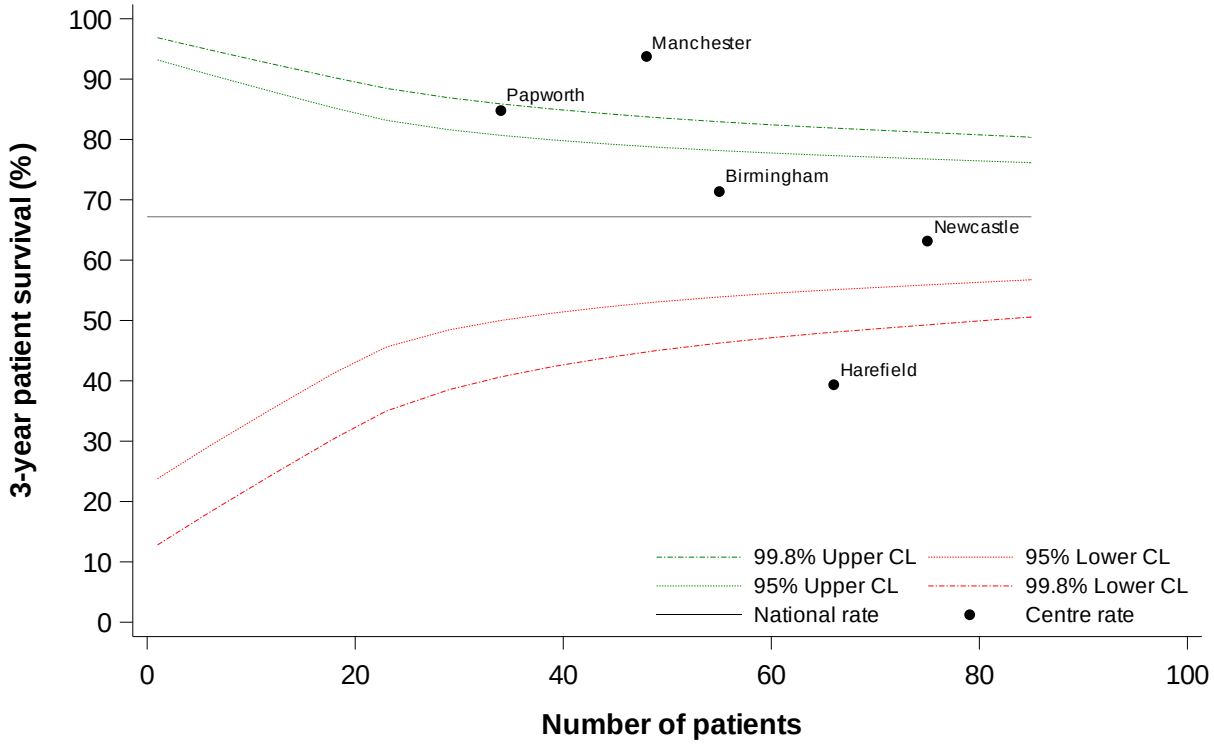
**Table 4.8 3-year patient survival rates after long-term VAD implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | % 3-year survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 55 | 71.4 | (56.9 - 81.7) |
| Glasgow[1] | 4 | | - |
| Harefield | 66 | 39.4 | (26.2 - 52.2) |
| Manchester | 48 | 93.8 | (81.9 - 97.9) |
| Newcastle | 75 | 63.2 | (50.2 - 73.6) |
| Papworth | 34 | 84.8 | (67.2 - 93.4) |
| **UK** | **282** | **67.2** | **(61.0 - 72.6)** |

Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit

[1] Survival rates for groups with fewer than 10 patients are not presented due to small numbers

**Figure 4.7 Unadjusted 3-year patient survival rates after long-term VAD implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**



## 4.7 TAH outcomes

**Table 4.9** shows the outcomes of the 24 patients who received a TAH as a bridge to transplant in the time period. All patients are considered, including those who received other MCS prior to the TAH and those who received a TAH post-transplant. Two centres have used TAH in the time period. **Table 4.10** shows the national 30-day and 1-year post-implant survival rates for these patients. The 30-day rate was 70.6% but this fell to 14.1% at 1-year, however care should be used when interpreting this rate due to the small cohort the numbers are based on.

**Table 4.9 Outcomes of TAH recipients, by implant centre, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

| Centre | Number of patients N | Alive on support N (%) | Died not on list N (%) | Died on list N (%) | Survived to transplant N (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harefield | 23 | 0 (0) | 10 (43) | 3 (13) | 10 (43) |
| Newcastle | 1 | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (100) | 0 (0) |
| **Overall** | **24** | **0 (0)** | **10 (42)** | **4 (17)** | **10 (42)** |

**Table 4.10 Patient survival rates after TAH implant, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

| Number of patients | % 30-day survival (95% CI) | % 1-year survival (95% CI) |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | 70.6 (48.0 – 84.8) | 14.1 (3.5 – 31.7) |

# ADULT SHORT-TERM DEVICES USED FOR BRIDGING

## Activity

## 5 Short-term bridging devices in adults

This section considers all patients who received short-term support as a bridge to heart transplantation. All figures and tables present information on a per implant basis as opposed to per patient, so if a single patient had more than one short-term device implant in the time period, each one is included.

**Figure 5.1** shows the total number of short-term bridging device implants in the last ten years nationally by device type (ECMO or short-term VAD). During 2022/2023 there were 112 implants: 18% more than 2021/2022. Since 2014/2015 there have been more short-term VAD implants than ECMO procedures, however, across the decade around a quarter of the short-term VAD implants were reported to have involved some form of conjunction ECMO (either transient or ongoing). **Figure 5.2** shows the trend per centre, with Papworth and Glasgow showing an increasing trend over the decade while Birmingham and Harefield's activity has recently decreased. Last year's implant activity is shown by centre and device type in **Figure 5.3**. The highest number of short-term implants was performed by Glasgow.

**Figure 5.1 Number of adult short-term bridging device implants in the UK, by financial year and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

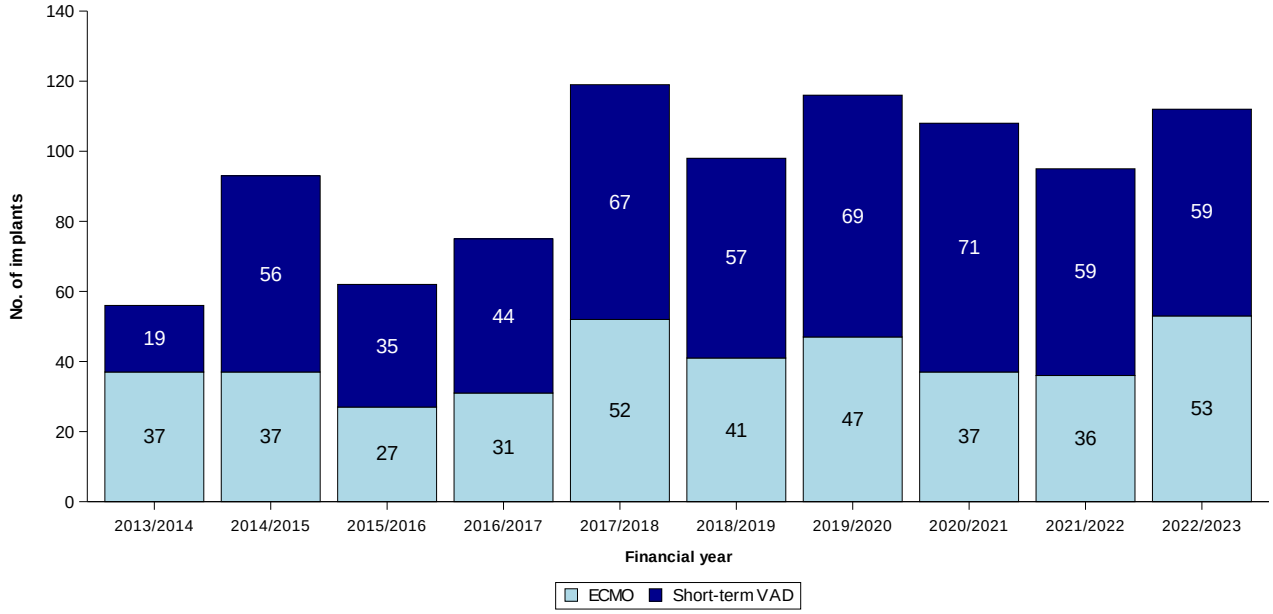
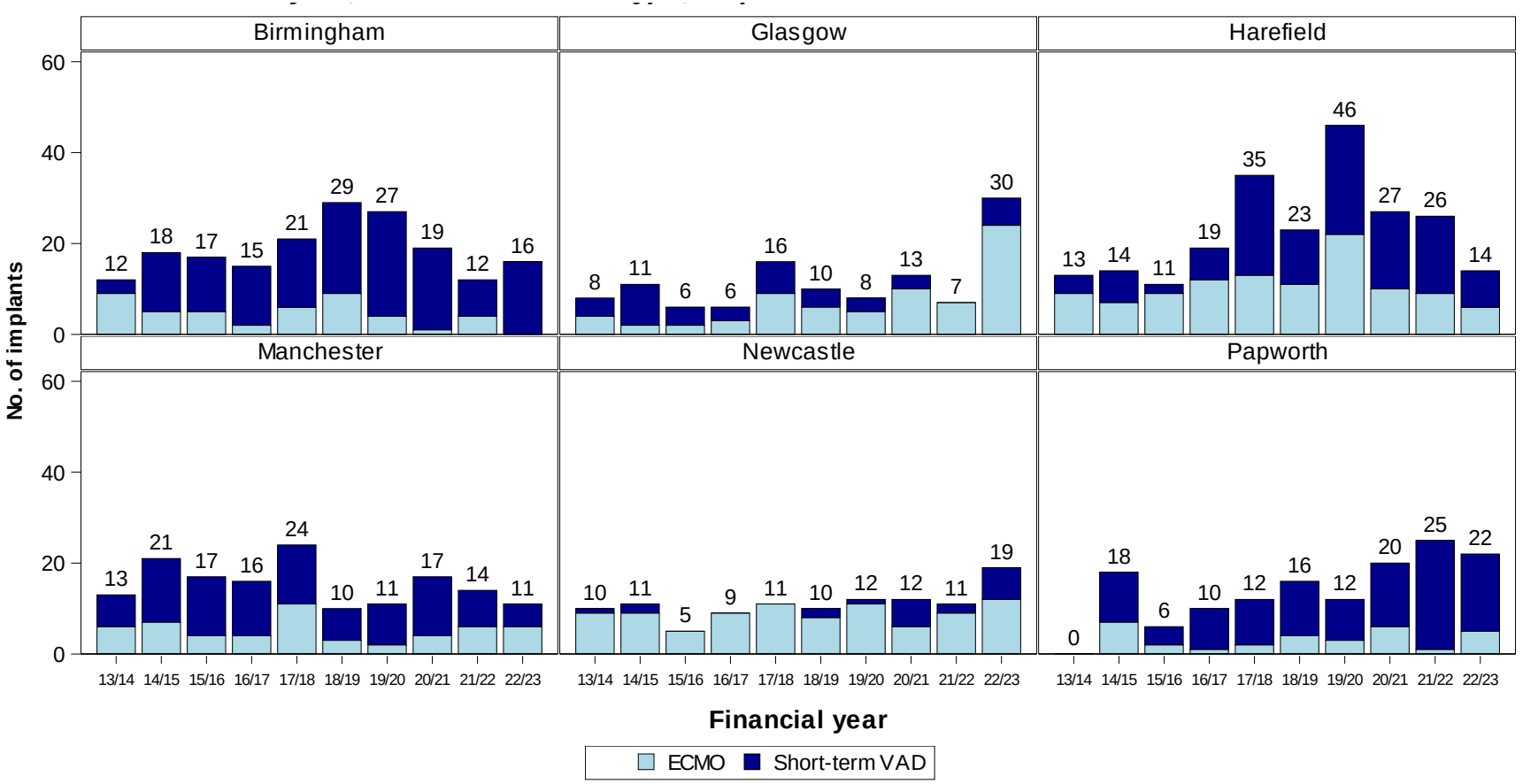


**Figure 5.2 Number of adult short-term bridging device implants in the UK, by financial year, centre and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**



## Figure 5.3 Number of adult short-term bridging device implants in the UK, by centre and device type, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

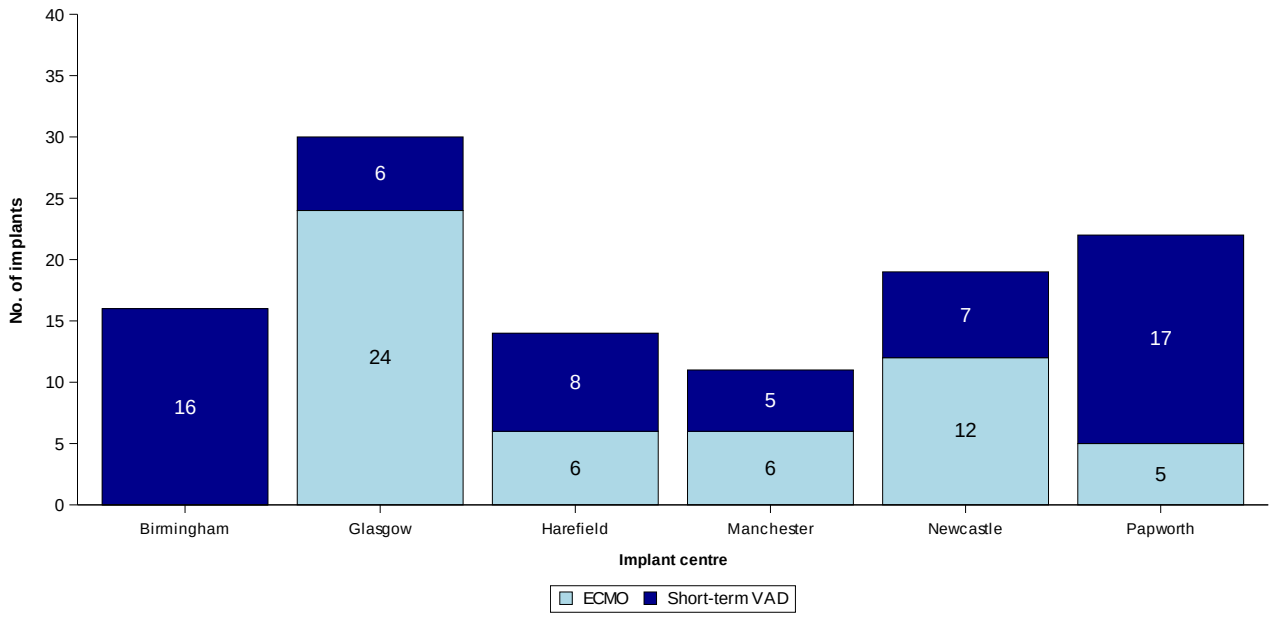
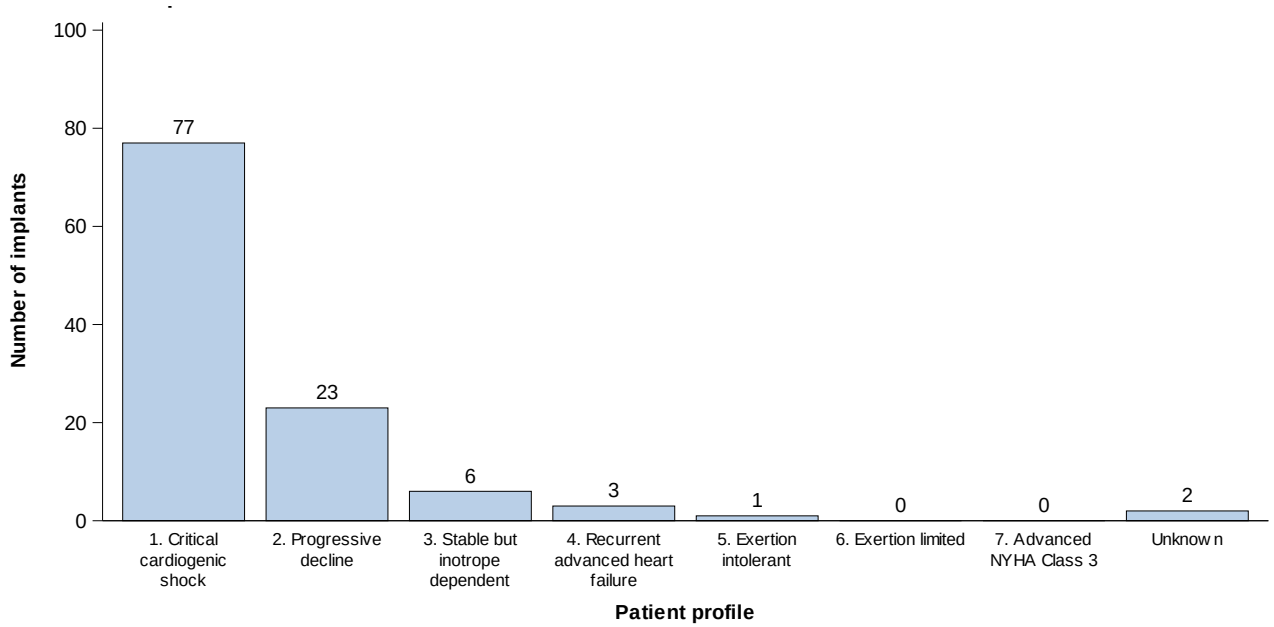



**Figure 5.4** shows the INTERMACS patient profile at receipt of short-term support for patients implanted during 2022/2023. Most patients were profile 1 (critical cardiogenic shock).

## Figure 5.4 INTERMACS patient profile for all short-term bridging device implants in adult patients in the UK, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023



# ADULT SHORT-TERM DEVICES USED FOR BRIDGING

## Patient Outcomes

## 6 Outcomes of adult patients receiving short-term bridging devices

This section only considers patients who received a short-term device (including ECMO) as a bridge to transplant. Patients who received prior long-term support are included, apart from in Section 6.5 which considers patients who received short-term support only. Patients are analysed on a per-patient basis, as opposed to per implant.

