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Is Time from Last Hospitalization for Heart Failure to Placement of a Primary Prevention Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator Associated with Patient Outcomes?

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Abstract

Background: Landmark studies have demonstrated the safety and efficacy of implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) in selected stable ambulatory patients with heart failure (HF) with a reduced ejection fraction receiving optimal medical therapy. It is not known whether a recent hospitalization for HF prior to ICD placement is associated with subsequent outcomes.

Methods: A *post-hoc* analysis was performed of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the National Cardiovascular Data Registry's (NCDR®) ICD Registry™ with a known diagnosis of HF and an EF \geq 35% undergoing a new ICD placement for primary prevention. Patients were grouped based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF. The association between timing of ICD placement and outcomes was assessed using multivariable logistic regression models.

Results: The final analytical cohort included 81,180 patients undergoing initial ICD placement for primary prevention who were currently hospitalized for HF (N = 11,563, 14%), hospitalized for HF within 3 months (N = 6,252, 8%), or hospitalized for HF more than 3 months prior or had no previous hospitalizations for HF (N = 63,365, 78%). Patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF had a higher unadjusted composite periprocedural complication rate (2.60% vs. 1.71% vs. 1.25%, p value <0.001). After adjusting for potential confounders, patients currently hospitalized for HF were at higher risk for death (Odds Ratio [OR] 2.25, 95% Confidence Interval [CI]

2.02-2.52; p-value <0.001) and all-cause re-admission (OR 1.89, 95% CI 1.79-1.99; p-value <0.001) at 90 days.

Conclusion: Older patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF undergoing initial ICD placement for primary prevention experienced a higher rate of periprocedural complications and were at increased risk of death compared to those receiving an ICD without recent HF hospitalization. Additional prospective, real-world, pragmatic, comparative effectiveness studies should be conducted to define the optimal timing of ICD placement.

Keywords

heart failure; hospitalization; implantable cardioverter-defibrillator; outcomes

INTRODUCTION

Although the prognosis of ambulatory patients with heart failure with a reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) has been revolutionized by the development of guideline-directed medical therapies, there are more than one million admissions for HF annually in the United States.¹⁻⁶ Hospitalization is a particularly important inflection point in the natural history of HF; early post-discharge readmission and mortality rates may be as high as 30% and 15%, respectively.⁷ However, despite the attendant morbidity and mortality of hospitalizations for HF, landmark trials for evidence-based medications and devices enrolled stable outpatients on optimal medical therapy (OMT),⁸⁻¹⁰ and it is uncertain whether the time from last hospitalization for HF to implantable-cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) placement is associated with outcomes.¹¹⁻¹³

The best time for implementing HF therapies is particularly relevant to ICD placement which is known to pose additional initial risk to patients when implanted during an index admission for HF.¹⁴ The National Cardiovascular Data Registry's (NCDR®) ICD Registry™ provides a unique opportunity to systematically analyze in-hospital adverse events and post-discharge outcomes based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF. Specifically, the objectives of this analysis were to systematically describe the clinical characteristics, periprocedural complications, and post-procedural readmissions and mortality based on the timing of ICD placement for primary prevention of sudden cardiac death (SCD) from last hospitalization for HF.

METHODS

Data Sources

Patient and device implantation data were obtained from the NCDR® ICD Registry™. The data cannot be made available to other researchers by the authors for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedure, because by contract with participating sites, analyses of NCDR data are to be performed by contracted data analytic centers. Demographics, clinical characteristics, and procedural data were collected using standardized definitions.^{15, 16} Data on periprocedural complications are recorded in the NCDR® ICD Registry™, while 30-day and 90-day complications and reoperations were obtained by linking the NCDR® ICD Registry™ with the Medicare Inpatient Institutional

Claims, Outpatient Institutional Claims, and Master Summary Beneficiary Files. These databases contain claims for inpatient admissions, outpatient procedures, and enrollment and vital status for Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) patients. The study protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or ethics committee at each participating site. All patients provided written informed consent.

Study Population

All patients enrolled in the NCDR® ICD Registry™ with a diagnosis of HF and an EF \geq 35% undergoing a new ICD implant for primary prevention between January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014 were considered for inclusion. Relevant exclusion criteria included patients currently hospitalized for a non-elective reason other than HF, acute myocardial infarction within 40 days or revascularization within 90 days, prior ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation arrest, arrhythmogenic syndromes with an increased risk of sudden cardiac death (e.g. Brugada, catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, long QT syndrome, etc.), epicardial lead placement, lead only procedures, and device replacements.

The NCDR® ICD Registry™ was linked to Medicare data by social security number, date of birth, and gender. Only patients matching a beneficiary on all three criteria were included. Our cohort was further restricted to patients enrolled in Medicare FFS for at least three months prior and three months following their procedure in order to permit the ascertainment both of antecedent hospitalizations and the outcomes of interest.

Outcomes

Composite and cause-specific event rates were calculated for complications occurring during the periprocedural and 30- and 90- day periods. Periprocedural complications were ascertained based on the NCDR® ICD Registry™ case report form completed at the point-of-care by the treating physician and/or ancillary support staff. To identify 30-day and 90-day device-related complications, reoperations were first identified using codes from the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), respectively, for inpatient and outpatient procedures.¹⁷ The subset of reoperations due to device-related complications were then determined based on whether the primary diagnosis was the result of mechanical complication of the device, infection (i.e. device infection, endocarditis, or systemic infection), ICD pocket-related complication, or other complication related to perforation, inflammation, and venous obstruction or thromboembolism.¹⁷ In addition, device-related complications not requiring reoperation were identified as hospitalizations (i.e. inpatient admissions, observation stays, and emergency department visits) with a primary diagnosis consistent with a device-related complication (i.e. ICD-9-CM codes) in the absence of a procedure code indicating device reoperation. Device-related complications not resulting in an acute care episode (i.e. inpatient admissions, observation stays, and emergency department visit) or reoperation in an inpatient or ambulatory setting were not included.

