CareSearch: Developing resources for Heart Failure

Jennifer Tieman, CareSearch Director
What is CareSearch?
Why Heart Failure?
Why a filter?
What is CareSearch?

• Funded by Australian Government under National Palliative Care Program
  – Those providing palliative care
  – Those needing palliative care and their families, carers and friends

• Website and online resources

• Facilitate access to, and use of, evidence in practice
Welcome to CareSearch. CareSearch is an online resource of palliative care information and evidence. All materials included in this website are reviewed for quality and relevance.

What's New...
on CareSearch?
in the community?
in the literature?

Quick Links
PubMed Topic Searches
GP Hub
Conferences
Indigenous Resources

Victorian Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner Collaborative

What is Palliative Care
For Patients and Families
Finding Services
Clinical Practice
Finding Evidence
Education
Research Resources
Professional Groups
About CareSearch

Proudly linked to:

CareSearch is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the National Palliative Care Program.

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Why Heart Failure?

- Complex syndrome associated with a reduced quality of life and a poor prognostic outlook
- Ageing population increases prevalence of HF
- HF patients may have unmet needs in relation to palliative and end-of-life care
Knowledge needs

• Population health consideration
• Prognostic uncertainty
• Symptom and care issues
• Service models and care settings
• How to support carers and families
• Implementation, change processes
Why a HF filter?

- Expanding knowledge base, dynamic clinical evidence
- Complexity of information infrastructure
- Inefficiencies, deficiencies in searching
- Indexing, descriptors
What is a filter?

A filter is a tool to retrieve relevant literature.

– More than an expert search

– Developed experimentally following a strict research methodology

– A search strategy that has been tested to determine how well it finds a specific type of literature (e.g. RCTs) or literature about a specific topic (e.g. renal)
Developing the HF filter

1. HF Gold Standard article set;
2. Term identification;
3. Filter development;
4. Filter testing;
5. External validation; and
6. Post-hoc precision estimate
So what is the HF filter?

• Research undertaken in Ovid Medline SP

• Final filter comprises four terms

‘heart failure.mp. OR Ventricular dysfunction, Left.sh. OR cardiomyopathy.mp OR left ventricular ejection fraction.mp.’
Making the HF filter useful

• Reality check:
  – Not everyone has access to Ovid Medline
  – Many not sure how to save a search
  – How to find HF and specific clinical concerns
PubMed HF filter

• PubMed is
  – Largest biomedical repository (>20 million items)
  – Open access to citations
  – Free full text limit

• Converted HF to PubMed syntax
  – Created it as a hyperlink
  – Combined with 30+ topics relevant to HF

• One click searching
Heart Failure PubMed Searches

The links on this page provide an easy and reliable way to find the relevant heart failure literature in English. Each link runs an immediate search of PubMed and all searches are automatically updated as new articles are added to the database.

CareSearch search filters
Heart failure
This search uses a heart failure filter developed by CareSearch. It retrieves all English language articles of relevance to heart failure within PubMed.

Palliative care and heart failure
This search combines the heart failure filter with the CareSearch palliative care filter to retrieve all English language heart failure articles of relevance to palliative care.

Heart failure: specific issue searches
These links make it possible to search on specific heart failure topics such as hospitalisations, anaemia and quality of life. Each search combines MeSH terms and textwords describing the topic with the CareSearch heart failure filter. Results are therefore limited to the English, heart failure related literature.

Patient problems
Anemia
Anxiety
Cachexia (Weight Loss)
Cognition
Decompensated HF
Depression
Devices
Devices & End Stage
Diuretics

Specific groups
Careers
Indigenous
Multicultural
Rural & Remote Health

Care issues
Advance Care Planning
Advance Directives
Bereavement & Grief
Complementary Therapies
Models of Service Delivery
Multi-disciplinary Teams
Patient Education
Patient Experience
Patient-Professional Communication
Palliative Care and Heart Failure

Select one PubMed topic search option for your chosen search topic.