### 6.1 Demographic characteristics

The demographic characteristics of the 321 patients analysed in **Sections 6.2**-**6.4** are shown below in **Table 6.1**, by centre and overall. Nationally, 75% of patients were male, the median age was 45 years, 35% of patients received peripheral ECMO and 13% were bridged to a long-term device. Note that for some characteristics, particularly pre-implant lactate, there is a high proportion of missing data. Also, due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

**Table 6.1 Characteristics of adult patients who received short-term bridging support between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of patients | | 63 | 35 | 76 | 47 | 41 | 59 | **321** |
| Recipient age (years) | Median (IQR) | 49 (34-57) | 46 (38-55) | 47 (34-54) | 39 (26-45) | 46 (27-58) | 45 (31-52) | **45 (32-54)** |
| Recipient sex | Male | 53 (84) | 25 (71) | 58 (76) | 31 (66) | 31 (76) | 44 (75) | **242 (75)** |
| | Female | 10 (16) | 10 (29) | 18 (24) | 16 (34) | 10 (24) | 15 (25) | **79 (25)** |
| Primary disease | Dilated cardiomyopathy | 34 (54) | 15 (43) | 50 (66) | 26 (55) | 20 (49) | 32 (54) | **177 (55)** |
| | Ischaemic heart disease | 15 (24) | 6 (17) | 14 (18) | 14 (30) | 6 (15) | 19 (32) | **74 (23)** |
| | Congenital heart disease | 3 (5) | 0 (0) | 1 (1) | 0 (0) | 5 (12) | 0 (0) | **9 (3)** |
| | Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 2 (3) | 1 (2) | 1 (2) | 2 (3) | **7 (2)** |
| | Restrictive cardiomyopathy | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (0)** |
| | Valvular heart disease | 2 (3) | 1 (3) | 2 (3) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | **6 (2)** |
| | Infiltrative heart muscle disease | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 2 (3) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | 1 (2) | **4 (1)** |
| | Other | 4 (6) | 9 (26) | 4 (5) | 6 (13) | 5 (12) | 4 (7) | **32 (10)** |
| | Unknown | 3 (5) | 4 (11) | 1 (1) | 0 (0) | 3 (7) | 0 (0) | **11 (3)** |

**Table 6.1 Characteristics of adult patients who received short-term bridging support between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| INTERMACS patient profile | 1. Critical cardiogenic shock | 41 (65) | 23 (66) | 51 (67) | 40 (85) | 27 (66) | 32 (54) | **214 (67)** |
| | 2. Progressive decline | 21 (33) | 11 (31) | 24 (32) | 2 (4) | 13 (32) | 25 (42) | **96 (30)** |
| | 3. Stable but inotrope dependent | 1 (2) | 1 (3) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | **4 (1)** |
| | 4. Recurrent advanced heart failure | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (1) | 1 (2) | 1 (2) | 1 (2) | **4 (1)** |
| | 5. Exertion intolerant | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | 6. Exertion limited | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | 7. Advanced NYHA Class 3 | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | Unknown | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 3 (6) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **3 (1)** |
| First device implanted | Percutaneous VAD | 25 (40) | 0 (0) | 37 (49) | 0 (0) | 6 (15) | 4 (7) | **72 (22)** |
| | Ventricular assist (Centrimag) | 21 (33) | 9 (26) | 2 (3) | 32 (68) | 1 (2) | 42 (71) | **107 (33)** |
| | Peripheral ECMO | 13 (21) | 22 (63) | 31 (41) | 8 (17) | 28 (68) | 10 (17) | **112 (35)** |
| | Central ECMO | 4 (6) | 4 (11) | 6 (8) | 7 (15) | 6 (15) | 3 (5) | **30 (9)** |
| Previous long-term support | No | 60 (95) | 35 (100) | 71 (93) | 47 (100) | 37 (90) | 58 (98) | **308 (96)** |
| | Yes | 3 (5) | 0 (0) | 5 (7) | 0 (0) | 4 (10) | 1 (2) | **13 (4)** |
| Bridged to long-term support | No | 56 (89) | 35 (100) | 53 (70) | 44 (94) | 35 (85) | 56 (95) | **279 (87)** |
| | Yes | 7 (11) | 0 (0) | 23 (30) | 3 (6) | 6 (15) | 3 (5) | **42 (13)** |
| Pre-implant creatinine | Median (IQR) | 120 (86-164) | 146 (109-214) | 119 (91-159) | 121 (98-159) | 95 (73-157) | 114 (81-162) | **120 (90-166)** |
| | Missing | 1 | 9 | 7 | 23 | 35 | 6 | **81** |
| Pre-implant bilirubin | Median (IQR) | 34 (18-49) | 17 (8-28) | 30 (14-44) | 22 (15-49) | ( - ) | 25 (14-41) | **26 (14-44)** |
| | Missing | 2 | 11 | 10 | 29 | 41 | 8 | **101** |
| Pre-implant lactate | Median (IQR) | 3 (2-5) | 3 (2-6) | 4 (2-5) | ( - ) | 2 (2-2) | 3 (3-3) | **3 (2-5)** |
| | Missing | 28 | 18 | 54 | 47 | 40 | 55 | **242** |
| Pre-implant cardiac arrest | No | 51 (81) | 21 (60) | 64 (84) | 34 (72) | 29 (71) | 39 (66) | **238 (74)** |
| | Yes | 12 (19) | 14 (40) | 12 (16) | 13 (28) | 12 (29) | 20 (34) | **83 (26)** |

| Table 6.1 Characteristics of adult patients who received short-term bridging support between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
| Pre-implant intubation and ventilation | No | 52 (83) | 25 (71) | 49 (64) | 29 (62) | 19 (46) | 48 (81) | **222 (69)** |
| | Yes | 11 (17) | 10 (29) | 27 (36) | 18 (38) | 22 (54) | 11 (19) | **99 (31)** |
| Pre-implant renal replacement therapy | No | 63 (100) | 32 (91) | 70 (92) | 41 (87) | 21 (51) | 53 (90) | **280 (87)** |
| | Yes | 0 (0) | 3 (9) | 6 (8) | 6 (13) | 20 (49) | 6 (10) | **41 (13)** |

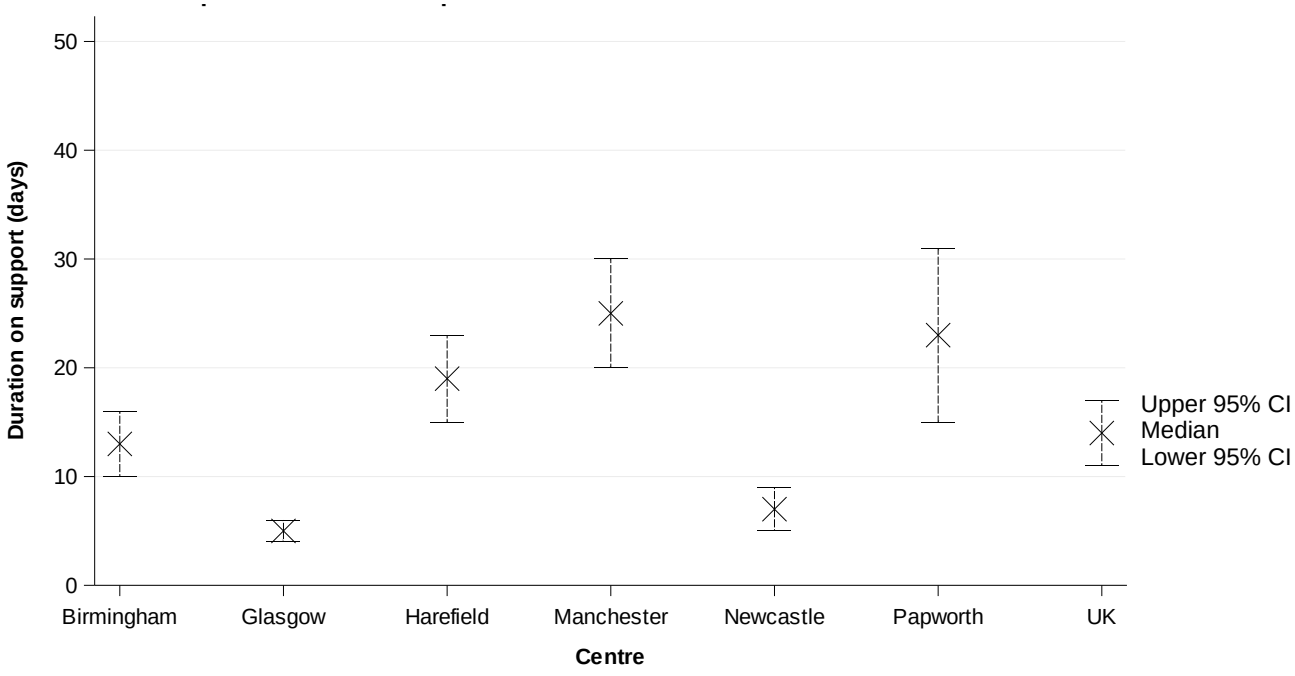
## 6.2 Duration on support

**Table 6.2** and **Figure 6.1** show the median duration on short-term support for patients implanted in the analysis period, both nationally and by centre. The medians and confidence intervals are estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method. Transplant, explant, death or transfer to a long-term device signify end of short-term support. If a patient went from ECMO to short-term VAD, all this time is counted. Nationally, the median time on support was 14 days and ranged from 5 days at Glasgow to 25 days at Manchester (log-rank p<0.0001).

**Table 6.2 Median duration on short-term bridging device support for adult patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | Time on support (days) Median | (95% confidence interval) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 63 | 13 | 10 - 16 |
| Glasgow | 35 | 5 | 4 - 6 |
| Harefield | 76 | 19 | 15 - 23 |
| Manchester | 47 | 25 | 20 - 30 |
| Newcastle | 41 | 7 | 5 - 9 |
| Papworth | 59 | 23 | 15 - 31 |
| **Overall** | **321** | **14** | **11 - 17** |

**Figure 6.1 Median duration on short-term bridging device support for adult patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022**



## 6.3 Rate of transplant listing

**Figure 6.2** and **Table 6.3** show the rate of transplant listing for patients first implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre. This includes listing on the super-urgent, urgent or non-urgent heart transplant lists (whichever occurred first) and considers time on long-term support if bridged to a long-term device. Overall, 21% of patients were on the list at short-term implant, which was a smaller proportion than that observed for long-term implants (26%). This proportion ranged between 6% at Manchester to 27% at Birmingham (chi-squared p=0.12). The proportion that died or were explanted within 1 month without listing was 40% overall and ranged significantly across centres (chi-squared p=0.0005).

**Figure 6.2 Heart transplant listing status with respect to short-term device implantation for adult patients receiving a first bridging device 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre and overall**

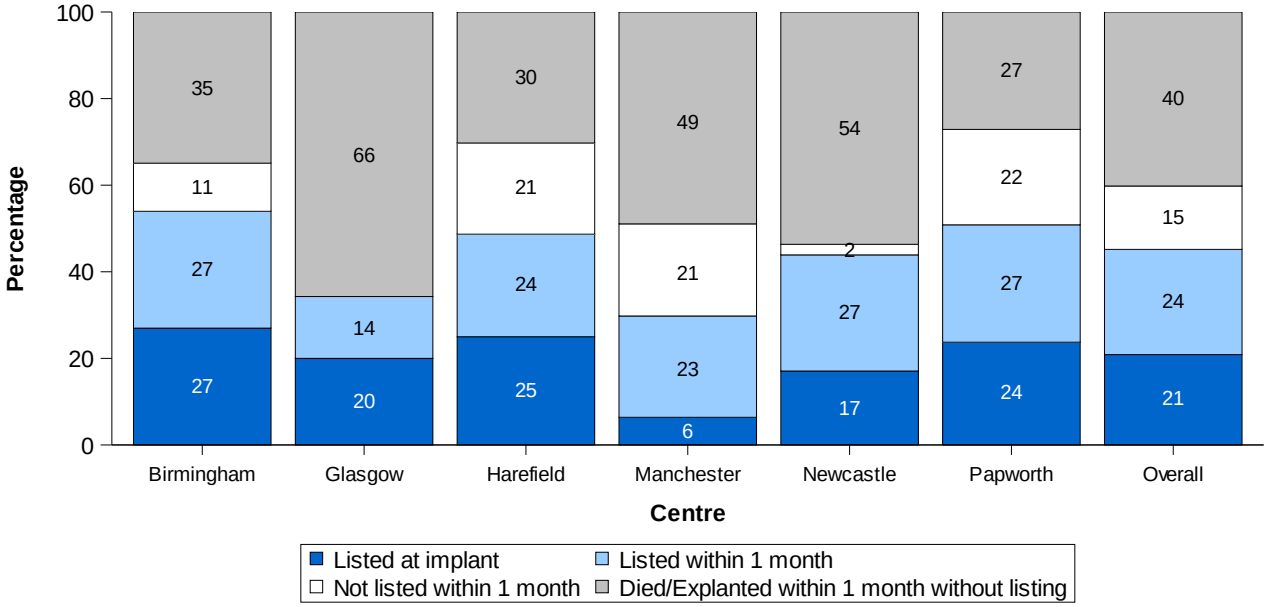



**Table 6.3 Heart transplant listing status with respect to short-term device implantation for adult patients receiving a first bridging device 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre and overall**

| Centre | Number of patients N | Listed before VAD N (%) | Listed within 1 month N (%) | Not listed within 1 month N (%) | Died/explanted within 1 month without listing N (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 63 | 17 (27) | 17 (27) | 7 (11) | 22 (35) |
| Glasgow | 35 | 7 (20) | 5 (14) | 0 (0) | 23 (66) |
| Harefield | 76 | 19 (25) | 18 (24) | 16 (21) | 23 (30) |
| Manchester | 47 | 3 (6) | 11 (23) | 10 (21) | 23 (49) |
| Newcastle | 41 | 7 (17) | 11 (27) | 1 (2) | 22 (54) |
| Papworth | 59 | 14 (24) | 16 (27) | 13 (22) | 16 (27) |
| **Overall** | **321** | **67 (21)** | **78 (24)** | **47 (15)** | **129 (40)** |

## 6.4 Competing outcomes

Whilst on short-term support, patients are susceptible to different outcomes. Death on support, transplant, transfer to long-term support and explant without transplant are all possible outcomes. **Figure 6.3** shows the cumulative incidence of each of these outcomes occurring from time of implantation, for the cohort of adult patients receiving a first short-term device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022. This is calculated using the Aalen-Johansen method to account for competing outcomes. At time zero, 100% of patients are on support and as time passes, patients either experience death on support, transplant, transferral to long-term support or explant without transplant. At any time point, the proportion alive on support plus the proportions experiencing each outcome will sum to 100%. Deaths after transplant are not counted and these patients are classed simply as transplanted. Patients who were explanted and died within 30 days of explant are counted as deaths at time of explant. Any subsequent VAD support post-explant is not counted and any such patients are classed simply as explanted. If a patient is moved from one short-term device to another without a period free of support, this counts as time on support.

For this cohort, nationally, one month after receipt of a short-term device, 21% of patients were explanted, 27% died on short-term support, 25% remained alive on support, 18% received a transplant, and 9% were transferred to a long-term device. At two months, there was a small increase in the incidence of each of these events, leading to a reduction in the proportion that remained alive on support, down to 9%.

**Figure 6.3 Cumulative incidence of transplant, death, transferral to long-term device and explant for adult patients implanted with a first short-term bridging device, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

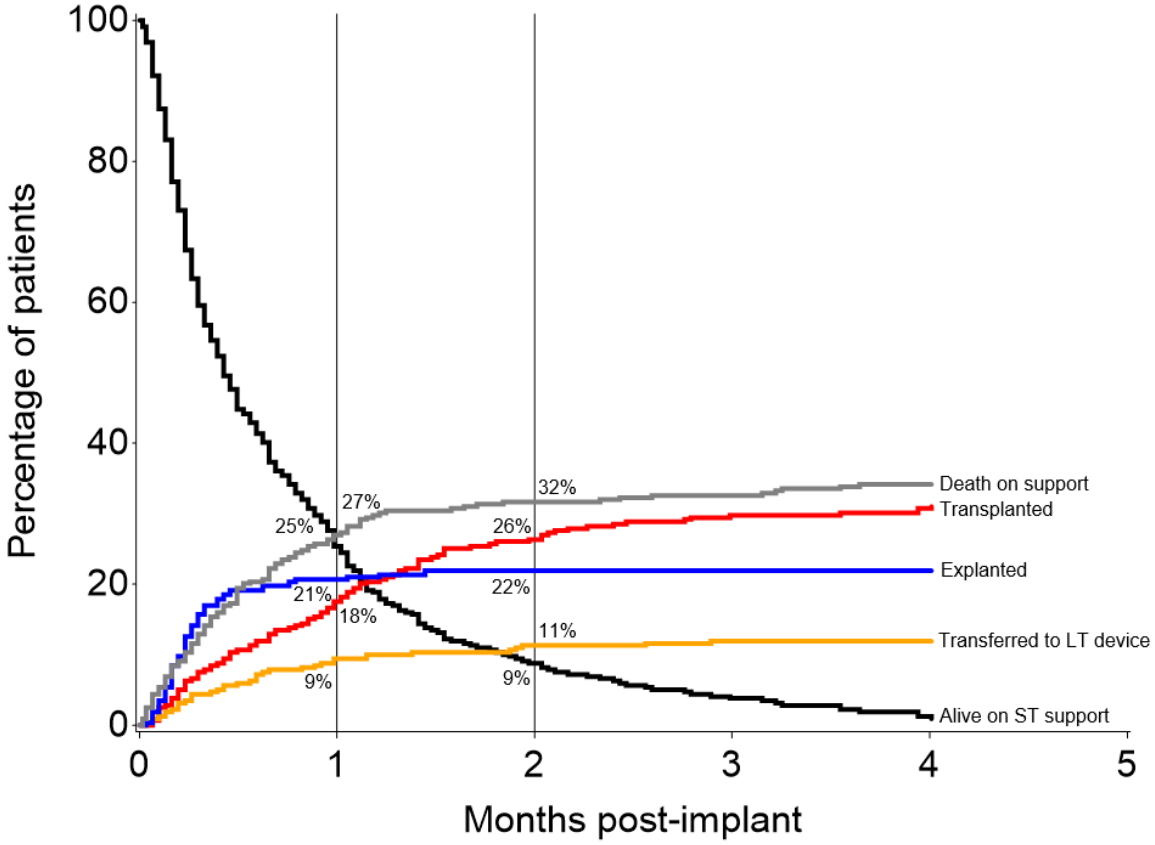


**Table 6.4** shows the centre-specific 30-day estimates for each competing outcome. The incidence of each outcome varies across centres. Note that a patient may be counted as explanted but go on to have further support after a period without support, so this does not always represent recovery.

**Table 6.4 Cumulative incidence of each outcome at 30 days, by centre, for adult patients implanted with a first short-term bridging device, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

| Centre | Number of patients | Transplanted % | Transferred to LT device % | Explanted % | Alive on support % | Death on support % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 63 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 23 | 34 |
| Glasgow | 35 | 14 | 0 | 43 | 11 | 31 |
| Harefield | 76 | 12 | 21 | 20 | 29 | 17 |
| Manchester | 47 | 9 | 2 | 19 | 40 | 30 |
| Newcastle | 41 | 15 | 15 | 39 | 0 | 32 |
| Papworth | 59 | 29 | 2 | 8 | 37 | 24 |
| **Overall** | **321** | **18** | **9** | **21** | **25** | **27** |

## 6.5 Patient survival from implant

Overall survival rates from the point of first short-term VAD implant, not censored for transplant or explant, are presented in this section. Survival data from the UK Transplant Registry were incorporated, as was any additional survival time recorded on the VAD Database for patients who were explanted. Patients who received a short-term device as a bridge to long-term support are excluded from this analysis and instead included in Section 4.6 (as are patients who received prior long-term support). Times are censored if the patient was still alive at last known event or follow-up.