Statistical Analysis

Study participants were grouped based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF (i.e. currently hospitalized for HF vs. hospitalized for HF 3 months vs. hospitalized for HF >3 months prior or no previous admission for HF) identified using admissions from inpatient institutional claims. Three months was selected as the cutoff between a recent and more remote hospitalization for HF as this is the timeframe that is generally recommended in the guidelines for reassessing clinical status and/or EF following implementation of OMT and/or coronary revascularization (i.e. percutaneous coronary intervention or coronary artery bypass grafting). Baseline clinical characteristics were expressed as percentages for categorical variables and means and standard deviations for continuous variables. The unadjusted periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complication event rates were calculated as an incidence rate (i.e. # of events / # of procedures) with 95% confidence interval (CI). In addition, as a sensitivity analysis aggregate periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complication rates were determined by device type (i.e. single chamber ICD vs. dual chamber ICD vs. cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillator [CRT-D]). Comparisons of unadjusted composite and cause-specific event rates were adjusted for multiple comparisons using the Holm procedure.

Multivariable logistic regression employing generalized estimating equations using an exchangeable working correlation structure was utilized to assess the association between timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF and in-hospital (i.e. any adverse event and mortality), 30-day (i.e. all-cause mortality, all-cause readmissions, and cardiovascular [CV] readmissions), and 90-day (i.e. all-cause mortality, all-cause readmissions, and CV readmissions) outcomes. For each model, odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated. Models were adjusted for potential confounders including age, sex, EF, New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class, QRS duration, systolic blood pressure, serum sodium, serum creatinine, blood urea nitrogen (BUN), hemoglobin, cardiac (i.e. hypertension, cerebrovascular disease, previous percutaneous coronary intervention, prior coronary artery bypass graft, syncope, and previous cardiac arrest) and non-cardiac comorbidities (i.e. diabetes mellitus [DM], chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD], and end-stage renal disease requiring dialysis), and device type (i.e. single chamber ICD vs. dual chamber ICD vs. CRT-D). Covariates included in each model were selected using a stepwise selection approach. The probability of entry into the model was set at p-value 0.50 and probability of removal p-value 0.10. Prior to modeling, missing continuous and categorical variables were imputed using fully conditional specification methods.¹⁸ Dichotomous variables with missing values were assumed to be absence of the disease. Missingness rates ranged from 0% - 2.1% with the large majority of variables missing < 1%. Additional analyses were performed to assess for an interaction between device type (i.e. single chamber ICD vs. dual chamber ICD vs. CRT-D) and timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF and outcomes.

All analyses were two-sided and a p-value <0.05 was set as the threshold for statistical significance. Statistical analyses were performed using SAS software, version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

Funding Source and Manuscript Preparation

The American College of Cardiology (Washington, D.C.) provides ongoing financial and material support for the NCDR® ICD Registry™. Database management and statistical analysis were performed by the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Yale University School of Medicine (New Haven, CT). The authors take responsibility for the manuscript's integrity and had authority over its preparation and the decision to publish.

RESULTS

A total of 283,382 HF_rEF patients undergoing initial ICD placement for primary prevention of SCD were identified (Figure 1). The primary reasons for exclusion were currently hospitalized for a non-elective reason other than HF (N = 36,684), acute myocardial infarction within 40 days or revascularization within 90 days (N = 12,218), and epicardial lead placement (N = 9,219). After linking the NCDR® ICD Registry™ cohort to Medicare data, the final analytical cohort included 81,180 patients. Patients were divided into the following groups based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF: currently hospitalized for HF (N = 11,563, 14%), hospitalized for HF within 3 months (N = 6,252, 8%), or hospitalized for HF more than 3 months prior or no previous admission for HF (N = 63,365, 78%).

Patient Characteristics at Implantation

Patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF tended to be non-white (25% versus [vs.] 22% vs. 15%) compared to patients without a recent admission for HF (Table 1). These patients also tended to have a lower EF (23±7 vs. 24±7 vs. 26±6), were more likely to report NYHA functional class III/IV symptoms (85% vs. 78% vs. 62%), and had a higher burden of cardiac (i.e. atrial fibrillation) and non-cardiac (i.e. DM and COPD) comorbidities. Patients currently or recently admitted for HF also had a lower hemoglobin (12.1±1.9 g/dL vs. 12.5±1.8 vs. 13.2±1.7 g/dL) and worse renal function as measured by BUN (32±16 vs. 31±15 vs. 25±12) compared to patients without a recent hospitalization for HF. Among patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF, the rate of prescription of angiotensin converting-enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs)/angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) was lower (72% vs. 75% vs. 81%) and they were more likely to be receiving loop diuretics (81% vs. 86% vs. 68%) and digoxin (24% vs. 22% vs. 17%). Finally, patients receiving a primary prevention ICD during or within 3 months of an index admission for HF were more likely to receive a CRT-D device (59% vs. 60% vs. 53%) as opposed to a single chamber or dual chamber ICD.

Periprocedural and Post-Procedural Complication Rates

The composite periprocedural complication rate was 1.47% (95% CI 1.39%-1.56%) (Table 2). Among patients currently hospitalized for HF, hospitalized for HF within 3 months, or hospitalized for HF more than 3 months prior or no previous admission for HF, respectively, the composite periprocedural complication rate was 2.60% (2.32%-2.91%), 1.71% (1.40%-2.06%), and 1.25% (1.16%-1.33%) (p-value <0.001). This finding was driven by a higher rate of stroke/transient ischemic attack (TIA), myocardial infarction (MI), cardiac arrest, and in-hospital death as shown in Table 2. With the notable exception of ICD pocket

hematoma, patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF experienced similar rates of other complications including cardiac perforation, cardiac venous dissection, pericardial tamponade, pneumothorax, and hemothorax (p-value = 0.05 for all comparisons).

The composite 30-day complication rate was 2.11% (2.01%-2.22%). Among patients currently hospitalized for HF, hospitalized for HF within 3 months, or hospitalized for HF more than 3 months prior or no previous admission for HF, respectively, the composite 30-day complication rate was 5.24% (4.82%-5.67%), 3.30% (2.86%-3.78%), and 1.42% (1.33%-1.52%) (p-value <0.001). The higher 30-day complication rate observed among patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF was driven principally by a higher mortality rate and to a lesser extent ICD pocket-related complications and pneumothorax/hemothorax/pleural effusion not requiring reoperation as shown in Table 2. However, there was no difference in complications requiring reoperation including pocket-related issues, pneumothorax/hemothorax/pleural effusion, and pericardial effusion/tamponade (p-value = 0.05 for all comparisons).

