

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I wish to inform your readers of the creation of a registry which is to be located at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia. We are in the process of establishing an International Paediatric Ventricular Assist Device Registry. All patients, aged newborn to sixteen years old, undergoing ventricular assist without an oxygenator, (in other words, ventricular assist devices of *any* type) will form the population for the registry. All centres worldwide that wish to participate will be welcomed. Patients supported with ventricular assist devices post-operatively, as well as children awaiting transplantation, are to be included.

Data from individual centres will be submitted to the registry (using forms supplied by our department), via internet, facsimile, or post. We aim to minimise the amount of paper work required in order to encourage maximum participation by all centres. To assist in this aim, data forms will be supplied on disk for the electronic supply of data. Alternatively, data may be sent in traditional written form.

The analysis and reporting of data will be submitted periodically for journal publication and for presenta-

tion at selected international cardiac surgical meetings. This information will also be available on line (internet www), as it is received and analysed, in an anonymous format. An annual report will be made available to all participants with detailed analysis.

Our early research as to the requirement for such a registry indicated that institutions in general will perform between zero and five ventricular assist procedures per year. It was recognized quite early that the pooling of these experiences from many hospitals would provide a powerful resource tool in the identification of techniques, outcomes and morbidity in this fledgling therapeutic area.

Further information may be obtained from me or Tom Karl.

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