Survival rates are calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method and are based on those patients recorded as receiving a first device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022. In **Tables 6.6**-**6.8** and **Figures 6.4**-**6.6** the centre-specific survival rates for implants are presented for 30 days, 90 days and 1 year respectively. The centre-specific rates are not adjusted for potential differences in risk between patients treated at different centres. These differences can be seen in **Table 6.5** which displays the baseline characteristics of the 266 patients included in this analysis. The survival rates are compared with the national rate and the uncertainty around this rate using funnel plots where outliers appear outside of the funnels; rates above the funnel are significantly high while rates below the funnel are significantly low.

The demographic characteristics of the 266 patients in this analysis are shown below in **Table 6.5**, by centre and overall. Nationally, 75% of patients were male, the median age was 44 years and 38% of patients received ventricular assist (Centrimag) devices. Note that for some characteristics, particularly pre-implant lactate, there is a high proportion of missing data. Also, due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

**Table 6.5 Characteristics of patients who received short-term bridging support only between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of patients | | 53 | 35 | 48 | 44 | 31 | 55 | **266** |
| Recipient age (years) | Median (IQR) | 44 (32-55) | 46 (38-55) | 45 (33-53) | 39 (29-45) | 46 (27-57) | 46 (31-53) | **44 (32-54)** |
| Recipient sex | Male | 44 (83) | 25 (71) | 35 (73) | 28 (64) | 24 (77) | 43 (78) | **199 (75)** |
| | Female | 9 (17) | 10 (29) | 13 (27) | 16 (36) | 7 (23) | 12 (22) | **67 (25)** |
| Primary disease | Dilated cardiomyopathy | 30 (57) | 15 (43) | 34 (71) | 25 (57) | 13 (42) | 30 (55) | **147 (55)** |
| | Ischaemic heart disease | 11 (21) | 6 (17) | 4 (8) | 12 (27) | 5 (16) | 18 (33) | **56 (21)** |
| | Congenital heart disease | 2 (4) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 4 (13) | 0 (0) | **7 (3)** |
| | Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | 1 (2) | 1 (3) | 2 (4) | **6 (2)** |
| | Restrictive cardiomyopathy | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (0)** |
| | Valvular heart disease | 2 (4) | 1 (3) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | **5 (2)** |
| | Infiltrative heart muscle disease | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 2 (4) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | **3 (1)** |
| | Other | 3 (6) | 9 (26) | 4 (8) | 6 (14) | 5 (16) | 3 (5) | **30 (11)** |
| | Unknown | 3 (6) | 4 (11) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 3 (10) | 0 (0) | **11 (4)** |
| INTERMACS patient profile | 1. Critical cardiogenic shock | 36 (68) | 23 (66) | 30 (63) | 38 (86) | 22 (71) | 29 (53) | **178 (67)** |
| | 2. Progressive decline | 16 (30) | 11 (31) | 17 (35) | 1 (2) | 9 (29) | 25 (45) | **79 (30)** |
| | 3. Stable but inotrope dependent | 1 (2) | 1 (3) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | **4 (2)** |
| | 4. Recurrent advanced heart failure | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (2) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **2 (1)** |
| | 5. Exertion intolerant | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | 6. Exertion limited | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | 7. Advanced NYHA Class 3 | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | Unknown | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 3 (7) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **3 (1)** |

**Table 6.5 Characteristics of patients who received short-term bridging support only between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| First device implanted | Percutaneous VAD | 22 (42) | 0 (0) | 28 (58) | 0 (0) | 4 (13) | 3 (5) | **57 (21)** |
| | Ventricular assist (Centrimag) | 19 (36) | 9 (26) | 2 (4) | 30 (68) | 1 (3) | 40 (73) | **101 (38)** |
| | Peripheral ECMO | 9 (17) | 22 (63) | 17 (35) | 7 (16) | 23 (74) | 9 (16) | **87 (33)** |
| | Central ECMO | 3 (6) | 4 (11) | 1 (2) | 7 (16) | 3 (10) | 3 (5) | **21 (8)** |
| Pre-implant creatinine | Median (IQR)[1] | 113 (86-139) | 146 (109-214) | 122 (88-159) | 119 (95-137) | - | 111 (79-151) | **117 (89-159)** |
| | Missing | 1 | 9 | 5 | 23 | 29 | 6 | **73** |
| Pre-implant bilirubin | Median (IQR)[1] | 28 (15-49) | 17 (8-28) | 27 (14-38) | 20 (13-57) | - | 24 (14-38) | **24 (14-42)** |
| | Missing | 2 | 11 | 7 | 29 | 31 | 8 | **88** |
| Pre-implant lactate | Median (IQR)[1] | 3 (2-4) | 3 (2-6) | 4 (3-9) | - | - | - | **3 (2-4)** |
| | Missing | 23 | 18 | 35 | 44 | 30 | 51 | **201** |
| Pre-implant cardiac arrest | No | 42 (79) | 21 (60) | 41 (85) | 32 (73) | 22 (71) | 35 (64) | **193 (73)** |
| | Yes | 11 (21) | 14 (40) | 7 (15) | 12 (27) | 9 (29) | 20 (36) | **73 (27)** |
| Pre-implant intubation and ventilation | No | 43 (81) | 25 (71) | 33 (69) | 28 (64) | 13 (42) | 46 (84) | **188 (71)** |
| | Yes | 10 (19) | 10 (29) | 15 (31) | 16 (36) | 18 (58) | 9 (16) | **78 (29)** |
| Pre-implant renal replacement therapy | No | 53 (100) | 32 (91) | 44 (92) | 38 (86) | 16 (52) | 49 (89) | **232 (87)** |
| | Yes | 0 (0) | 3 (9) | 4 (8) | 6 (14) | 15 (48) | 6 (11) | **34 (13)** |

[1] Medians not presented for centres with less than 10 observations reported

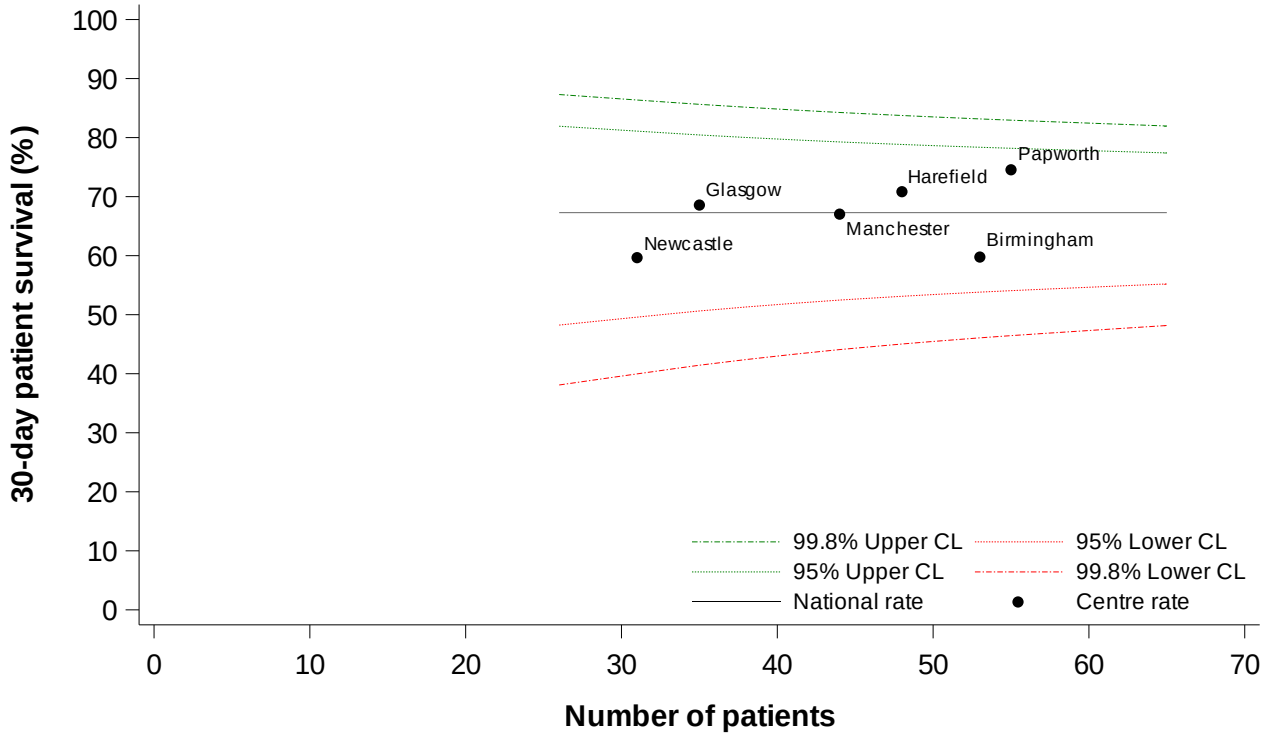
The unadjusted centre-specific 30-day survival rates for patients receiving short-term support are shown in **Table 6.6** and **Figure 6.4**. The national survival rate was 67.3% and all centre rates were within the 95% confidence limits.

**Table 6.6 30-day patient survival rates after short-term bridging device implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | % 30-day survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 53 | 59.8 | (45.2 - 71.6) |
| Glasgow | 35 | 68.6 | (50.5 - 81.2) |
| Harefield | 48 | 70.8 | (55.8 - 81.6) |
| Manchester | 44 | 67.0 | (50.7 - 79.0) |
| Newcastle | 31 | 59.7 | (39.9 - 74.8) |
| Papworth | 55 | 74.5 | (60.8 - 84.1) |
| **UK** | **266** | **67.3** | **(61.2 - 72.6)** |

Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit

**Figure 6.4 Unadjusted 30-day patient survival rates after short-term bridging device implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**



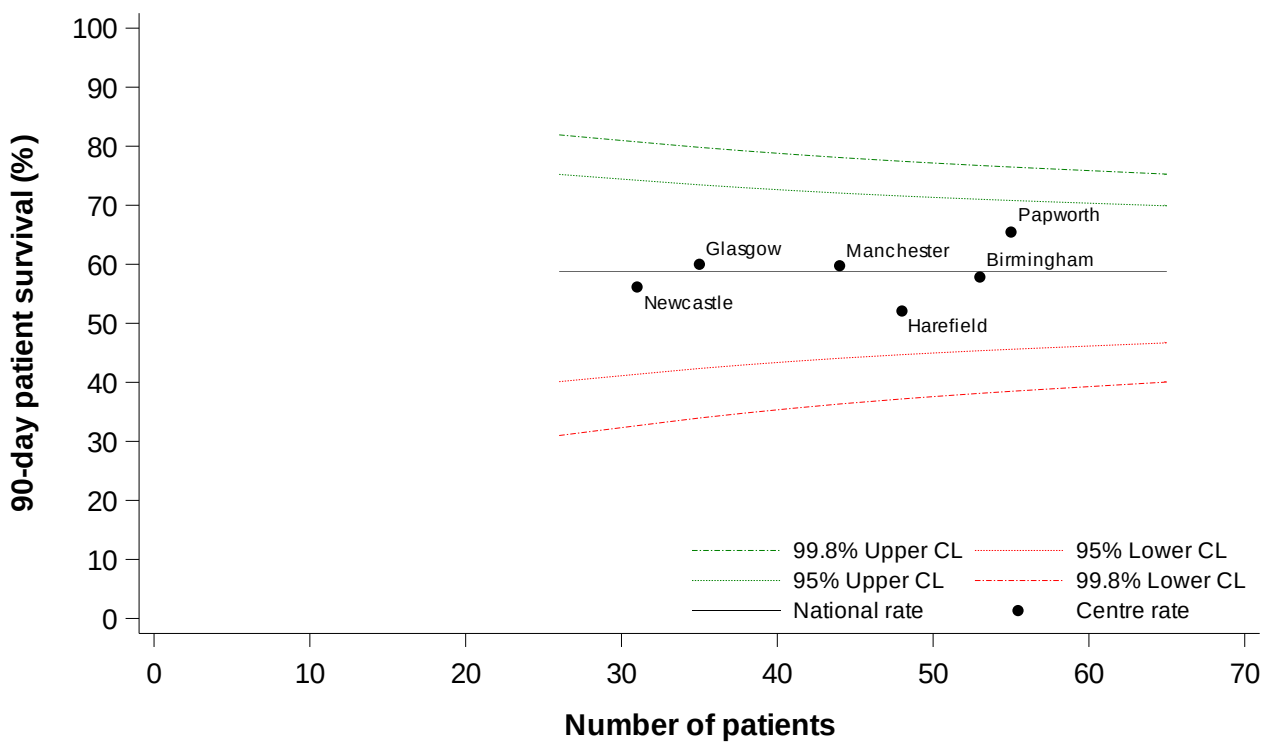
The unadjusted centre-specific 90-day survival rates are shown in **Table 6.7** and **Figure 6.5**. The national survival rate was 58.8% and all centre rates were within the 95% confidence limits.

**Table 6.7 90-day patient survival rates after short-term bridging device implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | % 90-day survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 53 | 57.8 | (43.3 - 69.9) |
| Glasgow | 35 | 60.0 | (42.0 - 74.0) |
| Harefield | 48 | 52.1 | (37.2 - 65.0) |
| Manchester | 44 | 59.8 | (43.4 - 72.8) |
| Newcastle | 31 | 56.2 | (36.6 - 71.8) |
| Papworth | 55 | 65.5 | (51.3 - 76.4) |
| **UK** | **266** | **58.8** | **(52.6 - 64.5)** |

Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit

**Figure 6.5 Unadjusted 90-day patient survival rates after short-term bridging device implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**



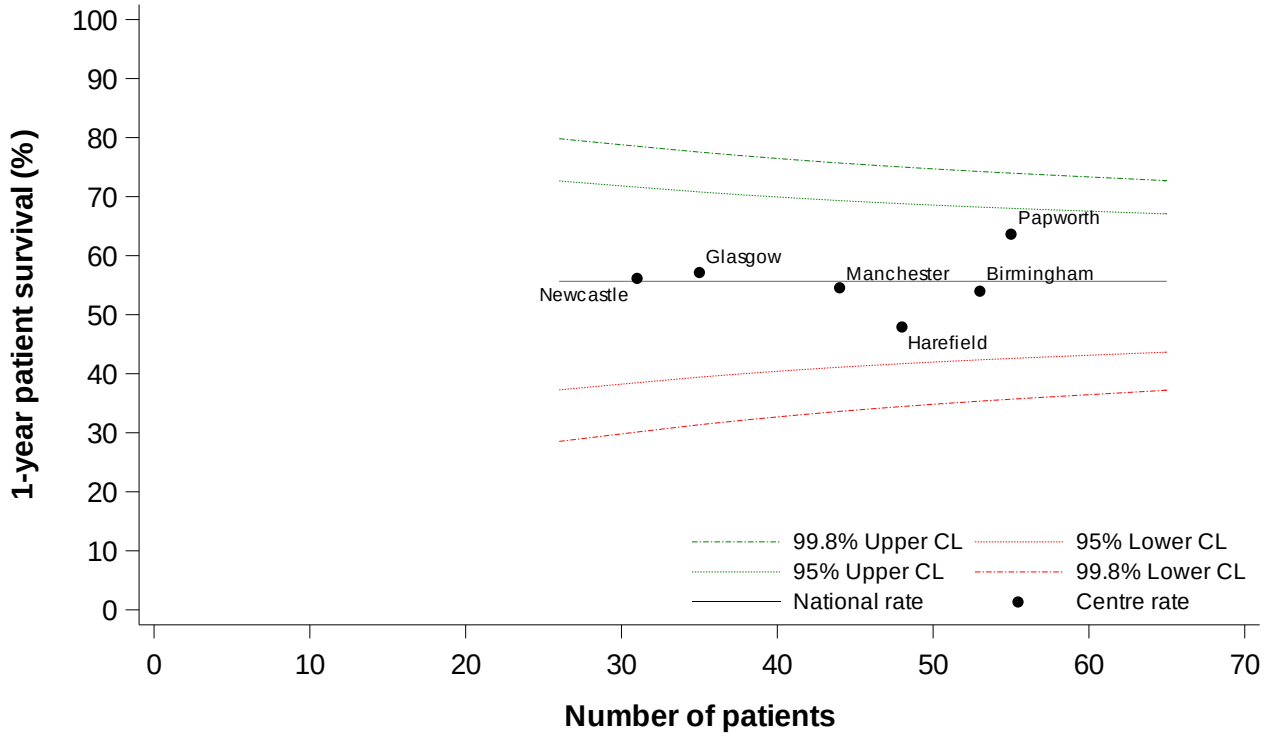
The unadjusted centre-specific 1-year survival rates are shown in **Table 6.8** and **Figure 6.6**. The national survival rate was 55.7% and all centre rates were within the 95% confidence limits.

**Table 6.8 1-year patient survival rates after short-term bridging device implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | % 1-year survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 53 | 54.0 | (39.6 - 66.3) |
| Glasgow | 35 | 57.1 | (39.3 - 71.5) |
| Harefield | 48 | 47.9 | (33.3 - 61.1) |
| Manchester | 44 | 54.6 | (38.3 - 68.2) |
| Newcastle | 31 | 56.2 | (36.6 - 71.8) |
| Papworth | 55 | 63.6 | (49.5 - 74.8) |
| **UK** | **266** | **55.7** | **(49.4 - 61.5)** |

Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit

**Figure 6.6 Unadjusted 1-year patient survival rates after short-term bridging device implant for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**



# ADULT SHORT-TERM DEVICES USED POST-HEART TRANSPLANT

## Activity

## 7 Short-term post-transplant devices in adults

This section considers all adult patients who received short-term support for primary graft dysfunction (PGD). The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation defines severe PGD as the need for mechanical circulatory support post-transplant, therefore the data this section indicate levels of *severe* PGD in the UK heart transplant population. All figures and tables present information on a per transplant basis; if a single patient had more than one implant post-transplant, the device type is based on all devices used in that episode. Short-term devices used more than 30 days post-heart transplant (rejection) are excluded (27 recorded in the time period) as are long-term devices used post-transplant (classed as bridging devices).