Similarly, the composite 90-day complication rate was 5.18% (5.02%-5.35%). Among patients currently hospitalized for HF, hospitalized for HF within 3 months, or hospitalized for HF more than 3 months prior or no previous admission for HF, respectively, the composite 90-day complication rate was 7.75% (7.24%-8.29%), 6.25% (5.64%-6.91%), and 4.61% (4.44%-4.79%) (p-value <0.001). In addition, there was no difference in 90-day complications requiring reoperation. However, compared to patients with no recent hospitalization for HF, patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF experienced higher 90-day rates of infections including device infections not requiring reoperation and endocarditis and other systemic infections irrespective of operative status as shown in Table 2.

A sensitivity analysis was performed to look at the periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complication rate by device type (i.e. single chamber ICD vs. dual chamber ICD vs. CRT-D). In general, the trends in complication rates were similar in all three groups (Supplemental Table 1). Regardless of device type, patients currently hospitalized for HF or hospitalized for HF within 3 months were at higher risk of periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complications compared to patients hospitalized for HF more than 3 months prior or with no previous admission for HF. The higher 30-day and 90-day overall complication rates was driven by complications not requiring reoperation.

Timing from Last Hospitalization for Heart Failure and Outcomes

After multivariable adjustment, patients currently hospitalized for HF had higher odds of any adverse event (OR 1.61, 95% CI 1.38–1.87, p-value <0.001) and in-hospital mortality (OR 5.56, 95% CI 3.68–8.39, p-value <0.001) compared to patients without a hospitalization for HF within the past 3 months (Table 3, Figure 2). In contrast, patients hospitalized for HF within the last 3 months had higher odds of in-hospital mortality (OR 2.79, 95% CI 1.59-4.90, p-value <0.001) but not any adverse event (p-value = 0.195).

Patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF were at increased odds of all-cause mortality, all-cause admissions, and cardiovascular (CV) admissions within both 30 and 90

days compared to patients without a recent admission for HF (Figure 3, Figure 4). Notably, the odds of all-cause and CV-related morbidity and mortality was highest among patients undergoing ICD placement for primary prevention during a hospitalization for HF.

In addition, a sensitivity analysis was performed to look at in-hospital, 30-day, and 90-day outcomes based on timing from last hospitalization for HF stratified by device type (i.e. single chamber ICD vs. dual chamber ICD vs. CRT-D). The results were similar when stratified by device type for in-hospital and 30-day outcomes (Supplemental Table 2). In contrast, patients undergoing placement of a CRT-D device and single chamber ICD for primary prevention during index hospitalization were, respectively, at higher risk of all-cause 90-day admissions and CV 90-day admissions compared to patients admitted for HF within the past 3 months (Supplemental Table 3, Supplemental Table 4).

DISCUSSION

The objectives of this *post-hoc* analysis of the NCDR® ICD Registry™ were to systematically describe the clinical characteristics, periprocedural complications, and post-procedural outcomes based on the timing of ICD placement for primary prevention from last hospitalization for HF. Approximately 20% of patients had an ICD placed during a hospitalization for HF or within 3 months of admission for a primary diagnosis of HF. Patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF tended to have a lower EF, were more symptomatic, had a higher burden of cardiac and non-cardiac comorbidities, and were less likely to be treated with an ACEI/ARB at baseline. Patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF had higher composite periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complication rates driven by a higher rate of stroke/TIA, MI, cardiac arrest, death, and minor access site and pocket-related complications not requiring reoperation. Finally, patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF were at higher risk of in-hospital mortality and post-procedural readmission or death independent of traditional risk factors.

Data from the Get With the Guidelines-HF registry suggest that among patients hospitalized for a primary diagnosis of HFrEF, fewer than 25% had an ICD *in situ*.¹⁹ It has also been well-documented in clinical trials of acute HF that ICDs may be underutilized and substantial geographic disparities exist.^{20–24} Although we found that only approximately 20% of patients underwent initial ICD placement for primary prevention within 3 months of a hospitalization for HF and implanting a primary prevention ICD is associated with worse outcomes, hospitalization represents an opportunity to review background guideline-directed medical and device-based therapies for HF and refer patients for consideration of ICD placement in the ambulatory setting. A recent meta-analysis of landmark clinical trials of pharmacotherapy in HF found that among HFrEF patients without an ICD, the incidence of SCD has declined from 2.4% to 1.0% at 90 days as a result of the cumulative benefit of evidence-based medications.^{25, 26} In contrast, it is known that following an index hospitalization for HFrEF the incidence of SCD may be as high as 2% within 30 days and more than 25% of deaths may be due to fatal arrhythmias.^{27–29} Observational studies of HF patients receiving ICD during an index HF hospitalization have shown significantly better survival compared to otherwise eligible patients that have not received an ICD during the HF hospitalization.^{11–13} However, as the present study only compared outcomes among patients

receiving an ICD, the magnitude of benefit, risks, and risk/benefit ratio related to timing of ICD implant cannot be determined.

The data presented in this analysis of the NCDR® ICD Registry™ suggest that patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF had higher aggregate periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complication rates compared to patients without a recent hospitalization for HF. In addition, the differences in the periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complication rates were driven by a higher rate of stroke/TIA, MI, cardiac arrest, and death with a few notable exceptions. However, as all of these risks have been previously shown to be increased in HFrEF patients with a current or recent hospitalization, irrespective of device placement, they may be entirely unrelated. Potentially more concerning is the higher incidence of device infections and endocarditis seen at 90 days, which may be explained by multiple factors including, but not limited to, acuity of illness, prolonged hospitalization/deconditioning, exposure to nosocomial pathogens, and indwelling intravenous lines and/or urinary catheters. Given the attendant morbidity and mortality associated with cardiovascular implantable electronic device (CIED) infections, strategies to mitigate this risk including patient selection, periprocedural antibiotics, and sterile wound care and antiseptic bandages should be reinforced. In contrast, it should be noted that this study found similar rates of periprocedural complications directly related to ICD placement including cardiac perforation, cardiac venous dissection, pericardial tamponade, pneumothorax, and hemothorax irrespective of timing from last hospitalization for HF.

