Supplementary Online Content

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This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Specialty	Standard	Intermediate	Complex
ENT	 Septoplasty Tonsillectomy Tympanoplasty 	 Cleft lip reconstruction Parotidectomy Cochlear implant 	 Radical neck dissection Maxillectomy Laryngectomy
General Surgery	 Appendectomy Hernia repair Lymph node biopsy 	 Colectomy Splenectomy Small bowel resection 	 Hepatectomy Esophagectomy Whipple
Neurosurgery	N/A	N/A	 Skull base surgery Aneurysm repair Posterior fossa excision
Orthopedic Surgery	 Surgery of upper extremity tendons or ligaments Treatment of leg and ankle fracture 	 Excision of pelvis or hip tumor Hip arthroplasty Complex upper limb reconstruction 	N/A
Thoracic Surgery	Pacemaker insertion or reposition of leads	 Pericardiectomy Pleurodesis Hiatal or paraesophageal hernia repair Partial pneumonectomy 	 Complete pneumonectomy Sternal debridement Esophagectomy

eTable 1. Examples of Standard, Intermediate, and Complex Procedures in the VA Surgical Complexity Matrix

eTable 2. Clinical Characteristics	of Heart Failure Patients
Characteristic	No. (%)
Left Ventricular Ejection	
Fraction ^a	
Preserved (≥50%)	28,742 (59.9)
Mildly Reduced (40-49%)	7,612 (15.9)
Moderately Reduced (30-39%)	6,048 (12.6)
Severely Reduced (<30%)	4,185 (8.7)
Not Available	1,410 (2.9)
Medication	
Beta Blocker	44,030 (91.7)
ACE Inhibitor/ARB	44,280 (92.3)
Potassium-Sparing Diuretic	16,588 (34.6)
Signs or Symptoms within 30	
Days	
No	42,091 (87.3)
Yes	5,906 (12.7)

Abbreviations: ACE angiotensin-converting enzyme ARB Angiotensin Receptor Blocker ^a 82% of echo readings within 1 year of surgery eTable 3. Odds Ratios of 90-Day Post-Operative Mortality between Heart Failure and Non-Heart Failure Patients by Presence of Active Signs or Symptoms and Left Ventricular Election Fraction

and Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction						
	No.	Crude Mortality (%)	Crude OR (95% Cl)	Adjusted OR (95% CI) ^a	Crude Risk Difference (%; 95% Cl)	Adjusted Risk Difference (%; 95% Cl) ^b
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	1.22	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure—Asymptomatic ^c						
Preserved LVEF (≥50%)	25,891	4.42	3.73 (3.50-3.97)	1.46 (1.35-1.57)	3.20 (3.05-3.34)	0.66 (0.54-0.79)
Mildly Reduced LVEF (40-49%)	6,579	4.50	3.80 (3.37-4.28)	1.40 (1.23-1.60)	3.28 (3.00-3.55)	0.58 (0.43-0.75)
Moderately Reduced LVEF (30-39%)	5,014	5.96	5.11 (4.54-5.76)	1.79 (1.56-2.03)	4.74 (4.43-5.05)	1.23 (1.05-1.44)
Severely Reduced LVEF (<30%)	3,313	6.61	5.70 (4.97-5.56)	1.99 (1.70-2.32)	5.39 (5.01-5.77)	1.60 (1.38-1.85)
Heart Failure—Symptomatic ^d						
Preserved LVEF (≥50%)	2,851	9.08	8.06 (7.07-9.18)	2.13 (1.83-2.46)	7.86 (7.45-8.27)	2.03 (1.80-2.30)
Mildly Reduced LVEF (40-49%)	1,033	9.00	7.97 (6.44-9.89)	2.23 (1.77-2.84)	7.78 (7.10-8.45)	2.20 (1.87-2.60)
Moderately Reduced LVEF (30-39%)	1,034	9.57	8.53 (6.93-10.52)	2.15 (1.71-2.70)	8.35 (7.67-9.02)	2.11 (1.79-2.51)
Severely Reduced LVEF (<30%)	872	14.91	14.13 (11.70-17.05)	3.67 (2.98-4.52)	13.69 (12.95-14.42)	5.87 (5.30-6.44)