**Figure 7.1a** shows the total number of transplants requiring short-term device implants for PGD in the last ten years, nationally, by device type (ECMO, short-term VAD and ECMO and short-term VAD). During 2022/2023 there were 52 transplants with severe PGD: 41% higher than 2021/2022 and 1.9 times higher than in 2013/2014. **Figure 7.2a** shows the trend per centre and **Figure 7.3a** shows last year's activity by centre and device type, indicating that Glasgow had the most transplants requiring support for PGD in 2022/2023, followed by Birmingham.

Figures **7.1b, 7.2b** and **7.3b** show the proportion of transplants requiring short-term support for PGD out of the total number of adult heart transplants by financial year, financial year and centre, and centre respectively. The denominator of adult heart transplants includes both DBD and DCD heart transplants, any re-transplants as well as any multi-organ heart transplants.

**Figure 7.1a Number of adult heart transplants requiring short-term support for (severe) PGD, by financial year and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

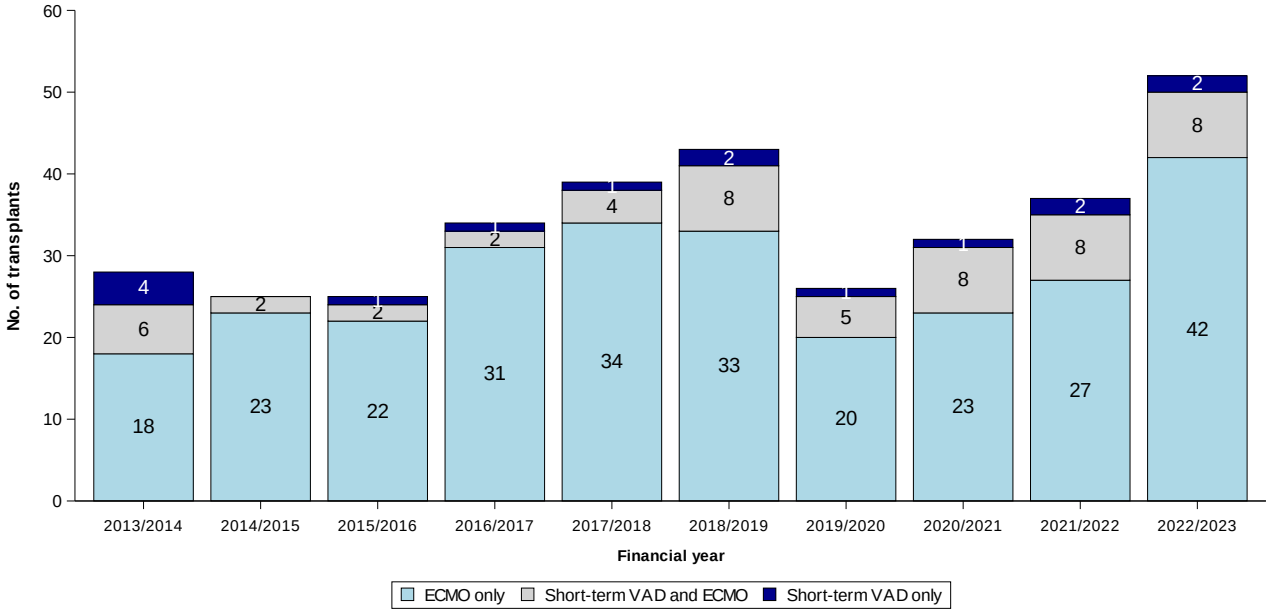


**Figure 7.1b Proportion of transplants requiring short-term support for (severe) PGD, out of total number of adult heart transplant by financial year, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

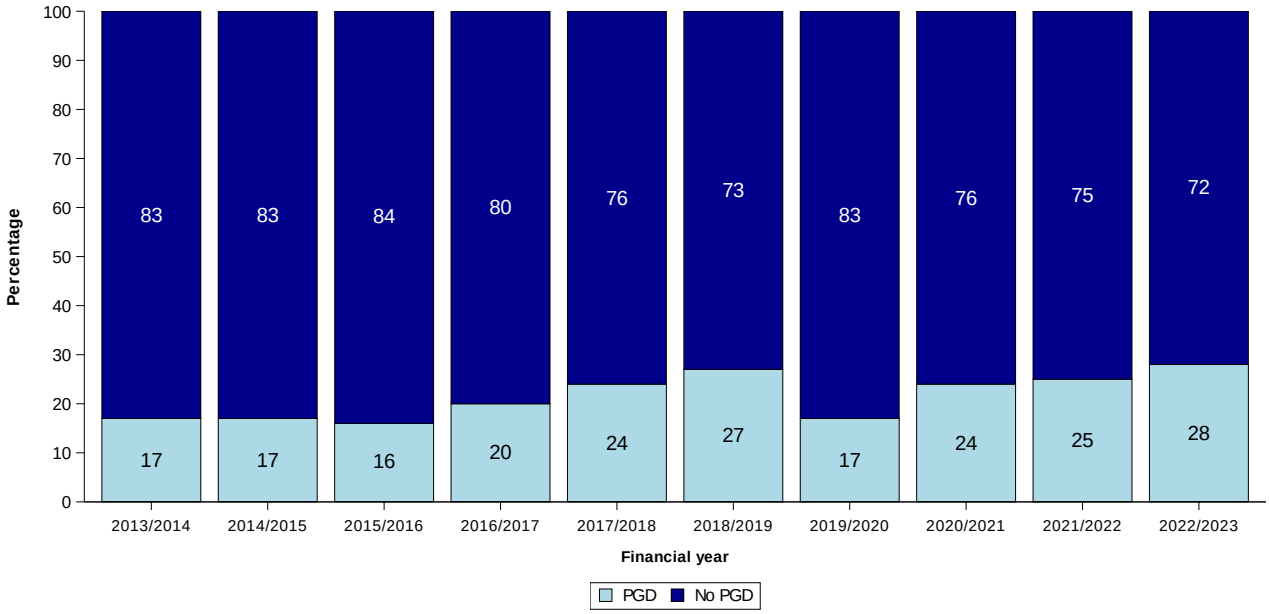


**Figure 7.2a Number of adult heart transplants requiring short-term support for (severe) PGD, by financial year, centre and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

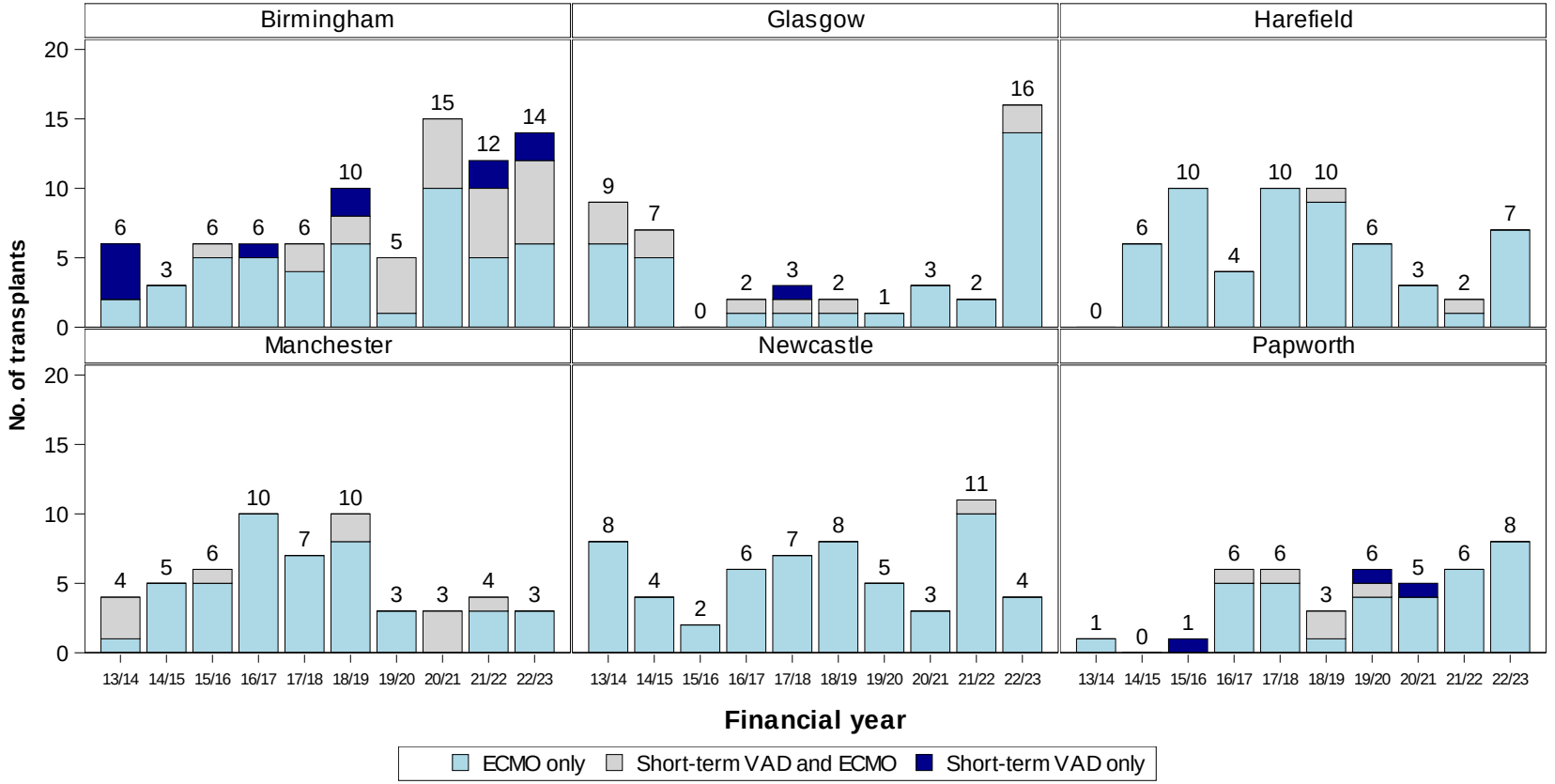


**Figure 7.2b Proportion of transplants requiring short-term support for (severe) PGD, out of total number of adult heart transplant by financial year and centre, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

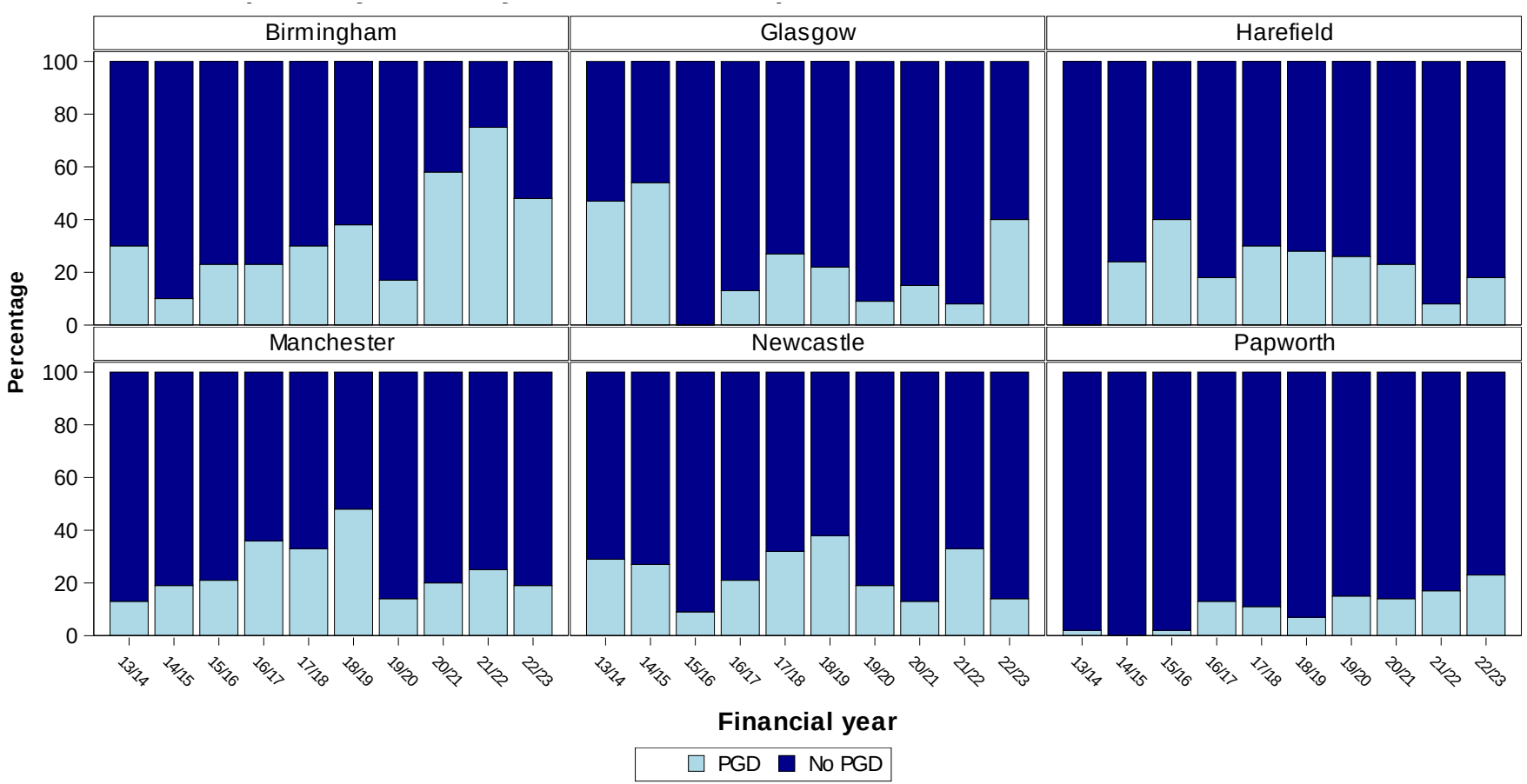


**Figure 7.3a Number of adult heart transplants requiring short-term support for (severe) PGD, by centre and device type, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

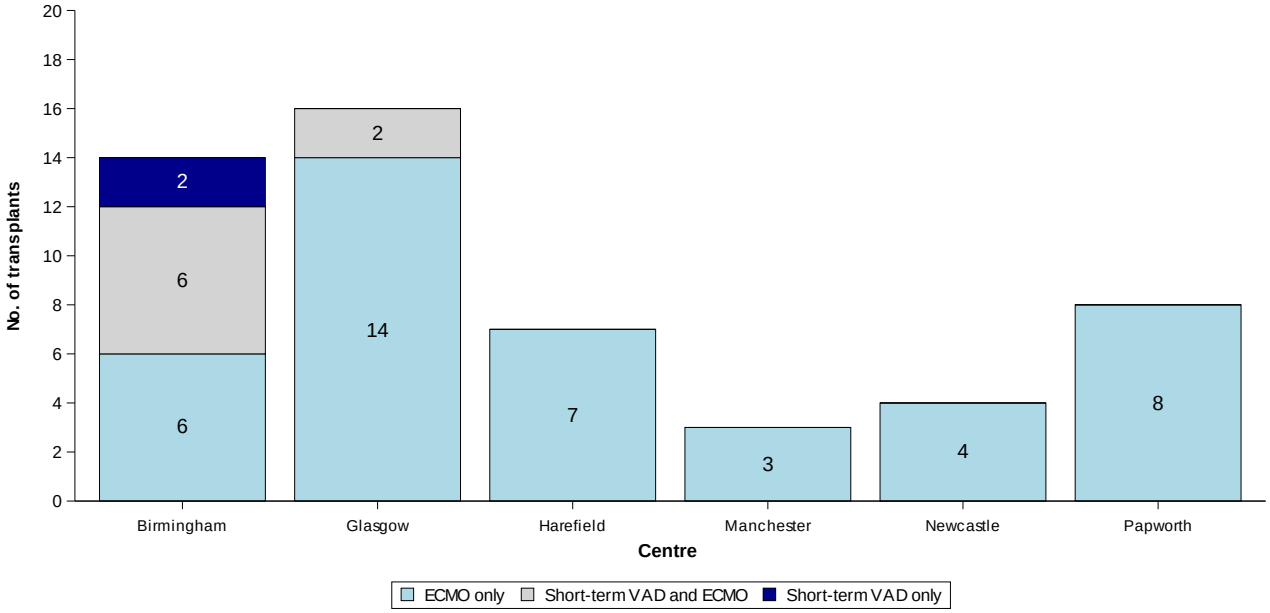
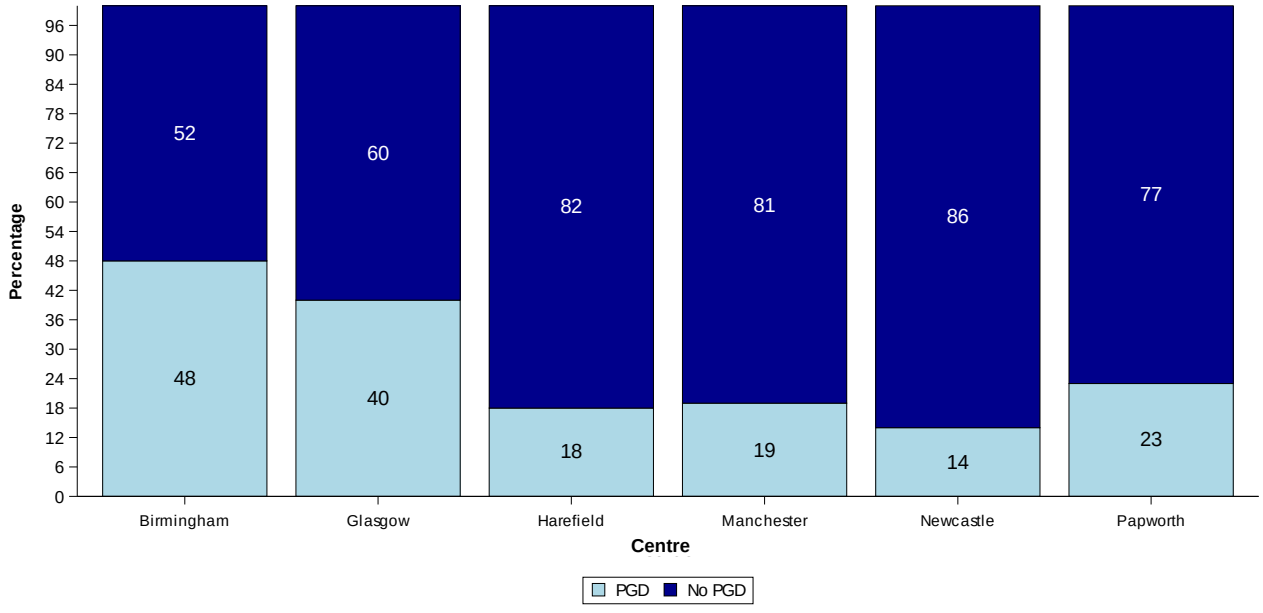



**Figure 7.3b Proportion of transplants requiring short-term support for (severe) PGD, out of total number of adult heart transplants, by centre and device type, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**



# ADULT SHORT-TERM DEVICES USED POST-HEART TRANSPLANT

## Patient Outcomes

## 8 Outcomes of adult patients receiving short-term devices for PGD

This section analyses patients on a per-patient basis, as opposed to per implant. If a patient was moved from one short-term device to another, this is counted as one observation.

