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Preface

This ISHLT monograph reflects the contemporary approach to advanced heart failure as it is practiced in most tertiary care centers where both medical and surgical therapy is available. The emphasis is on the clinical care of patients who have heart failure due to systolic ventricular dysfunction. Patients with heart failure and preserved ejection fraction may also develop signs and symptoms of advanced heart failure, and many of the principles outlined in this monograph will serve equally well in the management of those patients. However, there is little consensus among the heart failure community as to the appropriate form of therapy for this group; accordingly, the majority of the recommendations contained in this monograph pertain to the population with heart failure and low ejection fraction.

Although a monograph of this size cannot be comprehensive, we have sought to provide a structured approach to diagnosis, initial treatment and assessment of prognosis followed by an account of definitive therapies (standard and investigational) and issues related to long-term treatment as well as end-of-life care. Mechanical circulatory support was addressed in Volume 1 of the ISHLT Monograph series and is covered here in a more limited way. While heart transplantation remains the standard of care for selected patients in advanced heart failure, the care of the transplant recipient lies outside the scope of these volumes. We hope that this monograph will be a useful resource to the growing cadre of clinicians involved in the management of patients with advanced heart failure.

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