Abbreviations: OR Odds Ratio; CI Confidence Interval; HF Heart Failure; LVEF Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

^a Multivariable mixed effects logistic regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility

^b Calculated using the following formula, with average adjusted predicted probabilities for each group calculated via the corresponding regression model (footnote a): [Average adjusted predicted probability in exposed] – [Average predicted probability in unexposed]

^c OR compares heart failure patients with the given left ventricular ejection fraction and presence or absence of symptoms to all non-heart failure patients. Does not include 2.9% patients with missing left ventricular ejection fraction.

eTable 4, Odds Ratios of 30-Day Post-Operative Mortality between Heart Failure and Non-Heart Failure Patients with Subset Analyses by Systolic Function and Presence of Symptoms

and Presence of Symptoms						
	No.	Mortality (%)	Crude OR (95% Cl)	Adjusted OR (95% CI) ^a	Crude Risk Difference (%; 95% Cl)	Adjusted Risk Difference (%; 95% Cl) ^b
Heart Failure (Overall)						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	0.54	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure	47,997	2.50	4.72 (4.41-5.05)s	1.56 (1.43-1.69)	1.96 (1.89-2.03)	0.39 (0.32-0.47)
Heart Failure (HF) by Systolic Function ^c						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	0.54	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
HF with Preserved LVEF (≥50%)	28,742	2.24	4.22 (3.87-4.60)	1.46 (1.33-1.61)	1.70 (1.60-1.79)	0.31 (0.23-0.40)
HF with Mildly Reduced LVEF (40-49%)	7,612	2.36	4.46 (3.83-5.19)	1.47 (1.25-1.74)	1.80 (1.65-1.99)	0.32 (0.22-0.43)
HF with Moderately Reduced LVEF (30-39%)	6,048	2.86	5.42 (4.64-6.34)	1.65 (1.39-1.95)	2.32 (2.13-2.51)	0.47 (0.37-0.59)
HF with Severely Reduced LVEF (<30%)	4,185	3.89	7.46 (6.36-8.76)	2.20 (1.85-1.61)	3.35 (3.12-3.58)	0.97 (0.84-1.13)
Heart Failure by Recent Symptoms ^d						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	0.54	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure, Asymptomatic	42,091	2.13	4.01 (3.72-4.32)	1.42 (1.30-1.55)	1.59 (1.50-1.66)	0.28 (0.21-0.36)
Heart Failure, Symptomatic	5,906	5.13	9.96 (8.83-11.24)	2.41 (2.11-2.77)	4.59 (4.39-4.78)	1.27 (1.19-1.36)

Abbreviations: OR Odds Ratio; CI Confidence Interval; HF Heart Failure; LVEF Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

^a Multivariable mixed effects logistic regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility

^b Calculated using the following formula, with average adjusted predicted probabilities for each group calculated via the corresponding regression model (footnote a): [Average adjusted predicted probability in exposed] – [Average predicted probability in unexposed]

^c OR compares heart failure patients with the given left ventricular ejection fraction and presence or absence of symptoms to all non-heart failure patients. Does not include 2.9% patients with missing left ventricular ejection fraction.

eTable 5. Odds Ratios of 1-Year Post-Operative Mortality between Heart Failure and Non-Heart Failure Patients with Subset Analyses by Systolic Function and Presence of Symptoms