### 8.1 Demographics characteristics

The transplant characteristics (as reported on the UKTR and VAD database) of the 138 patients analysed in this section are shown in **Table 8.1**, by centre and overall. Nationally, 75% of patients were in hospital pre-transplant, the median age was 46 years and 58% of patients received central ECMO only. The median ischaemia time was 3.7 hours. For some characteristics, due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

**Table 8.1 Characteristics of adult patients receiving short-term support for (severe) PGD between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of patients | | 42 | 8 | 21 | 20 | 27 | 20 | **138** |
| Urgency at transplant | Non-urgent | 6 (14) | 2 (25) | 1 (5) | 0 (0) | 6 (22) | 7 (35) | **22 (16)** |
| | Urgent | 23 (55) | 5 (63) | 18 (86) | 13 (65) | 18 (67) | 5 (25) | **82 (59)** |
| | Super-urgent | 13 (31) | 1 (13) | 2 (10) | 7 (35) | 3 (11) | 8 (40) | **34 (25)** |
| Recipient age at transplant (years) | Median (IQR)[1] | 47 (35-57) | - | 46 (33-56) | 46 (33-54) | 39 (33-51) | 49 (28-57) | **46 (33-56)** |
| | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Diabetes at registration | No | 35 (83) | 6 (75) | 20 (95) | 20 (100) | 23 (85) | 16 (80) | **120 (87)** |
| | Yes | 7 (17) | 1 (13) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 3 (11) | 2 (10) | **13 (9)** |
| | Missing | 0 (0) | 1 (13) | 1 (5) | 0 (0) | 1 (4) | 2 (10) | **5 (4)** |
| Recipient primary disease at registration | Coronary heart disease | 6 (14) | 0 (0) | 1 (5) | 8 (40) | 1 (4) | 6 (30) | **22 (16)** |
| | Cardiomyopathy | 30 (71) | 8 (100) | 16 (76) | 9 (45) | 16 (59) | 10 (50) | **89 (64)** |
| | Congenital heart disease | 5 (12) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 10 (37) | 1 (5) | **16 (12)** |
| | Graft failure/Rejection | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (5) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (1)** |
| | Other | 1 (2) | 0 (0) | 3 (14) | 3 (15) | 0 (0) | 3 (15) | **10 (7)** |
| Recipient BMI (kg/m$^2$) | Median (IQR)[1] | 27 (25-30) | - | 27 (25-29) | 26 (24-30) | 23 (20-28) | 26 (23-28) | **27 (24-29)** |
| | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| In hospital at transplant | No | 9 (21) | 2 (25) | 6 (29) | 0 (0) | 10 (37) | 7 (35) | **34 (25)** |
| | Yes | 33 (79) | 6 (75) | 15 (71) | 20 (100) | 17 (63) | 13 (65) | **104 (75)** |

**Table 8.1 Characteristics of adult patients receiving short-term support for (severe) PGD between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| If in hospital, recipient on inotropes | No | 14 (42) | 2 (33) | 1 (7) | 10 (50) | 1 (6) | 10 (77) | **38 (37)** |
| | Yes | 19 (58) | 4 (67) | 14 (93) | 10 (50) | 16 (94) | 3 (23) | **66 (63)** |
| If in hospital, recipient on VAD | None | 19 (58) | 5 (83) | 13 (87) | 9 (45) | 12 (71) | 4 (31) | **62 (60)** |
| | LVAD | 4 (12) | 0 (0) | 2 (13) | 5 (25) | 4 (24) | 0 (0) | **15 (14)** |
| | RVAD | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 2 (15) | **2 (2)** |
| | BiVAD | 10 (30) | 1 (17) | 0 (0) | 6 (30) | 1 (6) | 7 (54) | **25 (24)** |
| If in hospital, recipient on TAH | No | 33 (100) | 6 (100) | 14 (93) | 20 (100) | 17 (100) | 13 (100) | **103 (99)** |
| | Yes | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (7) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **1 (1)** |
| If in hospital, recipient on ECMO | No | 32 (97) | 5 (83) | 14 (93) | 20 (100) | 15 (88) | 12 (92) | **98 (94)** |
| | Yes | 1 (3) | 1 (17) | 1 (7) | 0 (0) | 2 (12) | 1 (8) | **6 (6)** |
| If in hospital, recipient on IABP | No | 33 (100) | 2 (33) | 15 (100) | 18 (90) | 17 (100) | 13 (100) | **98 (94)** |
| | Yes | 0 (0) | 4 (67) | 0 (0) | 2 (10) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **6 (6)** |
| Recipient serum creatinine (umol/l) | Median (IQR)[1] | 88 (64-127) | - | 91 (72-112) | 85 (71-109) | 108 (81-131) | 89 (75-102) | **90 (73-125)** |
| | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Donor cause of death | CVA | 34 (81) | 7 (88) | 20 (95) | 16 (80) | 21 (78) | 17 (85) | **115 (83)** |
| | Trauma | 3 (7) | 0 (0) | 1 (5) | 3 (15) | 4 (15) | 1 (5) | **12 (9)** |
| | Other | 5 (12) | 1 (13) | 0 (0) | 1 (5) | 2 (7) | 2 (10) | **11 (8)** |
| Donor age (years) | Median (IQR)[1] | 38 (27-48) | - | 35 (24-46) | 31 (24-38) | 31 (26-41) | 37 (33-45) | **35 (26-46)** |
| | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Donor BMI (kg/m$^2$) | Median (IQR)[1] | 27 (24-30) | - | 25 (22-27) | 23 (22-27) | 24 (22-28) | 26 (22-30) | **25 (23-28)** |
| | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Donor past smoker | No | 16 (38) | 3 (38) | 8 (38) | 13 (65) | 7 (26) | 2 (10) | **49 (36)** |
| | Yes | 26 (62) | 5 (63) | 12 (57) | 7 (35) | 18 (67) | 18 (90) | **86 (62)** |
| | Unknown | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 1 (5) | 0 (0) | 2 (7) | 0 (0) | **3 (2)** |
| Donor:Recipient sex mismatch | RF:DF | 13 (31) | 2 (25) | 7 (33) | 8 (40) | 4 (15) | 2 (10) | **36 (26)** |
| | RF:DM | 2 (5) | 0 (0) | 1 (5) | 1 (5) | 4 (15) | 2 (10) | **10 (7)** |
| | RM:DM | 24 (57) | 6 (75) | 12 (57) | 8 (40) | 17 (63) | 12 (60) | **79 (57)** |
| | RM:DF | 3 (7) | 0 (0) | 1 (5) | 3 (15) | 2 (7) | 4 (20) | **13 (9)** |

**Table 8.1 Characteristics of adult patients receiving short-term support for (severe) PGD between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Birmingham N (%) | Glasgow N (%) | Harefield N (%) | Manchester N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | Papworth N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total ischaemia time (hours) | Median (IQR)[1] | 3.5 (3-4.5) | - | 5.4 (4.6-6) | 2.9 (2.5-3.1) | 4 (3.3-5.3) | 3.9 (3.3-5.3) | **3.7 (3-5.2)** |
| | Missing | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | **7** |
| First device implanted | Ventricular assist (Centrimag) | 6 (14) | 1 (13) | 1 (5) | 1 (5) | 0 (0) | 3 (15) | **12 (9)** |
| | Peripheral ECMO only | 26 (62) | 2 (25) | 4 (19) | 2 (10) | 11 (41) | 1 (5) | **46 (33)** |
| | Central ECMO only | 10 (24) | 5 (63) | 16 (76) | 17 (85) | 16 (59) | 16 (80) | **80 (58)** |

[1] Medians not presented for centres with less than 10 patients

## 8.2 Duration on support

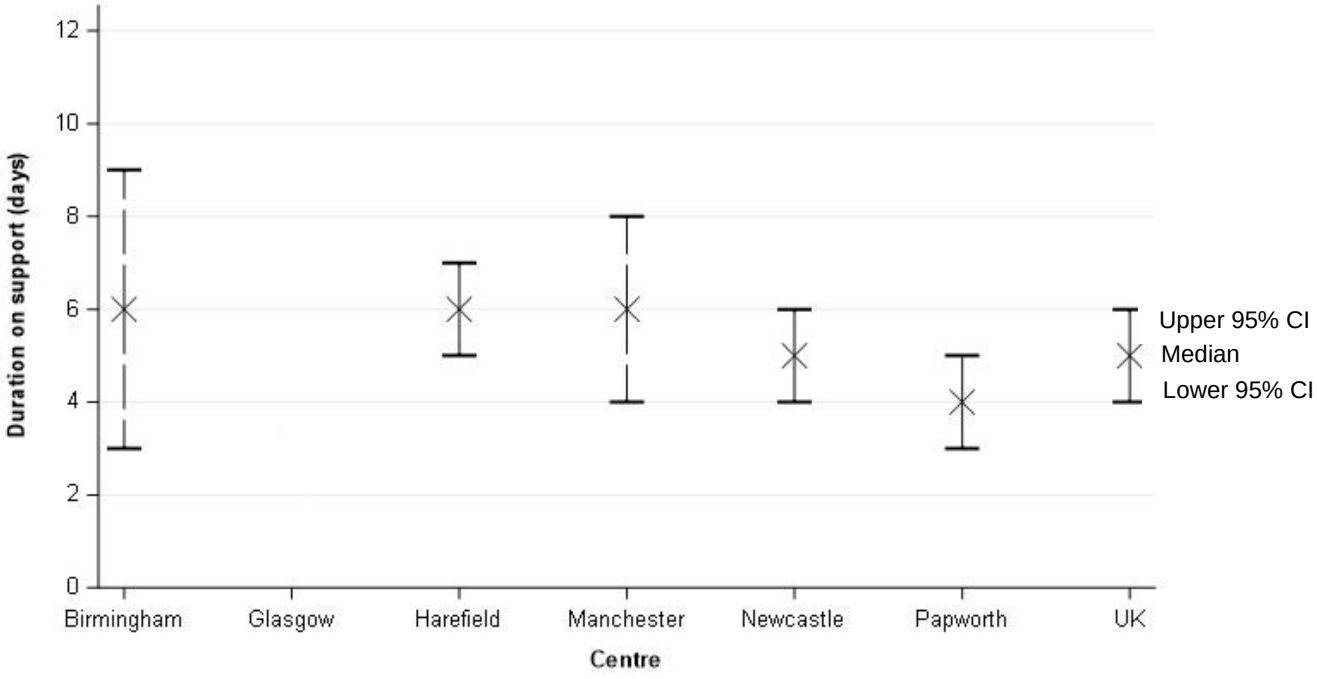
**Table 8.2** and **Figure 8.1** show the median duration on short-term support for patients implanted in the analysis period, both nationally and by centre. The medians and confidence intervals are estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method. This includes time spent on any short-term device post-transplant so if a patient went from ECMO to short-term VAD, all this time is counted. Nationally, the median time on support was 5 days and was similar across centres.

**Table 8.2 Median duration on short-term device support for (severe) PGD for adult patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | Time of support (days) Median | (95% confidence interval) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 42 | 6 | 3 - 9 |
| Glasgow[1] | 8 | - | - |
| Harefield | 21 | 6 | 5 - 7 |
| Manchester | 20 | 6 | 4 - 8 |
| Newcastle | 27 | 5 | 4 - 6 |
| Papworth | 20 | 4 | 3 - 5 |
| **Overall** | **138** | **5** | **4 - 6** |

[1] Medians not presented for centres with less than 10 patients

**Figure 8.1 Median duration on short-term device support for (severe) PGD for adult patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022**




Median duration on support not presented for Glasgow due to small numbers

## 8.3 Patient survival from implant

This analysis looks at the rate of survival from the point of first short-term device implant for PGD. This uses data from the UK Transplant Registry (UKTR) on post-transplant survival. Survival rates are calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method where times are censored if the patient was still alive at last known follow-up. If the patient was re-transplanted, any subsequent survival time is included. The rates are estimated at 30 days, 90 days and 1 year and are based on the 138 patients recorded as receiving a short-term device for PGD between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022. Survival rates are given nationally and for individual centres. Note that the centre-specific rates are unadjusted for potential differences in risk between patients treated at different centres.

The unadjusted 30-day, 90-day and 1-year survival rates for patients in the time period are shown in **Tables 8.3**, **8.4** and **8.5**, respectively. The national rates of survival were 73.2%, 68.1% and 63.8%, respectively.

**Table 8.3 30-day patient survival rates after short-term device implant for (severe) PGD for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | Number of deaths | % 30-day survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 42 | 5 | 88.1 | (73.7 - 94.9) |
| Glasgow[1] | 8 | 4 | - | - |
| Harefield | 21 | 9 | 52.4 | (29.7 - 70.9) |
| Manchester | 20 | 3 | 85.0 | (60.4 - 94.9) |
| Newcastle | 27 | 7 | 74.1 | (53.2 - 86.7) |
| Papworth | 20 | 7 | 60.0 | (35.7 - 77.6) |
| **UK** | **138** | **35** | **73.2** | **(65.0 - 79.8)** |

[1] Survival rates for groups with fewer than 10 patients are not presented due to small numbers

**Table 8.4 90-day patient survival rates after short-term device implant for (severe) PGD for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | Number of deaths | % 90-day survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 42 | 6 | 85.7 | (70.9 - 93.3) |
| Glasgow[1] | 8 | 4 | - | - |
| Harefield | 21 | 11 | 47.6 | (25.7 - 66.7) |
| Manchester | 20 | 7 | 65.0 | (40.3 - 81.5) |
| Newcastle | 27 | 8 | 70.4 | (49.4 - 83.9) |
| Papworth | 20 | 8 | 60.0 | (35.7 - 77.6) |
| **UK** | **138** | **44** | **68.1** | **(59.6 - 75.2)** |

[1] Survival rates for groups with fewer than 10 patients are not presented due to small numbers

**Table 8.5 1-year patient survival rates after short-term device implant for (severe) PGD for adult patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | Number of deaths | % 1-year survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham | 42 | 9 | 78.6 | (62.9 - 88.2) |
| Glasgow[1] | 8 | 4 | - | - |
| Harefield | 21 | 13 | 38.1 | (18.3 - 57.8) |
| Manchester | 20 | 7 | 65.0 | (40.3 - 81.5) |
| Newcastle | 27 | 9 | 66.7 | (45.7 - 81.1) |
| Papworth | 20 | 8 | 60.0 | (35.7 - 77.6) |
| **UK** | **138** | **50** | **63.8** | **(55.1 - 71.2)** |

[1] Survival rates for groups with fewer than 10 patients are not presented due to small numbers

# PAEDIATRIC DEVICES USED FOR BRIDGING

## Activity

## 9 Mechanical circulatory support in paediatric patients

This section considers all paediatric (aged less than 16 years) patients who received mechanical circulatory support as a bridge to heart transplantation between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2023, as reported to the VAD Database by 16 October 2023. Note that 59 post-transplant MCS implants were reported in this period, which are excluded from this section. **Figures 9.1a**, **9.2a**, and **9.3a** present information on a per implant basis as opposed to per patient, so if a single patient had more than one implant in the period, each one is included (see **Table A1.5** in Appendix A1 for details of device histories). **Figures 9.1b**, **9.2b** and **9.3b** present information on a per episode basis as opposed to per implant, so if a single patient had more than one type of device in a continuous period of support, these devices will be grouped and the episode only counted once in the financial year in which the first device of the episode was implanted.

**Figure 9.1a** shows the total number of bridging device implants each year nationally by device type (VAD and ECMO). During 2022/2023 there were 24 implants: 5 greater than in 2021/2022. The highest activity was recorded in 2014/2015. Overall, there were 267 implants, with VAD implants making up 80% (however, approximately 13% of the VAD implants were reported to have involved some form of conjunction ECMO, either transient or ongoing). **Figure 9.2a** shows the trend per centre for the two paediatric centres. Last year's activity is shown by centre and device type in **Figure 9.3a**.

Figures **9.1b**, **9.2b** and **9.3b** show the same data but on a per episode bases as opposed to a per implant basis, by financial year, financial year and centre, and centre respectively. Each episode is assigned to the financial year in which the first device of the episode was implanted.

