SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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MEDIA ADVISORY

RESULTS FROM MULTICENTER TRIAL EXPECTED TO LEAD TO NEW THERAPY FOR END-STAGE HEART FAILURE PATIENTS

DALLAS – Nov. 12, 2001 – Results from a multicenter clinical investigation, which evaluated the use of an implantable heart device as a permanent therapy in patients ineligible for a heart transplant, will be announced today at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions in Anaheim, Calif. UT Southwestern Medical Center was one of 22 clinical research sites in the nation to participate in the trial.

Researchers assessed the left ventricular assist device's (LVAD) ability to sustain the lives of patients with end-stage heart failure in the two-year Randomized Evaluation of Mechanical Assistance for the Treatment of Congestive Heart Failure (REMATCH) trial, which involved 129 patients. It's estimated that the LVAS could be utilized in 100,000 patients yearly if approved by the FDA as a permanent therapy for end-stage heart failure patients who are ineligible for a transplant.

"Despite significant advances in medical therapy for the failing heart, a considerable number of patients exhaust all reasonable options for therapy and are not good candidates for heart transplantation due to either advanced age or significant other illnesses," said Dr. Clyde Yancy, medical director of the UT Southwestern/St. Paul Heart Transplant Program. "The use of an assist device as permanent therapy in carefully selected patients may be of benefit if indeed the REMATCH trial demonstrates effectiveness."

Yancy and Dr. Dan Meyer, an associate professor of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, were the lead study investigators at UT Southwestern.

If you would like to arrange an interview with one of the researchers, contact Amy Shields at 214-648-3404 or amy.shields@utsouthwestern.edu.

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