and Presence of Symptoms						
	No.	Mortality (%)	Crude OR (95% Cl)	Adjusted OR (95% CI) ^a	Crude Risk Difference (%; 95% CI)	Adjusted Risk Difference (%; 95% CI) ^b
Heart Failure (Overall)						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	3.53	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure	47,997	13.54	4.28 (4.15-4.41)	1.77 (1.70-1.89)	10.01 (9.82-10.20)	3.11 (2.80-3.44)
Heart Failure (HF) by Systolic Function ^c						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	3.53	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
HF with Preserved LVEF (≥50%)	28,742	12.31	3.84 (3.70-3.99)	1.66 (1.58-1.73)	8.78 (8.54-9.00)	2.62 (2.32-2.84)
HF with Mildly Reduced LVEF (40-49%)	7,612	13.15	4.13 (3.87-4.43)	1.71 (1.58-1.85)	9.62 (9.19-10.04)	2.87 (2.49-3.27)
HF with Moderately Reduced LVEF (30-39%)	6,048	15.63	5.06 (4.71-5.43)	1.95 (1.79-2.11)	12.10 (11.62-12.57)	3.99 (3.50-4.52)
HF with Severely Reduced LVEF (<30%)	4,185	18.90	6.37 (5.89-6.90)	2.40 (2.19-2.62)	15.37 (14.80-15.94)	6.12 (5.55-6.74)
Heart Failure by Recent Symptoms ^d						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	3.53	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure, Asymptomatic	42,091	12.55	3.92 (3.80-4.05)	1.71 (1.65-1.79)	9.02 (8.82-9.21)	2.84 (2.54-3.16)
Heart Failure, Symptomatic	5,906	20.62	7.10 (6.65-7.57)	2.28 (2.11-2.46)	17.09 (16.61-17.57)	5.81 (5.34-6.31)

Abbreviations: OR Odds Ratio; CI Confidence Interval; HF Heart Failure; LVEF Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

^a Multivariable mixed effects logistic regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility

^b Calculated using the following formula, with average adjusted predicted probabilities for each group calculated via the corresponding regression model (footnote a): [Average adjusted predicted probability in exposed] – [Average predicted probability in unexposed]

^c OR compares heart failure patients with the given left ventricular ejection fraction and presence or absence of symptoms to all non-heart failure patients. Does not include 2.9% patients with missing left ventricular ejection fraction.

	Heart Failure	Non-Heart	Crude OR	Adjusted OR	Crude Risk Difference	Absolute Risk
	No. (%)	Failure No. (%)	(95% CI)	(95% CI) ^a	(%; 95% CI)	Difference (%; 95% Cl)
Any NSQIP	5,613 (11.7)	30,880 (5.5)	2.28 (2.21-2.34)	1.05 (1.02-1.09)	6.20 (5.98-6.42)	0.30 (0.08-0.53)
Complication						
Cardiac	484 (1.0)	1,104 (0.2)	5.17 (4.64-5.76)	1.63 (1.44-1.87)	0.81 (0.76-0.86)	0.17 (0.10-0.25)
Arrest						
Myocardial	218 (0.5)	745 (0.1)	3.44 (2.95-3.98)	1.14 (0.92-1.41)	0.32 (0.29-0.36)	0.02 (-0.01-0.05)
Infarction						
Stroke	129 (0.3)	672 (0.1)	2.25 (1.83-2.72)	1.12 (0.95-1.33)	0.15 (0.12-0.18)	0.01 (-0.03-0.06)
Major Bleed	159 (0.3)	531 (0.1)	3.51 (2.94-4.19)	1.27 (1.03-1.56)	0.24 (0.21-0.27)	0.03 (0.01-0.06)

eTable 6. 30-Day Post-Operative Complication Rates In Patients with and Without Heart Failure

Abbreviations: OR Odds Ratio; CI Confidence Interval; NSQIP National Surgical Quality Improvement Program

^a Multivariable mixed effects logistic regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility

eTable 7. Average Length of Stay Between Heart Failure and Non-Heart Failure Patients Among Inpatient Surgeries

	Mean (SD)	β (SE)	P-Value
Non-Heart Failure	7.3 (9.4)		
Heart Failure	5.1 (6.9)	0.39 (0.04)	<0.0001