Free full text only (likely to reduce the number of results)
Strongest evidence (systematic reviews or randomised controlled trials)
Everything

All citations
Strongest evidence (systematic reviews or randomised controlled trials)
Everything
Last 3 months only

Palliative care: An approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual (Source: WHO Definition of Palliative Care).

To choose another topic, go back to Heart Failure PubMed Topic Searches

This page was created on 12 October 2010
Results: 1 to 20 of 150

1. Plasma B-type natriuretic peptide levels in children with heart disease.
   PMID: 2138448 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
   Related citations

2. Palliative care in advanced heart failure: an international review of the perspectives of recipients and health professionals on care provision.
   Lore J, Pallister J, Candy B, Beattie JM, Jones L.
   PMID: 21362532 [PubMed - in process]
   Related citations

3. Hospital-based palliative medicine consultation: a randomized controlled trial.
   Piantat S, O’Riordan DL, Dibble SL, Landefeld CS.
   PMID: 21149758 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
   Related citations

4. Regional variations in palliative care: do cardiologists follow guidelines?
   Matlock DD, Peterson PN, Sirovich BE, Wernberg DE, Gallagher PM, Lucas FL.
   PMID: 20958426 [PubMed - in process]
   Related citations

5. Inotropic therapy for end-stage heart failure patients.
   Toma M, Starling RC.
   PMID: 20642563 [PubMed - in process]
   Related citations

6. Heart failure therapy: beyond the guidelines.
   Thompson KA, Bharadwaj P, Philip KJ, Schwarz EJL.
   PMID: 20716507 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
   Related citations

7. Activating seniors to improve chronic disease care: results from a pilot intervention study.
   Frensch DL, Rinch N, Ochroch S, Mannone CM.
Other HF resources

• Clinical Practice
  – Six pages based on overview of systematic review evidence
  – Heart Failure; Prognostic Issues, Symptoms and Patients’ Experiences; Management Issues; Families and Carers; Service Issues

• CareSearch Review Collection: Heart Failure
Carers and Families

What is known
Social support has a significant effect on the quality of life and prognosis of patients, and may reduce depression and anxiety. Lack of emotional support has been independently associated with a higher rate of fatal and non-fatal cardiac events. Caregivers of patients with heart failure often do not access formal social services but nonetheless they carry a significant burden of care. Most often care is provided by spouses of elderly patients who are themselves elderly, and who have their own health vulnerabilities. [1]

There is moderate evidence from a systematic review of the literature that interventions to support caregivers at the end of a patient’s life can be effective, although the effect sizes are generally small. [2] Interventions that were studied included various combinations of skills training, emotional and behavioural assistance, in-home support, and enhanced technologies, and the interventions that were most effective were those that were comprehensive and individually targeted. None of the studies identified carers of patients with heart failure as a specific population.

Caregiver satisfaction with end of life care has been examined, although again, heart failure patients were not specifically studied. Involvement of palliative care services has been shown to improve caregivers’ satisfaction with care around the time of death. [2-3]

Implications for practice

- Little evidence is available to guide the development of programs specifically to assist caregivers and families of patients with heart failure. It is clear that the support of a carer makes a considerable difference to patients’ quality of life.
- As part of a palliative and holistic approach to care, support and information needs of caregivers should be routinely assessed. In particular, caregivers need to have information to manage both day to day care and deteriorating symptoms, and have plans for emergencies that are appropriate for the patient’s wishes and prognosis. Advance care planning should include the patient’s family and caregivers in almost all circumstances.
- Cultural issues must also be considered in individualising care. Making use of culturally specific resources to help communication with patients and their families is important in understanding specific cultural issues that may affect their care. Liaising with
General CareSearch Resources

- Clinical Practice: Information on common symptom and care issues in palliative care
- Nurses Hub and GP Hub
- For Patients and Families
- Promotional resources (for staff and for patients/families)
Finding out more

• HR Filter

• CareSearch HF pages
  – Clinical Practice > Heart Failure
  – Heart Failure PubMed Searches
  – CareSearch Review Collection > Heart Failure
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