Importantly, after adjusting for potential confounders, patients currently or recently hospitalized for HF undergoing ICD placement for primary prevention were also at higher risk for all-cause death and readmission compared to patients without a recent hospitalization for HF. While this is not entirely unexpected, it raises the question of whether a strategy of early (i.e. during hospitalization or soon after discharge) vs. delayed (i.e. 3 or more months) ICD placement is indicated. Although ICDs may be underutilized in patients hospitalized for HF and this patient population is at relatively higher risk for SCD, providers and patients must assess the competing risks vs. benefits in making treatment decisions. Patients admitted for a primary diagnosis of HF experience an exceptionally poor short-term prognosis and more than 40% of deaths occurring in the post-discharge vulnerable phase may be due to progressive HF and/or cardiogenic shock.²⁷ In addition, an unknown proportion of the patients experiencing SCD early post-discharge may be due to nonshockable rhythms (i.e. asystole or pulseless electrical activity).³⁰ It is plausible that due to the overall dismal prognosis and competing risk of deaths, patients hospitalized for HF may behave similarly to the post-MI population in which early ICD placement has not been shown to be beneficial.^{31, 32} Thus, there is a strong theoretical rationale for a strategy trial to determine the optimal timing of ICD placement for primary prevention from last hospitalization for HF.

Several limitations of this study should be mentioned. First, this study was conceived *post-hoc* and timing of ICD placement was not randomized. As a result, the relationships could reflect unmeasured or residual confounding. Second, there were not comparisons made to a comparable cohort of patients eligible for ICD placement that did not receive this therapy. Third, Medicare claims data were used to identify 30- and 90-day complications and claims

data may be inaccurate and lack the complexity and granularity compared with patient data extracted directly from clinical records. However, Medicare Claims Data are the only available data source that has nationwide coverage, permitting follow-up of a large cohort of patients. Fourth, this study included only Medicare FSS patients age 65 years or older and may not be generalizable to a younger HF population. Fifth, this study likely underestimates the overall burden of morbidity as events not leading to an acute care episode or reoperation (i.e. inappropriate shocks) were not included. Finally, the rate of new device implants for whom these data are most relevant (HFREF currently or recently hospitalized for a primary diagnosis of HF) is declining.

In conclusion, approximately 20% of patients undergoing ICD placement for primary prevention were currently or recently hospitalized for HF. The aggregate periprocedural, 30-day, and 90-day complication rates were higher among this subset of patients and driven by a higher rate of stroke/TIA, MI, cardiac arrest, and death. Additional research is required to clarify the signal of increased pocket infection, endocarditis, and other systemic infections as well as to identify approaches to mitigating the overall risk of infection in patients hospitalized for HF. Finally, given the highlighted safety concerns and the overall poor short-term prognosis and high competing risk of death due to progressive pump failure in patients hospitalized for HF, future prospective, real-world, pragmatic, comparative effectiveness studies should be conducted to define the optimal timing of ICD placement for primary prevention from last hospitalization for HF.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

What is new?

- Landmark clinical trials have demonstrated the safety and efficacy of implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) in selected stable ambulatory patients with heart failure with a reduced ejection (HFrEF) fraction.
- However, the optimal timing of ICD placement for primary prevention following an index hospitalization for HF remains unknown.

What are the clinical implications?

- This study found that patients currently or recently admitted for a diagnosis of HF who received a primary prevention ICD experienced a higher adjusted rate of periprocedural complications and were at increased risk of readmission or death independent of traditional risk factors.
- These data highlight the need for additional prospective, real-world, pragmatic, comparative effectiveness studies to assess the relative risks and benefits of an early vs. delayed strategy for ICD placement following hospitalization for HF.