Abbreviation: SD Standard Deviation

^a Parameter estimate from multivariable linear regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity

eTable 8. Complete Case Sensitivity Analysis—Adjusted Odds Ratios and Risk Differences of 90-Day Post-Operative Mortality between Patients with and without Heart Failure

	No.	Crude	Crude OR	Adjusted OR	Crude Risk Difference	Adjusted Risk Difference
		Mortality (%)	(95% CI)	(95% CI) ^a	(%; 95% CI)	(%; 95% CI) ^b
Model 1—Heart Failure (Overall)						
Non-Heart Failure	503,695	1.30	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure	45,260	5.62	4.51 (4.30-4.73)	1.63 (1.54-1.73)	4.32 (4.19-4.44)	0.97 (0.64-1.33)
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Model 2—Heart Failure (HF) Defined by Systolic Function ^c						
Non-Heart Failure	503,695	1.30	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
HF with Preserved LVEF (≥50%)	27,162	5.00	3.90 (3.76-4.24)	1.52 (1.41-1.63)	3.70 (3.55-3.85)	0.71 (0.40-1.04)
HF with Mildly Reduced LVEF (40-49%)	7,183	5.19	4.15 (3.63-4.62)	1.50 (1.33-1.69)	3.89 (3.62-4.16)	0.70 (0.24-1.20)
HF with Moderately Reduced LVEF (30-39%)	5,730	6.72	5.46 (4.91-6.07)	1.84 (1.63-2.07)	5.42 (5.12-5.72)	1.29 (0.78-1.84)
HF with Severely Reduced LVEF (<30%)	3,958	8.54	7.08 (6.31-7.93)	2.35 (2.07-2.67)	7.24 (6.88-7.60)	2.33 (1.73-2.95)
Model 3—Heart Failure Defined by Presence of Recent Symptoms ^d						
Non-Heart Failure	503,695	1.30	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure, Asymptomatic	39,562	4.94	3.94 (3.74-4.15)	1.50 (1.42-1.61)	3.64 (3.51-3.76)	0.70 (0.55-0.96)
Heart Failure, Symptomatic	5,698	10.32	8.72 (7.98-9.53)	2.37 (2.13-2.63)	9.02 (8.71-11.72)	2.53 (2.04-3.05)

Abbreviations: OR Odds Ratio; CI Confidence Interval; HF Heart Failure; LVEF Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

^a Multivariable mixed effects logistic regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility ^b Calculated using the following formula, with average adjusted predicted probabilities for each group calculated via the corresponding regression model (footnote a):

[Average adjusted predicted probability in exposed] – [Average predicted probability in unexposed]

^cOR compares heart failure patients with the given left ventricular ejection fraction to all non-heart failure patients. Does not include 2.9% patients with missing left ventricular ejection fraction. *P* for trend <0.001

eTable 9. Propensity-Adjusted Sensitivity Analysis—Adjusted Odds Ratios and Risk Differences of 90-Day Post-Operative Mortality between Patients with and without Heart Failure

	1			I	I	
	No.	Crude	Crude OR	Adjusted OR	Crude Risk Difference	Adjusted Risk
		Mortality (%)	(95% CI)	(95% CI) ^a	(%; 95% CI)	Difference (%; 95% Cl) ^b
Model 1—Heart Failure (Overall)						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	1.22	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure	47,997	5.49	4.68 (4.47-4.90)	1.71 (1.62-1.82)	4.26 (4.15-4.38)	1.09 (1.97-1.22)
Model 2—Heart Failure (HF) Defined by Systolic Function ^c						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	1.22	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
HF with Preserved LVEF (≥50%)	28,742	4.88	4.14 (3.90-4.39)	1.47 (1.31-1.64)	3.66 (3.52-3.80)	0.79 (0.68-0.90)
HF with Mildly Reduced LVEF (40-49%)	7,612	5.11	4.34 (3.91-4.82)	1.59 (1.49-1.71)	3.89 (3.63-4.14)	0.91 (0.75-1.09)
HF with Moderately Reduced LVEF (30-39%)	6,048	6.58	5.68 (5.12-6.31)	1.76 (1.57-1.98)	5.36 (5.07-5.64)	1.17 (0.99-1.36)
HF with Severely Reduced LVEF (<30%)	4,185	8.34	7.34 (6.56-8.21)	2.16 (1.91-2.44)	7.12 (6.77-7.46)	1.79 (1.57-2.04)
Model 3—Heart Failure Defined by Presence of Recent Symptoms ^d						
Non-Heart Failure	561,738	1.22	1.0 (Ref)	1.0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)	0 (Ref)
Heart Failure, Asymptomatic	42,091	4.84	4.10 (3.90-4.31)	1.58 (1.49-1.69)	3.62 (3.50-3.74)	0.90 (0.79-1.03)
Heart Failure, Symptomatic	5,906	10.11	9.07 (8.31-9.90)	2.61 (2.36-2.89)	8.89 (8.59-9.17)	2.47 (2.16-2.68)

