

## **Bring Her Home: Nurse Practitioner Led Programme that facilitated shared care of paediatric Ventricular Assist Device child in her home town, Perth, Western Australia.**

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Background: Ventricular assist devices (VADs) are effective for bridging refractory severe end stage heart failure (ESHF) patients to cardiac transplant. In Western Australia (WA), our centre is the state service for ESHF adult population. Paediatric VADs are managed at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Aim: 10 year old female required VAD support for a minimum of 2 years before becoming eligible for cardiac transplant. Our nurse practitioner led VAD centre wished to facilitate shared care, utilising our VAD expertise with paediatric services in Perth to allow the child and her family to remain at home in Perth.

Method: The child was diagnosed with femoral osteosarcoma January 2016 (8yrs). She underwent surgical resection & six cycles of anthracycline chemotherapy, subsequently developing ESHF. Goal directed medical therapy failed requiring VAD for survival. She underwent VAD implantation November 2017 in Melbourne, returning to Perth in April 2018.

Results: Executive approval at both adult & children's hospitals was obtained prior to VAD implantation. VAD nurse practitioners (NP) led the initiative - Individualising care to meet the patient and family's needs, ensuring patient safety, providing staff training and support & meeting legislative and institutional requirements. Protocols were devised & implemented across both sites. Key staff were identified at each site, upskilled & actively engaged in care delivery model. VAD NPs gained executive approval to provide 24 hour on call service to support family and staff. Two hospital admissions have been managed. School staff are now trained, the child currently attends school with her peers.

Conclusions:

Shared care of a paediatric VAD patient across adult and paediatric hospitals is possible. Nursing leadership that considers holistic care is paramount. Engagement of executive, nursing, medical & allied health staff led to safe care & successful rehabilitation of paediatric VAD in Perth. We brought her home.

