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## **Outcomes of Peripheral Cannulation in ECMO as a Bridge to Heart Transplantation: A Single-center Preliminary Experience**

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**Introduction:** While the number of patients receiving Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) as a bridge to heart transplantation gradually increases, the outcomes remain suboptimal. Notably, waiting for transplantation in a peripheral cannulation state is controversial due to the potential for various complications.

**Methods:** We retrospectively reviewed patients who received ECMO as a bridge to heart transplantation at Chonnam National University Hospital between January 2018 and June 2023.

**Results:** Of the 23 heart transplant recipients, 12 were bridged with ECMO. The median age of these patients was 59 years (range 41-73 years). The median duration from ECMO initiation to transplantation was 22 days (9-36 days). Nine patients (75%) survived and were discharged, with a median waiting time of 18 days. Eight were on peripheral cannulation. All surviving patients proceeded with transplantation in a non-intubated and awakening state. In contrast, the three non-survivors waited a median of 23 days and required mechanical ventilation before surgery.

**Conclusion:** Although limited by a single-center experience over a short period, our findings suggest that peripheral ECMO cannulation might be suitable for patients awaiting heart transplantation.