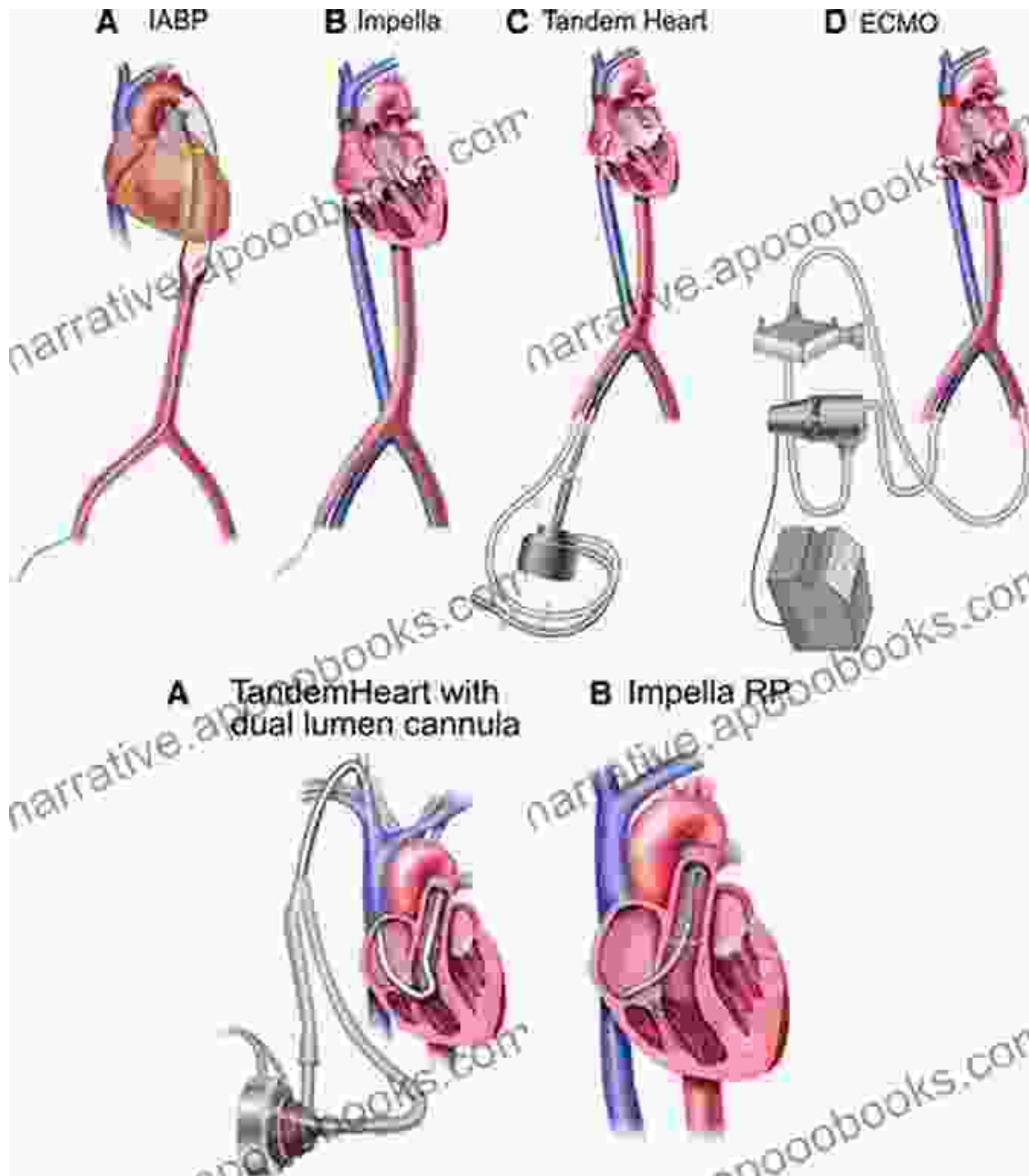


# Mechanical Circulatory Support: A Lifeline for Patients with End-Stage Heart Failure



Heart failure is a debilitating condition that affects millions of people worldwide. It occurs when the heart is unable to pump enough blood to

meet the body's needs, leading to a range of symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling in the legs and feet.



## Mechanical Circulatory Support in End-Stage Heart

### Failure: A Practical Manual by Anna Zaires

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Print length : 1390 pages



In severe cases of heart failure, patients may require mechanical circulatory support (MCS) to help their hearts pump blood. MCS devices can be used as a bridge to heart transplantation or as a long-term therapy for patients who are not candidates for transplantation.

### Types of Mechanical Circulatory Support Devices

There are a variety of MCS devices available, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. The most common types of MCS devices include:

1. **Impella heart pumps:** Impella heart pumps are small, implantable devices that are inserted into the heart through a blood vessel in the groin. They help the heart pump blood by providing mechanical assistance.

2. **LVADs (left ventricular assist devices):** LVADs are surgically implanted devices that wrap around the left ventricle (the main pumping chamber of the heart). They help the left ventricle pump blood by providing mechanical assistance.
3. **ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation):** ECMO is a temporary MCS device that is used to support patients who are in critical condition. ECMO works by pumping blood outside the body and oxygenating it before returning it to the body.

### **Benefits and Risks of Mechanical Circulatory Support**

MCS devices can provide significant benefits for patients with end-stage heart failure. These benefits include:

- Improved symptoms of heart failure
- Increased quality of life
- Extended survival

However, MCS devices also carry some risks, including:

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Stroke
- Kidney failure

### **Who is a Candidate for Mechanical Circulatory Support?**

Not all patients with heart failure are candidates for MCS. The decision of whether or not to implant an MCS device is based on a number of factors, including:

- The severity of the patient's heart failure
- The patient's overall health
- The patient's age
- The patient's preferences

## **Recovery from Mechanical Circulatory Support**

After an MCS device is implanted, patients will need to recover in the hospital. The length of recovery time will vary depending on the type of MCS device and the patient's overall health. During recovery, patients will be monitored closely for any complications.

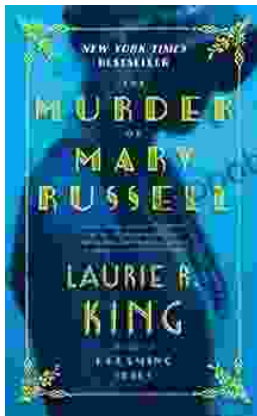
Once patients have recovered, they will need to follow up with their doctor regularly. Follow-up appointments will include physical exams, blood tests, and imaging tests to ensure that the MCS device is working properly and that the patient is doing well.

Mechanical circulatory support devices can provide a lifeline for patients with end-stage heart failure. They can improve symptoms, increase quality of life, and extend survival. However, MCS devices also carry some risks. The decision of whether or not to implant an MCS device is a complex one that should be made in consultation with a doctor.

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