**Figure 9.1a Number of paediatric bridging device implants in the UK, by financial year and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

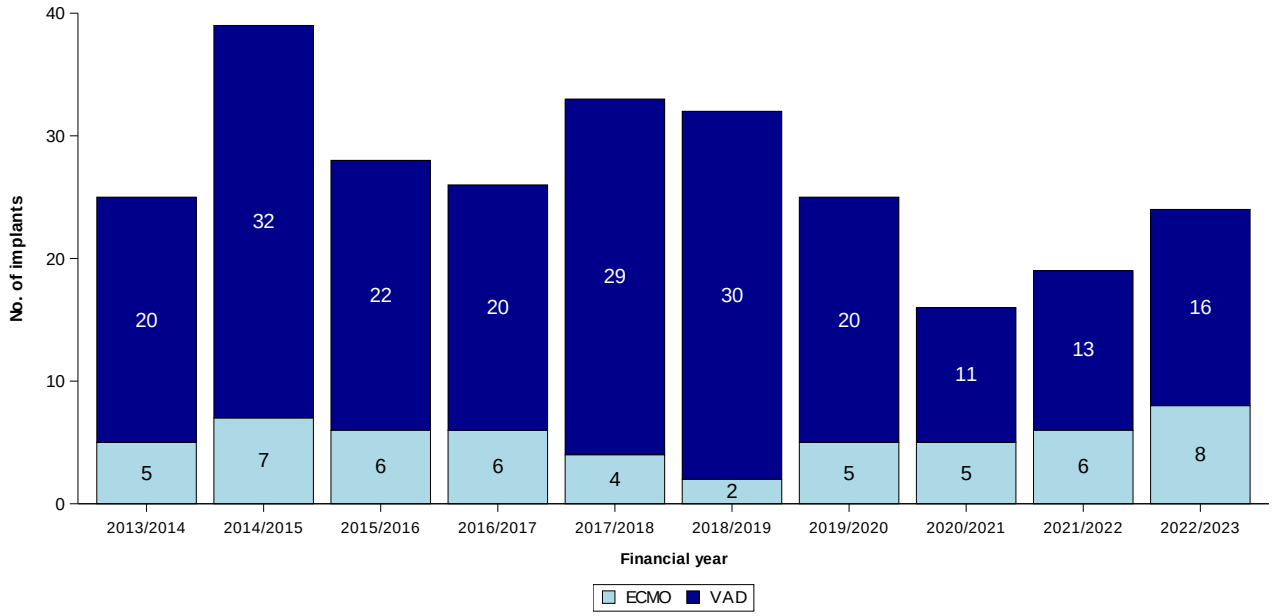


**Figure 9.1b Number of paediatric bridging episodes in the UK, by financial year and devices implanted, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

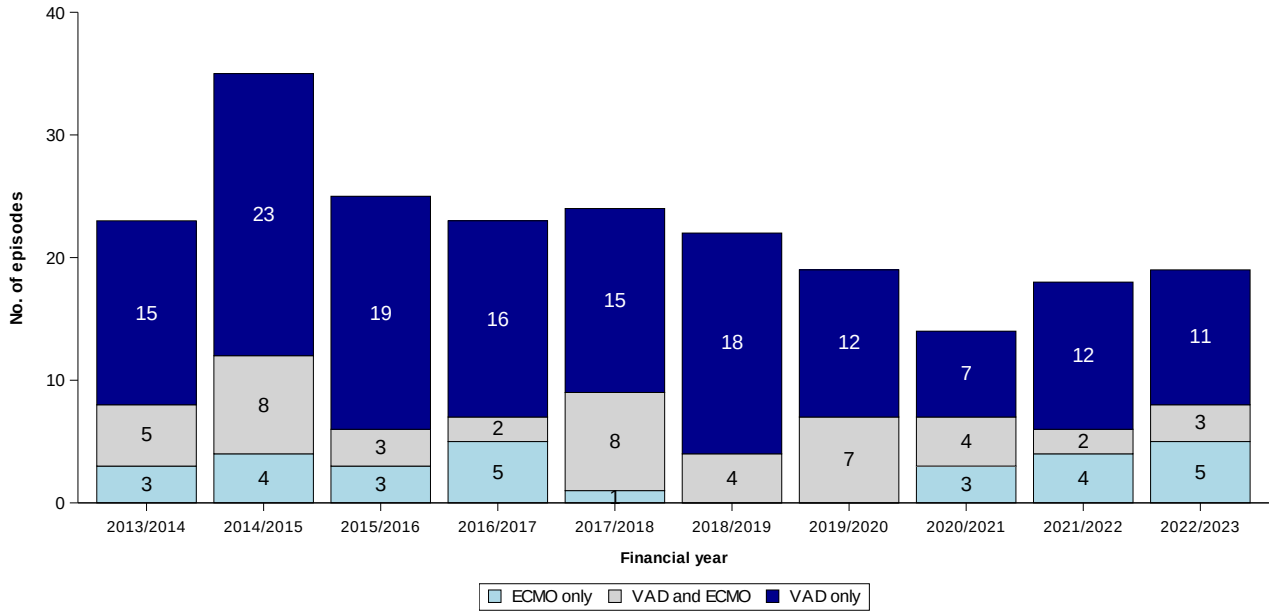



**Figure 9.2a Number of paediatric bridging device implants in the UK, by financial year, centre and device type, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

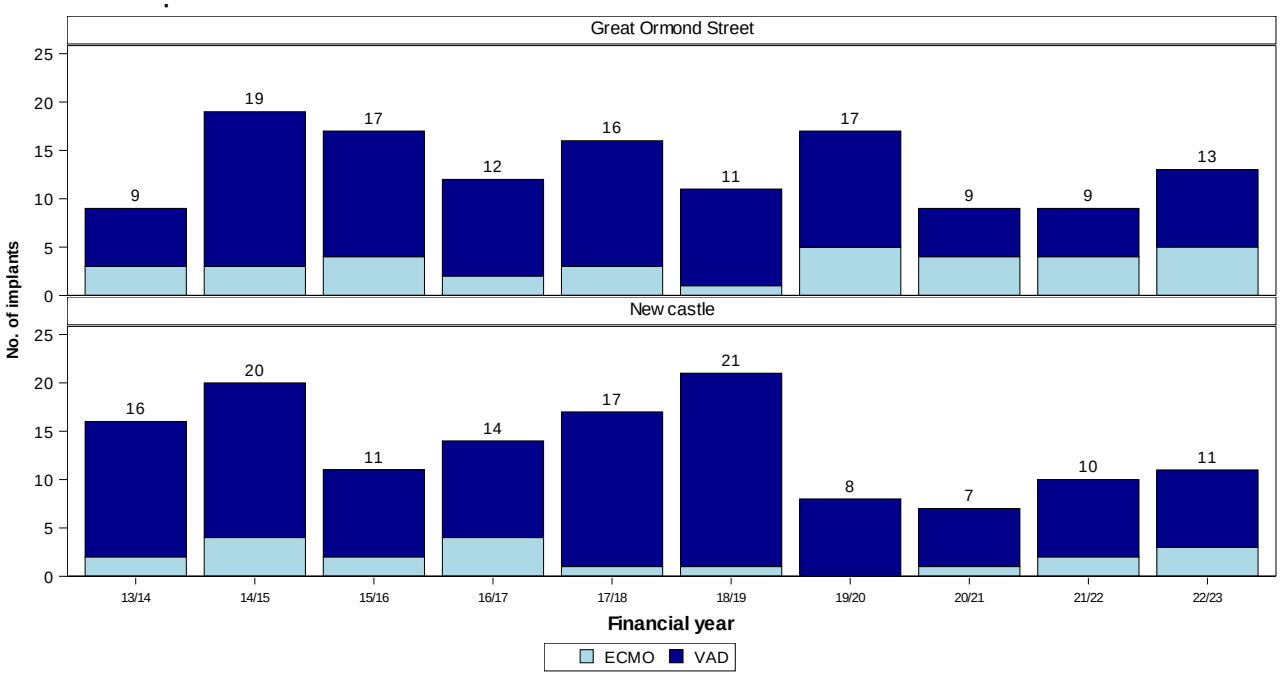


**Figure 9.2b Number of paediatric bridging episodes in the UK, by financial year, centre and devices implanted, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2023**

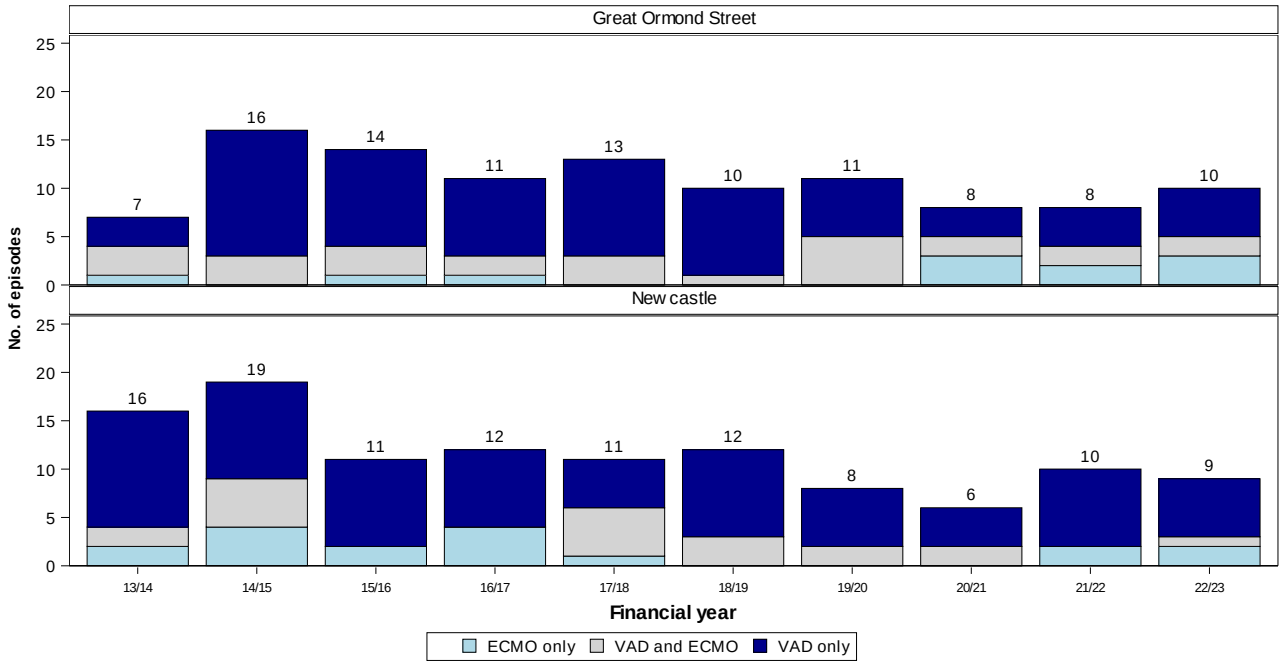



**Figure 9.3a Number of paediatric bridging device implants in the UK, by centre and device type, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

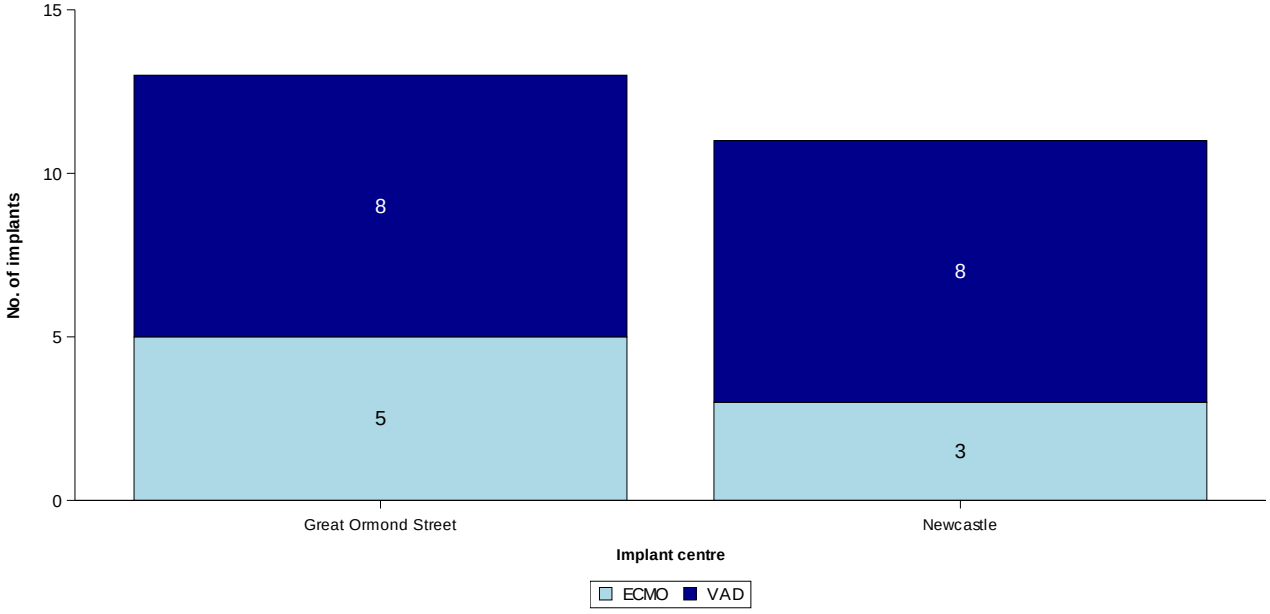


**Figure 9.3b Number of paediatric bridging episodes in the UK, by centre and devices implanted, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

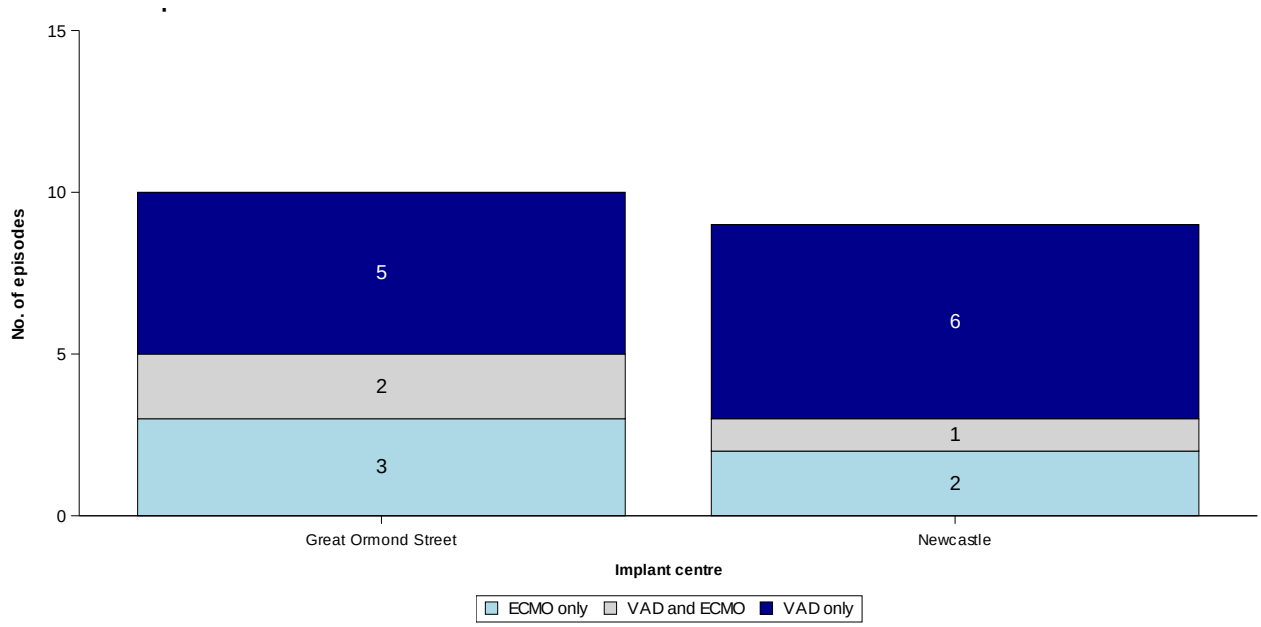
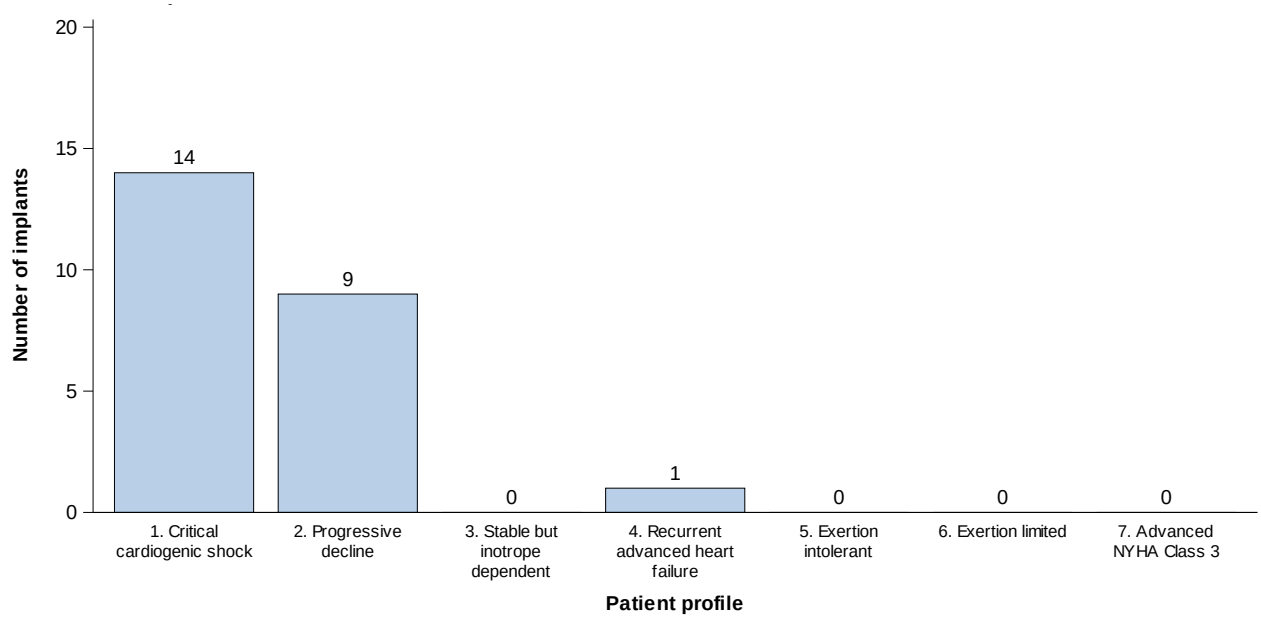



**Figure 9.4** shows the INTERMACS patient profile at implant for paediatric patients implanted during 2022/2023. Most patients implanted were either level 1 (critical cardiogenic shock) or level 2 (progressive decline).

**Figure 9.4 INTERMACS patient profile for all bridging devices used in paediatric patients in the UK, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**



# PAEDIATRIC DEVICES USED FOR BRIDGING

## Patient Outcomes

## 10 Outcomes of paediatric patients receiving bridging devices

This section considers all paediatric patients who received any type of bridging support between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022. Patients are analysed on a per-patient basis, as opposed to per implant. If a patient was moved from one device to a different device, the entire time they were on support is considered (see **Table A1.5** in Appendix A1 for details of device histories).