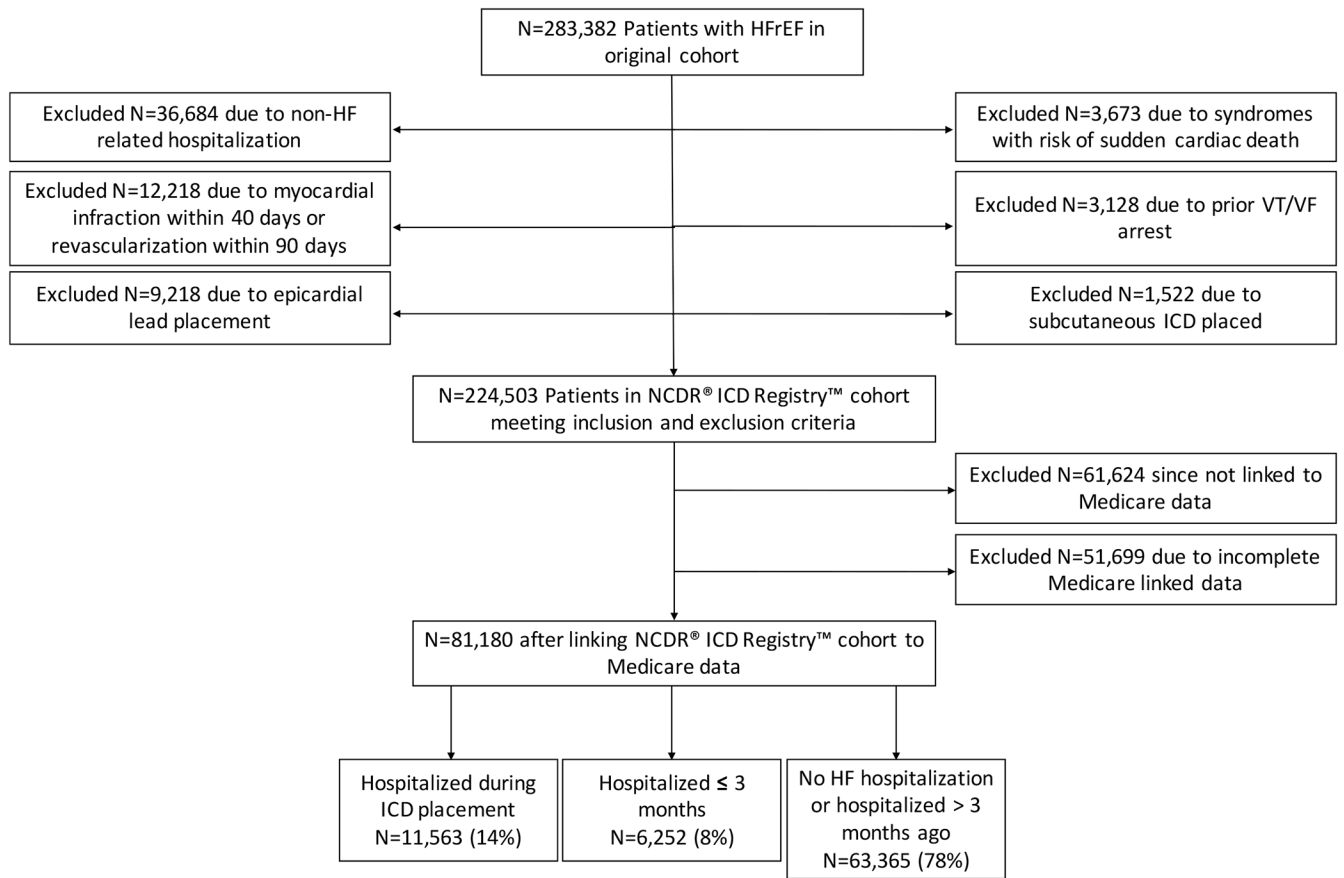


Figure 1. A consort diagram showing the derivation of the final analytical cohort.

In-Hospital Outcomes

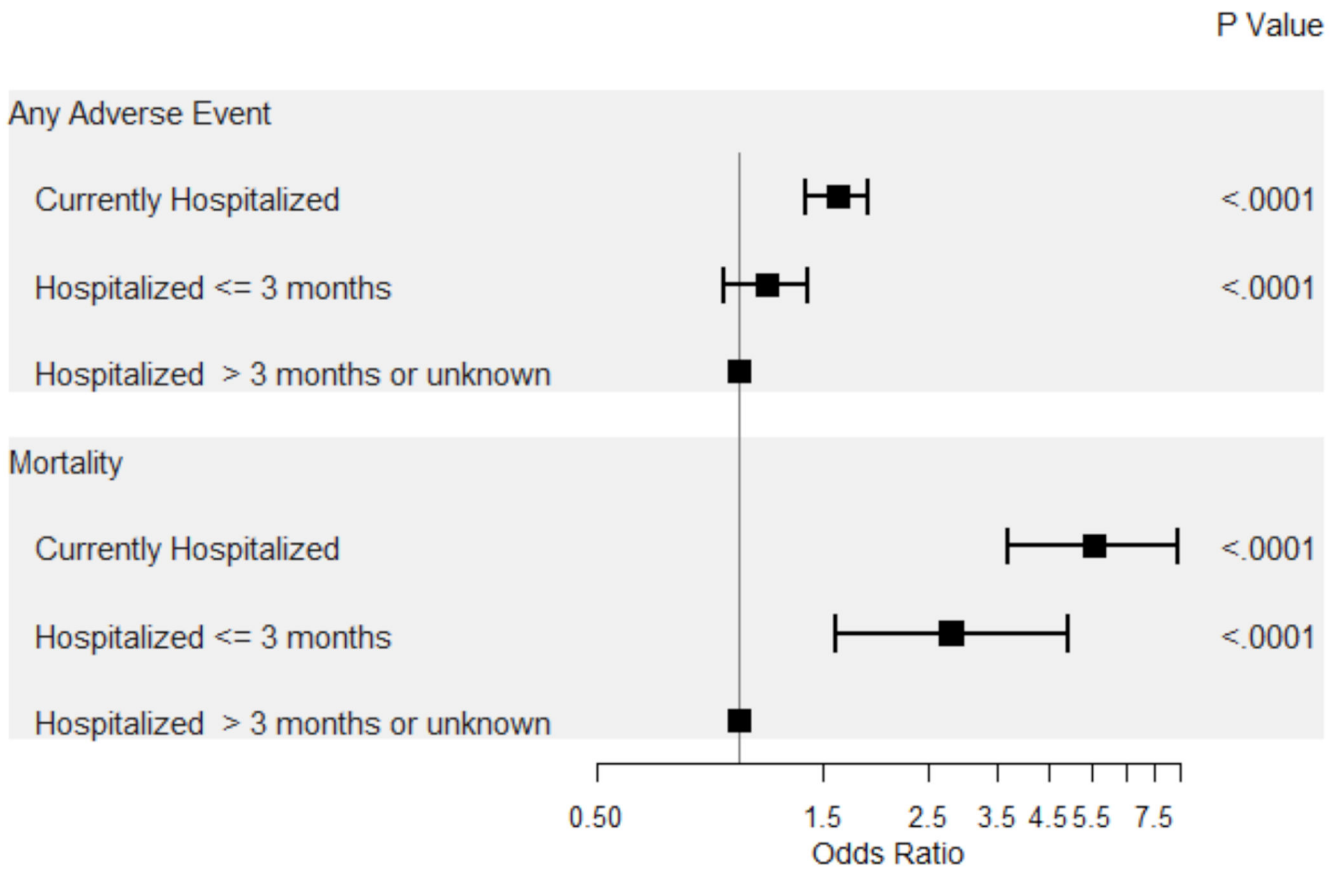


Figure 2. Forrest plot of in-hospital outcomes based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF.