Abbreviations: OR Odds Ratio; CI Confidence Interval; HF Heart Failure; LVEF Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

^a Multivariable logistic regression model adjusted for propensity for heart failure. Propensity score derived from predictive logistic regression model with the following inputs: sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility

^b Calculated using the following formula, with average adjusted predicted probabilities for each group calculated via the corresponding regression model (footnote a):

[Average adjusted predicted probability in exposed] – [Average adjusted predicted probability in unexposed]

^cOR compares heart failure patients with the given left ventricular ejection fraction to all non-heart failure patients. Does not include 2.9% patients with missing left ventricular ejection fraction. *P* for trend <0.001

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eTable 10. E-Values for Heart Failure and 90-Day Post-Operative Mortality with Selected Sub-Populations

Population	Adjusted Odds Ratio	E-Value	E-Value
	(95% CI) ^a	(Point Estimate) ^b	(Confidence Interval) ^c
Heart Failure	1.67 (1.57-1.76)	2.70	2.52
Heart Failure, Asymptomatic	1.53 (1.44-1.63)	2.43	2.24
Heart Failure, Asymptomatic with	1.46 (1.35-1.57)	2.28	2.04
Preserved EF			
Heart Failure, Symptomatic	2.37 (2.14-2.63)	4.17	3.70

Abbreviation: CI Confidence Interval

^a Results from Table 2 and e Table 3. Multivariable mixed effects logistic regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility

^b The point estimate E-Value is the minimum odds ratio of an unmeasured confounder that would attenuate the point estimate of the heart failure post-operative mortality association to the null

^c E-value for the confidence interval range closest to the null

eTable 11. Adjusted Odds Ratios for the Independent Association with 90-Day Post-Operative Mortality of Selected Additional Covariates Included in Table 2, Model 3

Note: This table serves only as a contextual reference for interpretation of the E-value for the heart failure postoperative mortality relationship. As this study was not a priori designed to examine any of the following relationships, these figures are not externally generalizable and should be interpreted only in the context of this limited analysis.

Risk Factor	Adjusted Odds Ratio
	(95% CI) ^a
Hypertension	0.96 (0.91-1.02)
Atrial Fibrillation	1.14 (1.08-1.20)
Diabetes	1.09 (1.04-1.21)
Coronary Artery Disease	1.15 (1.10-1.21)
Stroke	1.33 (1.25-1.42)
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	1.48 (1.41-1.56)
Peripheral Vascular Disease	1.33 (1.24-1.43)
Male Sex	1.53 (1.33-1.78)
Age (per year)	1.05 (1.04-1.05)
Body Mass Index	0.97 (0.97-0.97)
Alcohol Use	1.00 (0.92-1.09)

Abbreviation: CI Confidence Interval

^a Results from the model presented in Table 2, Model 3. Multivariable mixed effects logistic regression model adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, alcohol consumption, comorbidities (hypertension, atrial fibrillation, diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral vascular disease), pre-operative creatinine, pre-operative hematocrit, American Society of Anesthesiologists class and surgical complexity, and VA facility