### 10.1 Demographic characteristics

The demographic characteristics of the 71 patients who received bridging support in the analysis period are shown below in **Table 10.1**, by centre and overall. Nationally, 52% of patients were male, the median age was 3 and the most common device was Centrimag with or without Berlin Heart cannulae. Note that for some characteristics there is a high proportion of missing data. Also, due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

**Table 10.1 Characteristics of paediatric patients who received a bridging device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| | | Great Ormond Street N (%) | Newcastle N (%) | **Total N (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of patients | | 37 | 34 | **71** |
| Recipient age (years) | Median (IQR) | 5 (2-11) | 2 (0-7) | **3 (1-9)** |
| | Missing | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Recipient sex | Male | 22 (59) | 15 (44) | **37 (52)** |
| | Female | 15 (41) | 19 (56) | **34 (48)** |
| Primary disease | Dilated cardiomyopathy | 25 (68) | 27 (79) | **52 (73)** |
| | Congenital heart disease | 2 (5) | 3 (9) | **5 (7)** |
| | Restrictive cardiomyopathy | 3 (8) | 0 (0) | **3 (4)** |
| | Other | 0 (0) | 4 (12) | **4 (6)** |
| | Unknown | 7 (19) | 0 (0) | **7 (10)** |
| INTERMACS patient profile | 1. Critical cardiogenic shock | 15 (41) | 24 (71) | **39 (55)** |
| | 2. Progressive decline | 16 (43) | 10 (29) | **26 (37)** |
| | 3. Stable but inotrope dependent | 5 (14) | 0 (0) | **5 (7)** |
| | 4. Recurrent advanced heart failure | 1 (3) | 0 (0) | **1 (1)** |
| | 5. Exertion intolerant | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | 6. Exertion limited | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| | 7. Advanced NYHA Class 3 | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | **0 (0)** |
| Height (cm) | Median (IQR) | 95 (78-120) | 91 (71-121) | **92 (74-120)** |
| | Missing | 17 | 0 | **17** |
| Weight (kg) | Median (IQR) | 13 (8-18) | 14 (9-23) | **13 (8-20)** |
| | Missing | 17 | 6 | **23** |
| Body surface area ($m^2$) | Median (IQR) | 0.59 (0.43-0.76) | 0.60 (0.42-0.89) | **0.60 (0.43-0.82)** |
| | Missing | 17 | 6 | **23** |
| First device implanted | Berlin Heart Excor | 12 (32) | 0 (0) | **12 (17)** |
| | Heartware | 8 (22) | 4 (12) | **12 (17)** |
| | Centrimag | 4 (11) | 10 (29) | **14 (20)** |
| | Centrimag with BH cannulae | 0 (0) | 18 (53) | **18 (25)** |
| | ECMO only | 13 (35) | 2 (6) | **15 (21)** |

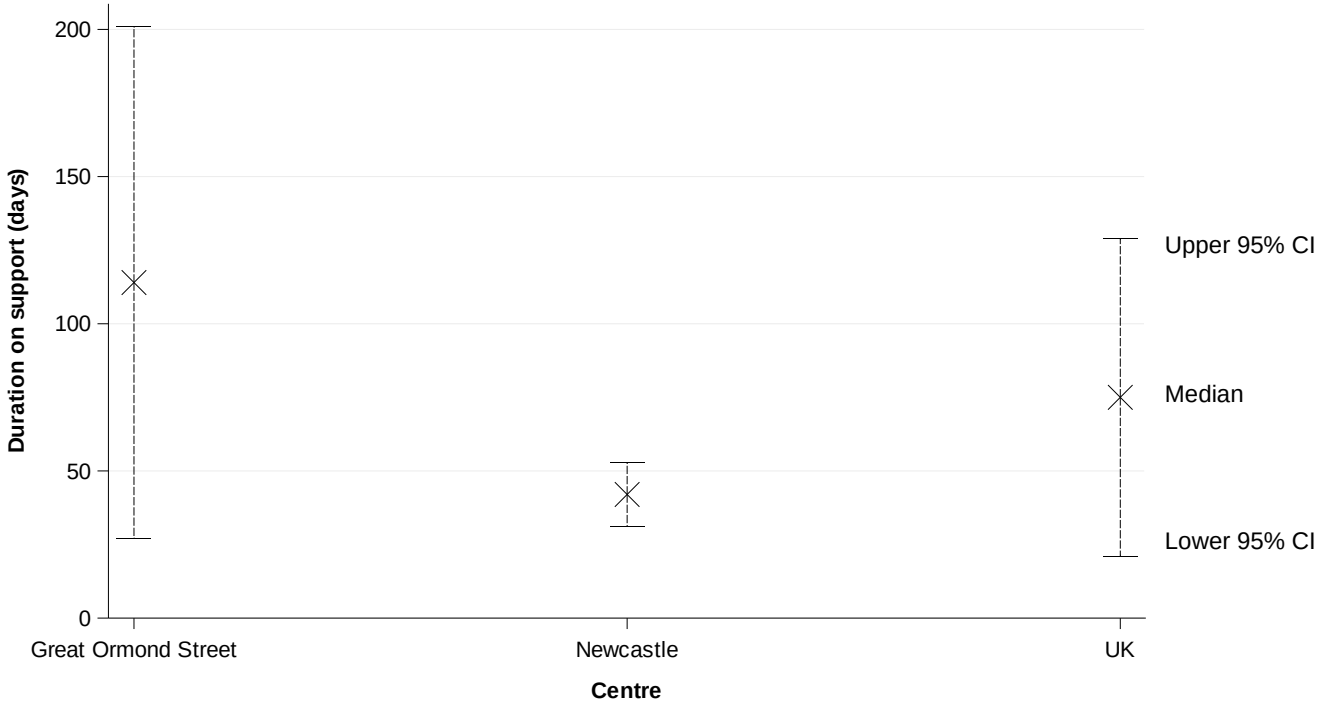
## 10.2 Duration on support

**Table 10.2** and **Figure 10.1** show the median duration on support for patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, both nationally and by centre. The medians and confidence intervals are estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method since not all patients may have come to the end of support and this method allows these (censored) patients to be included in the analysis. Transplant, explant or death signify end of support. Nationally, the median time on support was 75 days. There was no difference in time spent on support between centres (log-rank p=0.35).

**Table 10.2 Median duration on support for paediatric patients implanted with a bridging device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022, by centre**

| Centre | Number of patients | Time on support (days) Median | (95% confidence interval) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Great Ormond Street Hospital | 37 | 114 | 27 - 201 |
| Newcastle | 34 | 42 | 31 - 53 |
| **Overall** | **71** | **75** | **21 - 129** |

**Figure 10.1 Median duration on support for paediatric patients implanted with a bridging device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022**



## 10.3 Rate of transplant listing

**Figure 10.2** and **Table 10.3** show the rate of transplant listing for patients implanted between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022 by centre. This includes listing on the super-urgent, urgent or non-urgent heart transplant lists (whichever occurred first). Overall, 49% of patients were on the list at implant, with a further 45% listed after implant, 3% who had died or been explanted within one-year post-implant without being listed and 3% who were not listed within one-year.

**Figure 10.2 Heart transplant listing status with respect to bridging device implantation for paediatric patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre and overall**

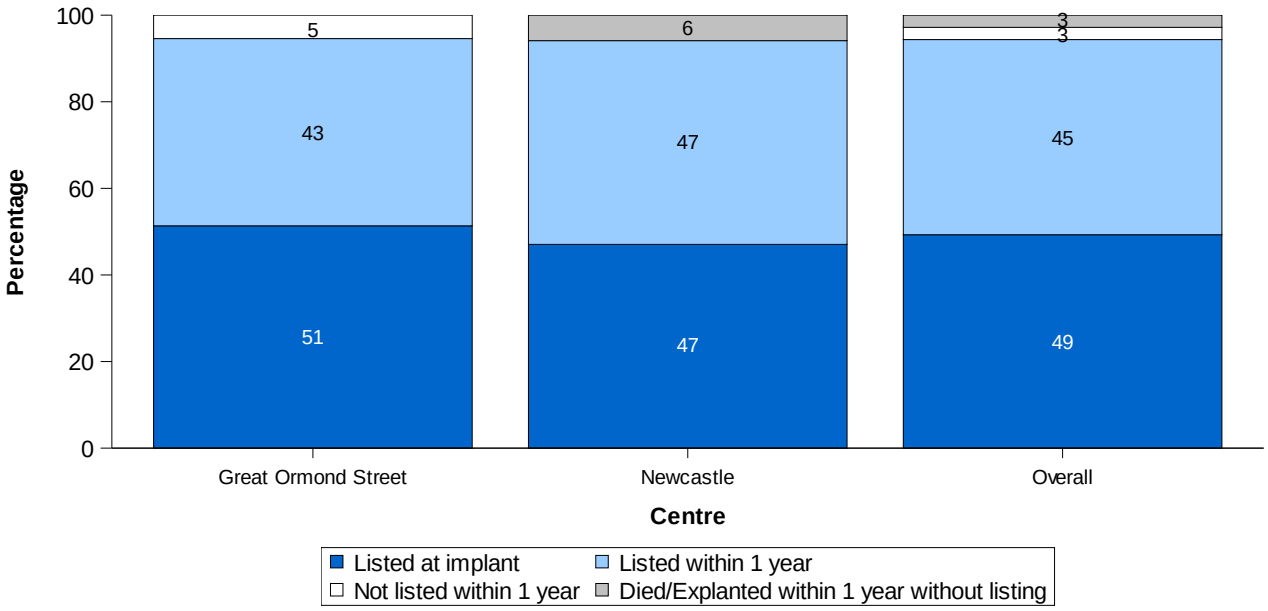



**Table 10.3 Heart transplant listing status with respect to bridging device implantation for paediatric patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre and overall**

| Centre | Number of patients N | Listed before VAD implant N (%) | Listed within 1 year N (%) | Not listed within 1 year N (%) | Died/explanted within 1 year without listing N (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Great Ormond Street | 37 | 19 (51) | 16 (43) | 2 (5) | 0 (0) |
| Newcastle | 34 | 16 (47) | 16 (47) | 0 (0) | 2 (6) |
| **Overall** | **71** | **35 (49)** | **32 (45)** | **2 (3)** | **2 (3)** |

## 10.4 Competing outcomes

Whilst on support, patients are susceptible to different outcomes. Death on support, transplant and explant without transplant (with or without recovery) are all possible outcomes. **Figure 10.3** shows the cumulative incidence of each of these outcomes occurring from time of implant, for the cohort of paediatric patients receiving a first device between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022. This is calculated using the Aalen-Johansen method to account for competing outcomes. At time zero, 100% of patients are on support and as time passes, patients either experience death on support, transplant or explant without transplant. At any time point, the proportion alive on support plus the proportions experiencing each outcome will sum to 100%. Deaths after transplant are not counted and these patients are classed simply as transplanted. Patients who were explanted and died within 30 days of explant are counted as deaths at time of explant. Any subsequent device support post-explant is not counted and any such patients are classed simply as explanted. If a patient is moved from one device to another without a period free of support, this counts as time on support.

For this cohort, one month after receiving a device, 66% of patients remained alive on support, 18% received a heart transplant, 8% had their device explanted and 7% died on support. At three months, the incidence of transplantation rose to 32%, the incidence of death rose to 14%, and the proportion explanted remained at 8%, leaving 45% left on support. By six months, 41% had received a heart transplant, 10% were explanted, 18% had died on support, leaving 31% alive on support.

**Figure 10.3 Cumulative incidence functions for transplant, death and explant for paediatric patients receiving a bridging device, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

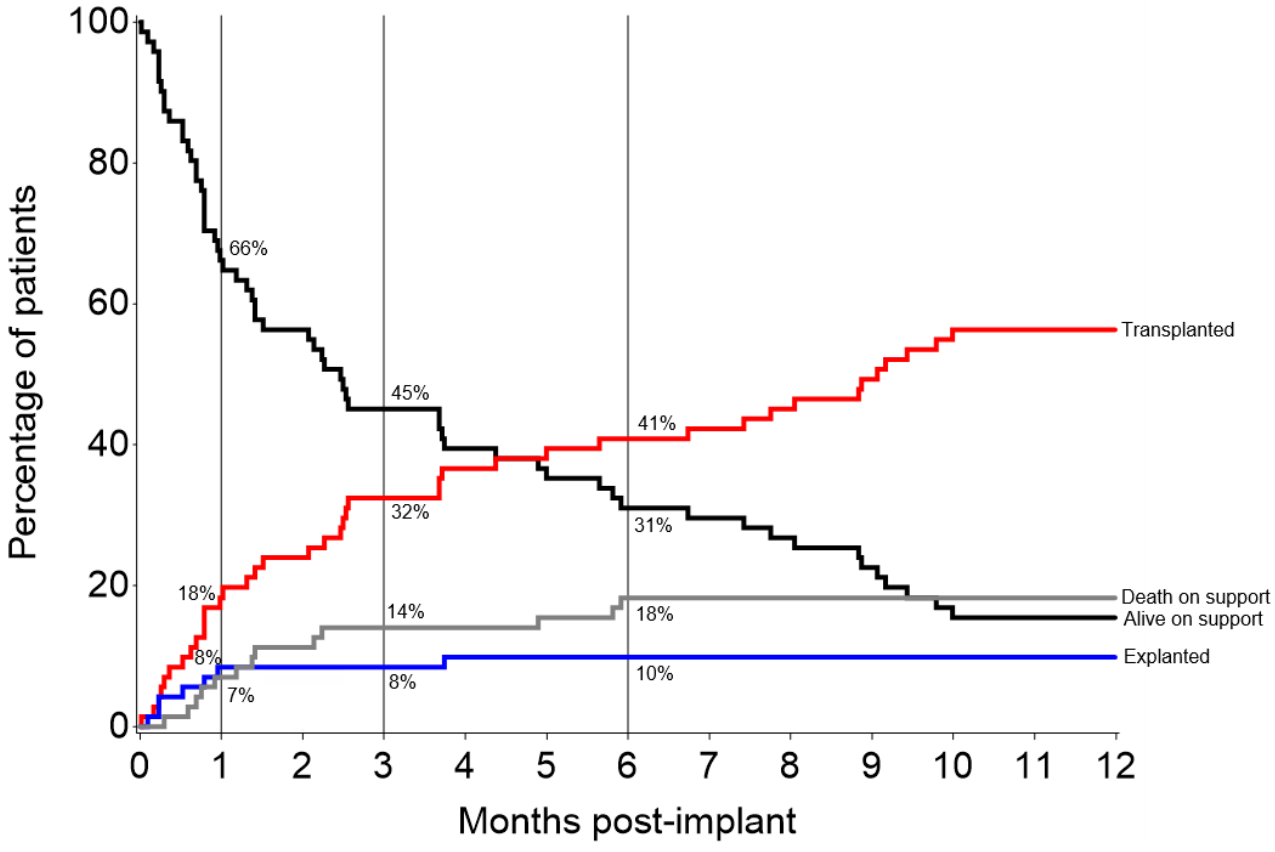


**Table 10.4** shows the centre-specific estimates for each competing outcome. A higher proportion of patients had received a transplant by 6 months at Great Ormond Street (46%) compared with Newcastle (35%). Note that some of these percentages represent a small number of patients. Additionally, a patient may be counted as explanted but go on to have further support after a period without support, so this does not always represent recovery.

**Table 10.4 Cumulative incidence of each outcome, by centre, for paediatric patients implanted with a first bridging device, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022**

| Period | Centre | Number of patients | Transplanted % | Explanted % | Alive on support % | Death on support % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 day | GOSH | 37 | 19 | 0 | 76 | 5 |
| | Newcastle | 34 | 18 | 18 | 56 | 9 |
| | **Overall** | **71** | **18** | **8** | **66** | **7** |
| 90 day | GOSH | 37 | 38 | 0 | 54 | 8 |
| | Newcastle | 34 | 26 | 18 | 35 | 21 |
| | **Overall** | **71** | **32** | **8** | **45** | **14** |
| 6 months | GOSH | 37 | 46 | 3 | 38 | 14 |
| | Newcastle | 34 | 35 | 18 | 24 | 24 |
| | **Overall** | **71** | **41** | **10** | **31** | **18** |

## 10.5 Patient survival from implant

Overall survival rates from the point of first device implant, not censored for transplant or explant, are presented in this section. Survival data from the UK Transplant Registry were incorporated, as was any additional survival time recorded on the VAD Database for patients who were explanted. Time on additional devices is also counted, so for example if a patient had several periods of support, all this time is included. Times are censored if the patient was still alive at last known event or follow-up.

Survival rates are calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method. The rates are estimated at 30 days, 90 days and 1 year and are given nationally and for individual centres in **Tables 10.5**, **10.6** and **10.7**. The centre-specific rates are unadjusted for potential differences in risk between patients treated at different centres. The national rate of survival at each time point was 94.4%, 85.9% and 77.3%, respectively.

| Table 10.5 | 30-day patient survival rates after bridging device implant for paediatric patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Centre | Number of patients | Number of deaths | % 30-day survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
| Great Ormond Street | 37 | 2 | 94.6 | (80.1 - 98.6) |
| Newcastle | 34 | 2 | 94.1 | (78.5 - 98.5) |
| **UK** | **71** | **4** | **94.4** | **(85.7 - 97.8)** |

| Table 10.6 | 90-day patient survival rates after bridging device implant for paediatric patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Centre | Number of patients | Number of deaths | % 90-day survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
| Great Ormond Street | 37 | 3 | 91.9 | (76.9 - 97.3) |
| Newcastle | 34 | 7 | 79.4 | (61.6 - 89.6) |
| **UK** | **71** | **10** | **85.9** | **(75.4 - 92.2)** |

| Table 10.7 | 1-year patient survival rates after bridging device implant for paediatric patients implanted 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022, by centre | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Centre | Number of patients | Number of deaths | % 1-year survival (95% CI) Unadjusted | |
| Great Ormond Street | 37 | 5 | 86.5 | (70.5 - 94.1) |
| Newcastle | 34 | 11 | 67.2 | (48.6 - 80.3) |
| **UK** | **71** | **16** | **77.3** | **(65.6 - 85.4)** |

# APPENDIX

## A1: Data

The cohort of patients in this report varies by section and type of analysis. **Tables A1.1** and **A1.2** summarise the number of adult and paediatric patients/implants (respectively) in each cohort and the section this applies to.

**Table A1.1 Data analysed for adults**

| Time period | Report Section | Exclusion criteria | No. implants/ patients/ transplants |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Adult – Long-term bridging** | | | |
| 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023 | • Introduction/Activity | None | 878 implants |
| 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022 | • Duration on support<br>• Rate of transplant listing<br>• Competing outcomes<br>• Survival on support<br>• Patient survival from implant | • TAH and pulsatile devices<br>• Patients with no follow-up information | 282 patients |
| 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023 | • TAH outcomes | None | 24 patients |
| **Adult – Short-term bridging** | | | |
| 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023 | • Introduction/Activity | None | 934 implants |
| 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022 | • Duration on support<br>• Rate of transplant listing<br>• Competing outcomes<br>• Survival on support | • Patients with no follow-up information | 321 patients |
| 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022 | • Patient survival from implant | • Patients who had a long-term device before or after the short-term device<br>• Patients with no follow-up information | 266 patients |
| **Adult – Short-term post-transplant** | | | |
| 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023 | • Introduction/Activity | • Implants for rejection<br>• Long-term devices used post-transplant | 341 transplants |
| 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022 | • Duration on support<br>• Patient survival from implant | • Implants for rejection<br>• Long-term devices used post-transplant<br>• Patients with no follow-up information | 138 patients |

| Table A1.2 Data analysed for paediatrics | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Time period** | **Report Section** | **Exclusion criteria** | **No. implants/ patients** |
| **Paediatric – Bridging devices** | | | |
| 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023 | • Introduction/Activity | None | 267 implants |
| 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022 | • Duration on support<br>• Rate of transplant listing<br>• Competing outcomes<br>• Patient survival from implant | • Patients with no follow-up information | 71 patients |

**Limitations and classifications:**

- BiVADs are counted as one implant.
- "Bridging" includes devices entered onto the VAD Database under "bridge to decision" as well as "bridge to transplant" along with any long-term devices used post-transplant.
- Patients who received concurrent short-term support with long-term support are classed simply as long-term device recipients.
- Patients who received concurrent ECMO support with a VAD are classed simply as VAD recipients.
- Any paediatric (age<16) activity reported by an adult only centre is presented in the adult sections.
- Berlin Heart implants into adult patients are counted as short-term support.