30 Day Outcomes

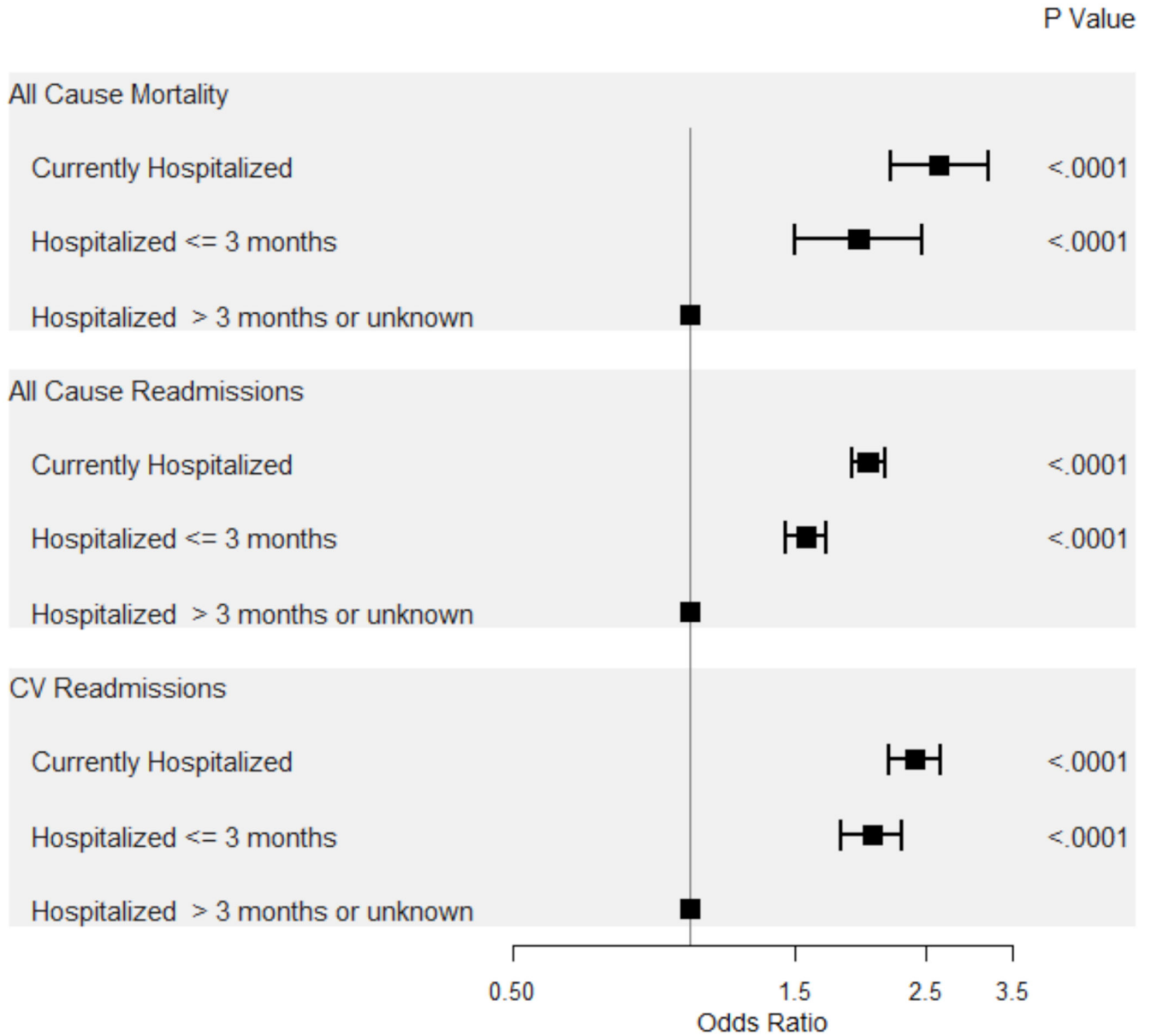


Figure 3. Forest plot of 30-day outcomes based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF.

90 Day Outcomes

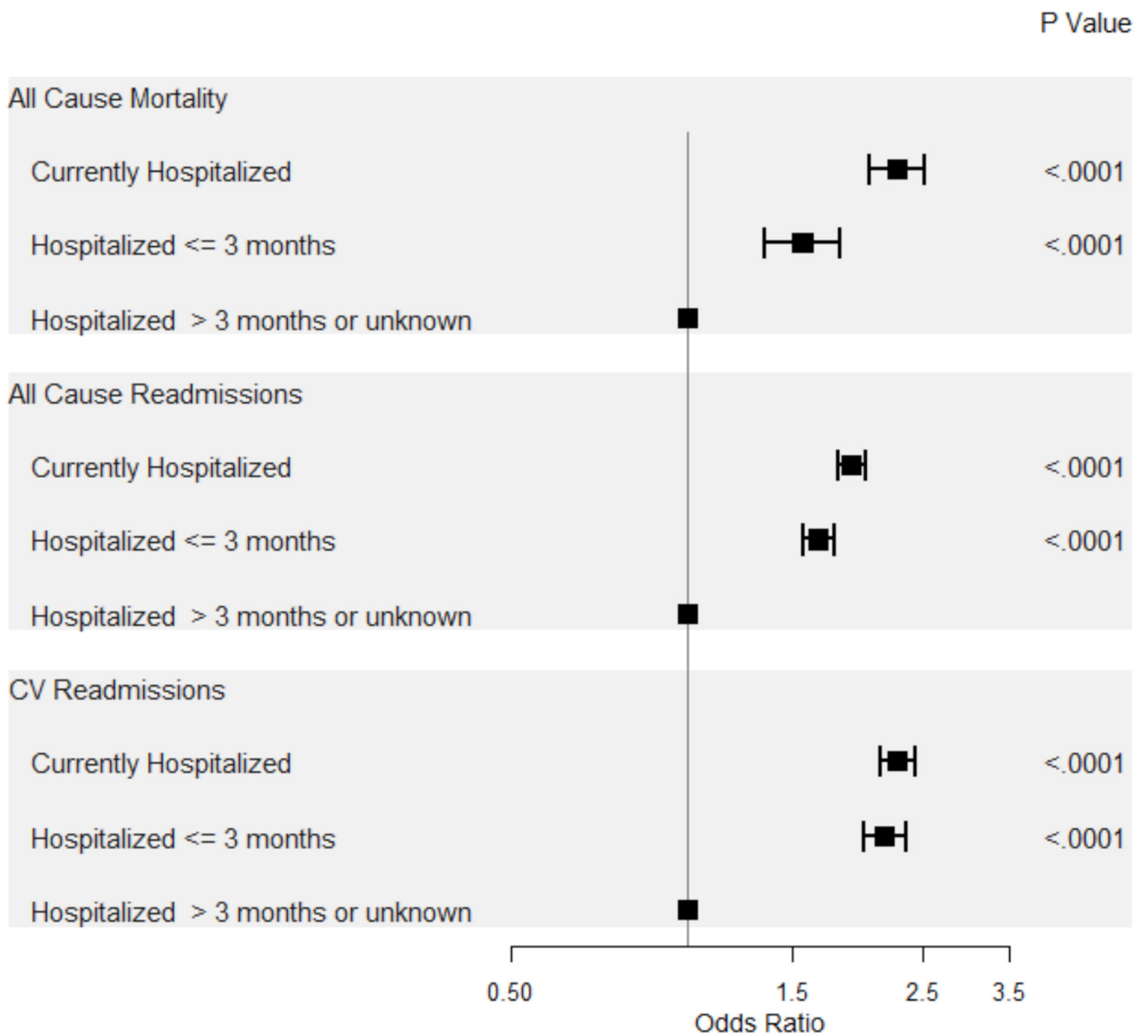


Figure 4. Forest plot of 90-day outcomes based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF.

