Supplementary Online Content


eAppendix. Interview Guide

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.
Interview Guide

(Honoring their grief/loss) Thank you so much for agreeing to interview with me today. I’m so sorry that [name of patient] has died. When did s/he die? (Allow time for them to tell about it if they wish.) How are you doing? (Allow time for them to tell you. Then, after you’ve listened and validated their feelings, move ahead with the interview.)

Thank you for talking with me about what happened with [name of patient]. We appreciate hearing your story so that we can better educate other families and health professionals on the events that surround the dying and death of a patient with an LVAD.

Now I’d like you to again think back to the time when you knew your loved one was dying.

1. What changed/what was the catalyst/trigger such that it was now the LVAD patient’s time to die or not live per se (e.g. chronic conditions)?

2. If you could tell patients who are considering an LVAD and their loved ones anything about what it’s like [at the end], what would you tell them?

3. What did you think about [when the time came for your loved one to die]?

4. What were the events leading up to dying, anticipating death, with the LVAD (decision made, process anticipated)

5. Environment (where did it take place-home, hospital), people assisting and interactions with (nurse, physician, coordinator, chaplain, family)
   a. Emotional, feelings
   b. Physical
   c. Cognitive

6. How did your loved one die with the LVAD (pump turned off by whom, what else?)

7. The death event (time, duration, skin color, context in detail)

8. Looking back if you could do things differently, what might that be, and explore?

9. What did you see as the advantages of the LVAD? What about the disadvantages [to know how and when they died]?

10. Is there anything else you think we need to know about this topic [time to die with an LVAD]? Anything that we haven’t asked about?