**Table A1.3** details the number of patients meeting the criteria for each of the four patient outcomes sections, along with how many were excluded due to no follow-up post-implant and the number of patients with no follow-up information received in the previous year.

**Table A1.3 Follow-up information for patients analysed in the patient outcomes sections of the report**

| Outcomes section | Centre | Patients meeting section criteria | Patients with no follow-up | Patients analysed | Patients with no follow-up in last year[1] (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adult long-term bridging | Birmingham | 55 | 0 | 55 | 0 (0) |
| | Glasgow | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 (0) |
| | Harefield | 66 | 0 | 66 | 0 (0) |
| | Manchester | 48 | 0 | 48 | 0 (0) |
| | Newcastle | 75 | 0 | 75 | 0 (0) |
| | Papworth | 34 | 0 | 34 | 3 (9) |
| | **Overall** | **282** | **0** | **282** | **3 (1)** |
| Adult short-term bridging | Birmingham | 63 | 0 | 63 | 1 (2) |
| | Glasgow | 35 | 0 | 35 | 0 (0) |
| | Harefield | 77 | 1 | 76 | 2 (3) |
| | Manchester | 47 | 0 | 47 | 4 (9) |
| | Newcastle | 41 | 0 | 41 | 3 (7) |
| | Papworth | 59 | 0 | 59 | 6 (10) |
| | **Overall** | **322** | **1** | **321** | **16 (5)** |
| Adult post-transplant | Birmingham | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 (0) |
| | Glasgow | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 (0) |
| | Harefield | 21 | 0 | 21 | 0 (0) |
| | Manchester | 20 | 0 | 20 | 0 (0) |
| | Newcastle | 27 | 0 | 27 | 3 (11) |
| | Papworth | 20 | 0 | 20 | 1 (5) |
| | **Overall** | **138** | **0** | **138** | **4 (3)** |
| Paediatric bridging | Great Ormond Street | 37 | 0 | 37 | 5 (14) |
| | Newcastle | 34 | 0 | 34 | 3 (9) |
| | **Overall** | **71** | **0** | **71** | **8 (11)** |

[1]Patients analysed who are not reported as deceased and no information on patient status has been returned via VAD Database or UK Transplant Registry since 1 August 2022

**Table A1.4** details the device history of adult patients receiving a device between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2023 by strategy. **Table A1.5** shows the same information for paediatric recipients. In both these tables, a dash ("-") between devices indicate that the subsequent device was implanted immediately following explanation of the prior device and a slash ("/") indicates the patient had a period of no support between the two devices.

**Table A1.4 Device history of adult patients receiving device implants, 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023, by strategy**

| Device history | No. of bridging patients | No. of post-transplant patients |
|---|---|---|
| LT | 640 | |
| LT-ECMO | 14 | |
| LT-ECMO-LT | 1 | |
| LT-ECMO-ST | 2 | |
| LT-ECMO-ST-ST | 1 | |
| LT-LT | 30 | |
| LT-LT-ECMO | 1 | |
| LT-LT-ECMO-ST | 1 | |
| LT-LT-LT | 1 | |
| LT-LT-LT-LT | 1 | |
| LT-LT-ST | 1 | |
| LT-LT-ST-LT | 1 | |
| LT-ST | 3 | |
| LT-ST-ST | 1 | |
| LT-TAH | 2 | |
| LT/ECMO | 4 | 1 |
| LT/ECMO-LT | 1 | |
| LT/LT | 1 | |
| LT/LT-ECMO | 1 | |
| LT/LT-LT | 1 | |
| LT/ST | 2 | |
| LT/ST-ST-ST | 1 | |
| TAH | 11 | |
| ST | 297 | 22 |
| ST-ECMO | 11 | 1 |
| ST-ECMO-ST | 3 | |
| ST-ECMO-ST-LT | 1 | |
| ST-LT | 37 | |
| ST-LT-LT | 2 | |
| ST-LT-LT-ECMO | 1 | |
| ST-ST | 22 | 2 |
| ST-ST-ECMO | 2 | 1 |
| ST-ST-ECMO-LT | 1 | |
| ST-ST-LT | 4 | |
| ST-ST-ST | | 1 |
| ST-ST/ECMO | 1 | 1 |
| ST-TAH | 2 | |
| ST/ECMO | 2 | |
| ST/ST-ECMO | 1 | |
| ECMO | 189 | 260 |
| ECMO-ECMO | 3 | 1 |
| ECMO-ECMO-ST | | 1 |
| ECMO-LT | 42 | |
| ECMO-LT-ECMO | 1 | |
| ECMO-LT-LT | 1 | |
| ECMO-LT-LT-ST | 1 | |
| ECMO-ST | 65 | 41 |
| ECMO-ST-ECMO | | 2 |
| ECMO-ST-LT | 13 | |
| ECMO-ST-ST | 3 | 1 |
| ECMO-ST-ST-ST-ST | 1 | |
| ECMO-ST-ST-ST/LT | 1 | |
| ECMO-ST-TAH | 1 | |
| ECMO-ST/ECMO | | 1 |
| ECMO-ST/LT | 2 | |
| ECMO-ST/LT-ECMO | 1 | |
| ECMO-ST/ST | | 1 |
| ECMO-ST/TAH | 1 | |

**Table A1.4 Device history of adult patients receiving device implants, 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023, by strategy**

| Device history | No. of bridging patients | No. of post-transplant patients |
|---|---|---|
| ECMO-TAH | 7 | |
| ECMO-UNKNOWN-ST | | 1 |
| ECMO/ECMO | 4 | 16 |
| ECMO/ECMO-ST | 1 | |
| ECMO/ECMO/ECMO/ECMO | | 1 |
| ECMO/LT | 4 | |
| ECMO/ST | 2 | 3 |
| **Overall** | **1452** | **358** |

**Table A1.5 Device history of paediatric patients receiving device implants, 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2023, by strategy**

| Device history | No. bridging patients | No. post-transplant patients |
|---|---|---|
| BH | 58 | |
| BH-ECMO | 1 | |
| BH/BH | 1 | |
| BH/ECMO-BH | 1 | |
| LT | | 1 |
| HVAD | 34 | |
| HVAD-CM-ECMO-CM | 1 | |
| HVAD-ECMO-HVAD | 1 | |
| CM | 46 | |
| CM-BH | 7 | |
| CM-BH-CM | 1 | |
| CM-BH-CM-BH | 1 | |
| CM-BH/CM | 1 | |
| CM-CM | 2 | |
| CM-ECMO | 1 | |
| CM/CM | 2 | |
| ST | | 1 |
| ECMO | 18 | 53 |
| ECMO-BH | 12 | |
| ECMO-CM | 3 | |
| ECMO-ECMO-LT | | 1 |
| ECMO-HVAD | 7 | |
| ECMO-LT | | 1 |
| ECMO/BH | 2 | |
| ECMO/CM | 3 | |
| ECMO/ECMO/CM | 1 | |
| ECMO/HVAD | 3 | |
| **Overall** | **207** | **57** |

BH = Berlin Heart; HVAD = Heartware HVAD, CM = Centrimag, ECMO = Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation
Note: a dash ("-") between devices indicate that the subsequent device was implanted immediately following explantation of the prior device and a slash ("/") indicates the patient had a period of no support between the two devices

## A2: Methods

### Analysis of geographical variation in MCS rates

Patients were assigned to NHS regions in England or country for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland using their postcode of residence, as reported at implant. Patients were only counted once regardless of how many devices they received in the period. The number of patients receiving a device per million population (pmp) of NHS region/country was obtained using mid-2021 population estimates based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 Census figures (denominator). No NHS region age- or sex-specific standardisation of rates was performed when calculating the systematic component of variation. The MCS rates pmp were categorised into four groups – low, low-medium, medium-high and high – based on the quartiles of their distribution and visualised in a map using contrasting colours.

### Systematic component of variation

For a given individual who is a resident in a given English NHS region, provision of a bridging device is modelled as a Bernoulli trial. At the whole area level, this becomes a Binomial process which can be approximated by a Poisson distribution when rare events are modelled.

To allow for the possibility that, even after allowing for area-specific Poisson rates, area differences remain, introduce an additional multiplicative rate factor which varies from area to area. Postulate a non-parametric distribution for the multiplicative factor, with variance $\sigma^2$. If the factor is one for all areas, then area differences are fully explained by the area-specific Poisson rate. If the factor varies with a nonzero variance, $\sigma^2$, then we conclude that there are unexplained area differences.

The systematic component of variation (SCV; McPherson et al., N Engl J Med 1982, 307: 1310-4) is the moment estimator of $\sigma^2$. Under the null hypothesis of homogeneity across areas, the SCV would be zero. The SCV, therefore, allows us to detect variability across areas beyond that expected by chance; the larger the SCV, the greater the evidence of systematic variation across areas.

A one-sided p-value for the hypothesis that the SCV is greater than zero versus the null hypothesis that the SCV is equal to zero was derived using a parametric bootstrap where data were simulated from the Poisson distribution that would be consistent with the null hypothesis (multiplicative rate factor is equal to one in all areas and $\sigma^2$ equal to zero). The observed SCV was then compared against this simulated data to calculate the probability that an SCV of at least this size would be observed due to chance if the null hypothesis were true.

10,000 bootstrap samples of size 7 (number of areas) were simulated, where the bridging implant count in each area was drawn from a Poisson distribution with its expected value being the area-specific expected count (the rate of bridging implants in the total population multiplied by the population of the area) . The SCV was then calculated in each of the 10,000 samples and a bootstrap p-value for the SCV in the observed data was estimated as:

$$P_{boot} = \frac{1 + \#\{SCV_{sim} \geq SCV_{obs}\}}{10000 + 1}$$

where $\#\{SCV_{sim} \geq SCV_{obs}\}$ is the number of SCV values in the simulated datasets which are greater than or equal to the SCV in the observed data. This follows the simulation method given in Ibanez et al., BMC Health Services Research, 2009, 9:60. No adjustment was made for area-specific demographic characteristics that may impact the rates of bridging implantation such as age and sex.

**Unadjusted survival rates**

The Kaplan-Meier method is used to estimate unadjusted patient survival rates. Patients can be included in this method of analysis irrespective of the length of follow-up recorded. If a patient is alive at the end of the follow-up then information about the survival of the patient is censored, which means they have not yet experienced the outcome of death.

**Funnel plots**

The funnel plot is a graphical method to show how consistent the survival rates of the different centres are with the national rate. The graph shows for each centre a survival rate plotted against the number of procedures undertaken, with the national rate and confidence limits around this national rate superimposed. In this report, 95% and 99.8% confidence limits were used. Centres that lie within the confidence limits have survival rates that are statistically consistent with the national rate. When a centre is close to or outside the limits, this is an indication that the centre may have a rate that is different from the national rate.

## A3: Glossary of terms

**Aalen-Johansen method**
A method for calculating the cause-specific cumulative incidence which allows for patients experiencing one of a set of outcomes where each outcome may preclude or change the probability of a patient experiencing any of the others ("competing risks"). It allows for patients with incomplete follow-up to be included as per the Kaplan-Meier method.

**Competing outcomes**
A situation when patients or subjects can experience one or more events or outcomes which 'compete' with the outcome of interest. For instance, when the event of interest is death on VAD support, receiving a transplant or having ones' device explanted and recovering are competing outcomes. Generally, the competing outcomes hinder the observation of the event of interest or modify the chance that this event occurs.

**Confidence interval (CI)**
When an estimate of a quantity such as a survival rate is obtained from data, the value of the estimate depends on the set of patients whose data were used. If, by chance, data from a different set of patients had been used, the value of the estimate may have been different. There is therefore some uncertainty linked with any estimate. A confidence interval is a range of values whose width gives an indication of the uncertainty or precision of an estimate. The number of patients analysed influences the width of a confidence interval. Smaller data sets tend to lead to wider confidence intervals compared to larger data sets. Estimates from larger data sets are therefore more precise than those from smaller data sets. Confidence intervals are calculated with a stated probability, usually 95%. We then say that there is a 95% chance that the confidence interval includes the true value of the quantity we wish to estimate.

**Confidence limit**
The upper and lower bounds of a confidence interval.

**Continuous-flow device**
An electrically driven rotary pump that pumps blood continuously throughout the cardiac cycle.

**Cumulative incidence**
The probability of an event (death, transplant or explant in this context) occurring before a particular point in time.

**ECMO**
Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation. The term ECMO is this report is used to describe veno-arterial (VA) ECMO, rather than veno-venous (VV) ECMO.

**INTERMACS patient profile**

**Level 1:** Critical cardiogenic shock describes the patient who is "crashing and burning"; in which patients have life–threatening hypotension despite rapidly escalating inotropic support, occasionally with IABP placement as well, with critical organ hypoperfusion often confirmed by worsening acidosis and lactate levels. Patients may have less than 24 hours survival expected without mechanical support.

**Level 2:** Progressive decline describes the patient who has been demonstrated "dependent" on inotropic support but nonetheless shows signs of continuing deterioration in nutrition, renal function, fluid retention, or other major status indicator. Level 2 can also describe a patient with refractory volume overload, perhaps with

evidence of impaired perfusion, in whom inotropic infusions *cannot be maintained* due to tachyarrhythmia, clinical ischemia, or other intolerance.

**Level 3:** Stable but inotrope dependent describes the patient who is clinically stable on mild–moderate doses of intravenous inotropes after repeated documentation of failure to wean without symptomatic hypotension, worsening symptoms, or progressive organ dysfunction (usually renal). It is critical to monitor nutrition, renal function, fluid balance, and overall status carefully in order to distinguish between patients who are truly stable at Level 3 and those who have unappreciated decline rendering them Level 2.

**Level 4:** is the level of "recurrent" rather than "refractory" decompensation. After interventions such as hospitalization for intravenous diuretics, these patients can be stabilized briefly on an oral regimen at close to normal volume status. However, they experience brief relapses into fluid retention. These patients should be carefully considered for more intensive management and surveillance programs, by which some may be recognized to have poor compliance that would compromise outcomes with any therapy.

**Level 5:** describes patients who are comfortable at rest but are exercise intolerant for most activity, living predominantly within the house or housebound. They have no congestive symptoms, but may have chronically elevated volume status, frequently with renal dysfunction, and may be characterized as housebound.

**Level 6:** is a similar patient who is generally without any evidence of fluid overload and able to do some mild activity. Activities of daily living are comfortable and minor activities outside the home such as visiting friends or going to a restaurant can be performed, but fatigue results within a few minutes or any meaningful physical exertion.

**Level 7:** describes patients who are clinically stable with a reasonable level of comfortable activity, despite history of previous decompensation that is not recent. Any decompensation requiring intravenous diuretics or hospitalization within the previous 2 weeks should make the person a Level 4 or lower.

*ISHLT Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support Registry Users' Guide (2012).* Birmingham, AL (http://www.ishlt.org/ContentDocuments/IMACS_Users_Guide_Final_032414.pdf)

**Kaplan-Meier method**

A method that allows patients with incomplete follow-up information to be included in estimating survival rates and other time related statistics such as median duration on support. For example, when estimating one year patient survival rates, a patient may be followed up for only nine months before they relocate. If we calculated a crude survival estimate using the number of patients who survived for at least a year, this patient would have to be excluded as it is not known whether or not the patient was still alive at one year after VAD implantation. The Kaplan-Meier method allows information about such patients to be used for the length of time that they are followed-up, when this information would otherwise be discarded. Such instances of incomplete follow-up are not uncommon and the Kaplan-Meier method allows the computation of estimates that are more meaningful in these cases.

**Long-term (LT) devices**
Long-term devices are implantable and intended to support the patient for years. Patients can be discharged from hospital with a LT device. Most LT devices are continuous-flow devices but some are pulsatile.

**MCS**
Mechanical Circulatory Support.

**Median**
The midpoint in a series of numbers, so that half the data values are larger than the median, and half are smaller.

**Patient survival rate**
The estimated percentage of patients who are still alive. This is usually specified for a given time period after implant. For example, a 1 year patient survival rate is the estimated percentage of patients who are still alive 1 year after their first device implant.

**Primary graft dysfunction**
In this report primary graft dysfunction (PGD) is defined as all VADs and ECMOs used for graft failure within 30 days of heart transplantation.

**Pulsatile device**
A device that mimics the natural pulsing action of the heart.

***p* value**
In the context of comparing listing rates across centres, as an example, the *p* value is the probability that the differences observed in the rates across centres occurred by chance. As this is a probability, it takes values between 0 and 1. If the *p* value is small, say less than 0.05, this implies that the differences are unlikely to be due to chance and there may be some identifiable cause for these differences. If the *p* value is large, say greater than 0.1, then it is quite likely that any differences seen are due to chance.

**Rejection**
Rejection is defined as all VADs and ECMOs used for graft failure more than 30 days after heart transplantation.

**Short-term (ST) devices**
Short-term devices are intended to support the heart for a short period of time (days or weeks). Patients cannot leave hospital with the device.

**Survival on support**
The percentage of patients who are still alive and on VAD support. Unlike patient survival from implant, survival on support is censored at time of device explantation or transplantation. This is usually specified for a given time period after implantation. For example, a three-year survival on support rate is the estimate of patients who are still alive on support three years after their first short-term or long-term VAD implantation.

**TAH**
Total Artificial Heart.

**UK Transplant Registry**
A national database held by NHS Blood and Transplant collecting data on all organ transplant procedures. Information is accrued prospectively at recipient registration on the national transplant list, at organ donation, at time of transplantation and at regular intervals thereafter.

**Unadjusted survival rate**
Unadjusted patient survival rates do not take account of potential confounders and are based only on the number of patients at a given centre and the number and timing of those that die within the post-implant period of interest. In this case, unlike for risk-adjusted rates, all patients are assumed to be equally likely to die at any given time. However, some centres may have lower unadjusted survival rates than others simply because they happen to have patients that have increased risks of death. All results presented in this report are unadjusted as the risk factors affecting survival post-MCS in the UK have not yet been examined.

**VAD**
Ventricular Assist Device. A mechanical pump used to increase the amount of blood that flows through the body, relieving the symptoms of advanced heart failure.

**VAD Database**
Database used for an ongoing extensive audit to capture in-depth data prior to and at implant of device, explant, transplant and death along with follow-up at various time points post-implant and post-explant. The database captures data on long-term and short-term mechanical circulatory support, including VADs, TAH and ECMO, for the purpose of bridge to transplant, bridge to decision (in this report both analysed together as “bridging”), primary graft dysfunction and “other” (allowing capture of devices for rejection). Devices used post-cardiotomy are not funded via the NHS England bridge to transplant or recovery programme and so are excluded from the VAD Database. Destination Therapy is not explicitly captured on the database but these cases may be captured within “bridge to transplant” or “bridge to decision” where the patient never received a transplant.

Prepared by:

Statistics and Clinical Research, NHS Blood and Transplant

Lewis Simmonds
Rachel Hogg