Table 1. Clinical characteristics based on timing of ICD placement from last hospitalization for HF.

	Overall (N = 81,180)	Patients Admitted for HF (N = 11563)	HF Admission 3 months [†] (N = 6,252)	HF Admission >3 months [†] (N = 63,365)
Demographics*				
Age - Mean (SD)	73 (8)	73 (9)	74 (8)	73 (8)
Sex: Female	28	29	32	27
Race				
White non-Hispanic	83	75	78	85
Black non-Hispanic	11	16	15	9
Hispanic	4	6	5	4
Other	2	2	2	2
Clinical Characteristics				
NICM	38	40	39	38
LVEF, Mean (SD)	26 (6)	23 (7)	24 (7)	26 (6)
NYHA Class				
I	2	1	1	3
II	31	15	21	36
III	63	74	73	60
IV	3	11	5	2
Atrial fibrillation/flutter	40	48	44	38
Cerebrovascular Disease	17	20	19	17
Currently on Dialysis	3	4	4	3
Diabetes	42	49	49	41
Chronic Lung Disease	25	34	31	22
QRS Duration, Median (25th-75th)	127 (103-154)	130 (104-154)	130 (104-156)	126 (102-154)
Left Bundle Branch Block	35	34	36	35
BUN, Mean (SD)	26 (14)	32 (16)	31 (15)	25 (12)
Sodium, Mean (SD)	139 (3)	138 (4)	138 (4)	139 (3)
Hemoglobin, Mean (SD)	13.0 (1.8)	12.1 (1.9)	12.5 (1.8)	13.2 (1.7)
Procedure				
Implanted Device Type				

	Overall (N = 81,180)	Patients Admitted for HF (N = 11563)	HF Admission 3 months [†] (N = 6,252)	HF Admission >3 months [‡] (N = 63,365)
Single Chamber	19	16	17	19
Dual Chamber	27	25	22	27
CRT-D	55	59	60	53
Discharge Medications				
ACEI	58	55	55	59
ARB	21	17	20	22
Beta-Blockers	91	89	90	91
Hydralazine	5	10	9	4
Long Acting Nitroglycerin	13	17	17	12
Digoxin	18	24	22	17
Diuretics	71	81	86	68
Aspirin	71	70	70	72
Statins	70	66	67	71
Non-Statins	11	8	10	12
Antiarrhythmic Agents	13	18	16	11
Channel Blockers	9	8	9	9
Warfarin	30	34	32	29
Thienopyridines	24	22	24	24

* all numbers are calculated using complete cases within each variable

[†] 3 months defined as 90 days

Abbreviations: ICD = implantable cardioverter-defibrillation; HF = heart failure; SD = standard deviation; NICM = nonischemic cardiomyopathy; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; NYHA = New York Heart Association; CRT-D = cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillator; ACEI = angiotensin converting-enzyme inhibitor; angiotensin receptor blocker.

Table 2.

Complication rates based on timing of ICD placement from last HF hospitalization.

	Overall			Patients Admitted for HF			HF Admission 3 months			HF Admission >3 months			Adjusted p-value [‡]
	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	
Periprocedural													
Any	1,197	1.47 (1.39-1.56)	301	2.60 (2.32-2.91)	107	1.71 (1.40-2.06)	789	1.25 (1.16-1.33)					<0.001
In Hospital Death	161	0.20 (0.17-0.23)	101	0.87 (0.71-1.06)	20	0.32 (0.20-0.49)	40	0.06 (0.05-0.09)					<0.001
Cardiac Arrest	142	0.17 (0.15-0.21)	60	0.52 (0.40-0.67)	21	0.34 (0.21-0.51)	61	0.10 (0.07-0.12)					<0.001
Myocardial Infarction	21	0.03 (0.02-0.04)	9	0.08 (0.04-0.15)	0	-	12	0.02 (0.01-0.03)					0.0110
Cardiac Perforation	94	0.12 (0.09-0.14)	15	0.13 (0.07-0.21)	7	0.11 (0.05-0.23)	72	0.11 (0.09-0.14)					0.8920
Cardiac Venous Dissection	160	0.20 (0.17-0.23)	15	0.13 (0.07-0.21)	11	0.18 (0.09-0.31)	134	0.21 (0.18-0.25)					1.000
Pericardial Tamponade	111	0.14 (0.11-0.16)	17	0.15 (0.09-0.24)	7	0.11 (0.05-0.23)	87	0.14 (0.11-0.17)					1.000
Stroke/TIA	43	0.05 (0.04-0.07)	14	0.12 (0.07-0.20)	5	0.08 (0.03-0.19)	24	0.04 (0.02-0.06)					0.018
Hematoma	257	0.32 (0.28-0.36)	77	0.67 (0.53-0.83)	22	0.35 (0.22-0.53)	158	0.25 (0.21-0.29)					<0.001
Infection Requiring Antibiotics	45	0.06 (0.04-0.07)	17	0.15 (0.09-0.24)	7	0.11 (0.05-0.23)	21	0.03 (0.02-0.05)					<0.001
Pneumothorax	318	0.39 (0.35-0.44)	33	0.29 (0.20-0.40)	27	0.43 (0.28-0.63)	258	0.41 (0.36-0.46)					1.000
Hemothorax	21	0.03 (0.02-0.04)	7	0.06 (0.02-0.12)	1	0.02 (0.00-0.09)	13	0.02 (0.01-0.04)					0.596
Urgent Surgery	23	0.03 (0.02-0.04)	5	0.04 (0.01-0.10)	1	0.02 (0.00-0.09)	17	0.03 (0.02-0.04)					1.000
30-Day Complications													
N*	76,263		10,792		6,003		59,468						
Any complication	1,610	2.11 (2.01-2.22)	565	5.24 (4.82-5.67)	198	3.30 (2.86-3.78)	847	1.42 (1.33-1.52)					<0.001
Any complication requiring reoperation	209	0.27 (0.24-0.31)	38	0.35 (0.25-0.48)	19	0.32 (0.19-0.49)	152	0.26 (0.22-0.30)					1.000
Hemothorax, Pneumothorax, or Pleural Effusion	39	0.05 (0.04-0.07)	12	0.11 (0.06-0.19)	5	0.08 (0.03-0.19)	22	0.04 (0.02-0.06)					0.057
Pocket-related complication	134	0.18 (0.15-0.21)	27	0.25 (0.16-0.36)	13	0.22 (0.12-0.37)	94	0.16 (0.13-0.19)					0.885
Cardiac Tamponade or Pericardial Effusion	48	0.06 (0.05-0.08)	2	0.02 (0.00-0.07)	2	0.03 (0.00-0.12)	44	0.07 (0.05-0.10)					0.817
Any complication without reoperation	1,407	1.84 (1.75-1.94)	529	4.90 (4.50-5.33)	179	2.98 (2.57-3.44)	699	1.18 (1.09-1.27)					<0.001
Death	695	0.91 (0.85-0.98)	324	3.00 (2.69-3.34)	95	1.58 (1.28-1.93)	276	0.46 (0.41-0.52)					<0.001
Hemothorax, Pneumothorax, or Pleural Effusion	374	0.49 (0.44-0.54)	124	1.15 (0.96-1.37)	58	0.97 (0.73-1.25)	192	0.32 (0.28-0.37)					<0.001
Pocket-related complication	279	0.37 (0.32-0.41)	79	0.73 (0.58-0.91)	22	0.37 (0.23-0.55)	178	0.30 (0.26-0.35)					<0.001
Cardiac Tamponade or Pericardial Effusion	150	0.20 (0.17-0.23)	25	0.23 (0.15-0.34)	17	0.28 (0.17-0.45)	108	0.18 (0.15-0.22)					1.000

	Overall		Patients Admitted for HF		HF Admission < 3 months		HF Admission > 3 months		Adjusted p-value [‡]
	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	#	Rate (95% CI)	
90-Day Complications									
N [†]	72,608		10,306		5,728		56,574		
Any complication	3,764	5.18 (5.02-5.35)	799	7.75 (7.24-8.29)	358	6.25 (5.64-6.91)	2,607	4.61 (4.44-4.78)	<0.001
Any complication requiring reoperation	1,926	2.65 (2.54-2.77)	258	2.50 (2.21-2.82)	143	2.50 (2.11-2.93)	1,525	2.70 (2.56-2.83)	1.000
Mechanical complication	1,537	2.12 (2.01-2.22)	186	1.80 (1.56-2.08)	117	2.04 (1.69-2.44)	1,234	2.18 (2.06-2.30)	0.607
Device infection	444	0.61 (0.56-0.67)	77	0.75 (0.59-0.93)	32	0.56 (0.38-0.79)	335	0.59 (0.53-0.66)	1.000
Systemic infection	176	0.24 (0.21-0.28)	43	0.42 (0.30-0.56)	13	0.23 (0.12-0.39)	120	0.21 (0.18-0.25)	0.010
Endocarditis	41	0.06 (0.04-0.08)	13	0.13 (0.07-0.22)	5	0.09 (0.03-0.20)	23	0.04 (0.03-0.06)	0.034
Other infection	65	0.09 (0.07-0.11)	10	0.10 (0.05-0.18)	8	0.14 (0.06-0.28)	47	0.08 (0.06-0.11)	1.000
Any complication without reoperation	2,025	2.79 (2.67-2.91)	579	5.62 (5.18-6.08)	232	4.05 (3.55-4.59)	1,214	2.15 (2.03-2.27)	<0.001
Mechanical complication	622	0.86 (0.79-0.93)	141	1.37 (1.15-1.61)	61	1.06 (0.82-1.37)	420	0.74 (0.67-0.82)	<0.001
Device infection	219	0.30 (0.26-0.34)	49	0.48 (0.35-0.63)	21	0.37 (0.23-0.56)	149	0.26 (0.22-0.31)	0.017
Systemic infection	1,186	1.63 (1.54-1.73)	392	3.80 (3.44-4.19)	156	2.72 (2.32-3.18)	638	1.13 (1.04-1.22)	<0.001
Endocarditis	55	0.08 (0.06-0.10)	18	0.17 (0.10-0.28)	9	0.16 (0.07-0.30)	28	0.05 (0.03-0.07)	0.000
Other infection	268	0.37 (0.33-0.42)	77	0.75 (0.59-0.93)	29	0.51 (0.34-0.73)	162	0.29 (0.24-0.33)	<0.001

* Patients with at least 1 month of FFS follow up

[†] Patients with at least 3 months of FFS follow up

[‡] Adjusted using the Holm procedure for multiple comparisons

Abbreviations: ICD = implantable cardioverter-defibrillation; HF = heart failure; N = number.

Table 3.

Multivariable adjusted odds ratios (95% confidence interval) between timing of ICD placement from last HF hospitalization and outcomes.

Outcome	Group			p-value	
	Currently Hospitalized (1)	Hospitalized 3 months (2)	Hospitalized >3 months (3)	(1) vs. (3)	(2) vs. (3)
In Hospital					
Any Adverse Event	1.61 (1.38-1.87)	1.14 (0.93-1.4)	1	<0.001	0.195
Mortality	5.56 (3.68-8.39)	2.79 (1.59-4.9)	1	<0.001	<0.001
30-Day Outcomes					
All-Cause Mortality	2.62 (2.17-3.18)	1.92 (1.50-2.45)	1	<0.001	<0.001
All-Cause Readmissions	1.99 (1.87-2.13)	1.57 (1.45-1.69)	1	<0.001	<0.001
CV Readmissions	2.39 (2.16-2.64)	2.02 (1.79-2.28)	1	<0.001	<0.001
90-Day Outcomes					
All-Cause Mortality	2.25 (2.02-2.52)	1.56 (1.35-1.81)	1	<0.001	<0.001
All-Cause Readmissions	1.89 (1.79-1.99)	1.66 (1.56-1.77)	1	<0.001	<0.001
CV Readmissions	2.26 (2.11-2.43)	2.15 (1.98-2.34)	1	<0.001	<0.001

Abbreviations: ICD = implantable cardioverter-defibrillation; HF = heart failure; CV = cardiovascular.