

# Silverlon: Minimising Patient and Healthcare Provider Burden

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## Introduction

- Driveline infections (DLI) are associated with increased mortality and morbidity in patients with durable left ventricular assist devices (LVADs), placing a significant burden on both patients and healthcare providers.
- Several studies propose that the use of a silver-based dressing is beneficial in preventing DLI.
- Silverlon is an antimicrobial silver-plated dressing technology which contains more than five times the amount of pure metallic silver than other silver-impregnated dressings.

## Objective

- To assess the impact of Silverlon in preventing DLI and readmissions

## Methods

- A single change to driveline dressing protocol was made by substituting Silverlon for other primary dressings over driveline exit site (DLES).
- Patients implanted with HeartMate 3 LVAD between November 2015 and September 2023 and alive on device support between March 2023 to November 2023 were included in the study and followed up until transplant, pump decommissioning or death.
- Patients with existing DLI (DLES DESTINE Staging >2a) and non-consenting patients were excluded from the study. We evaluated incidence of DLI and number of readmissions.

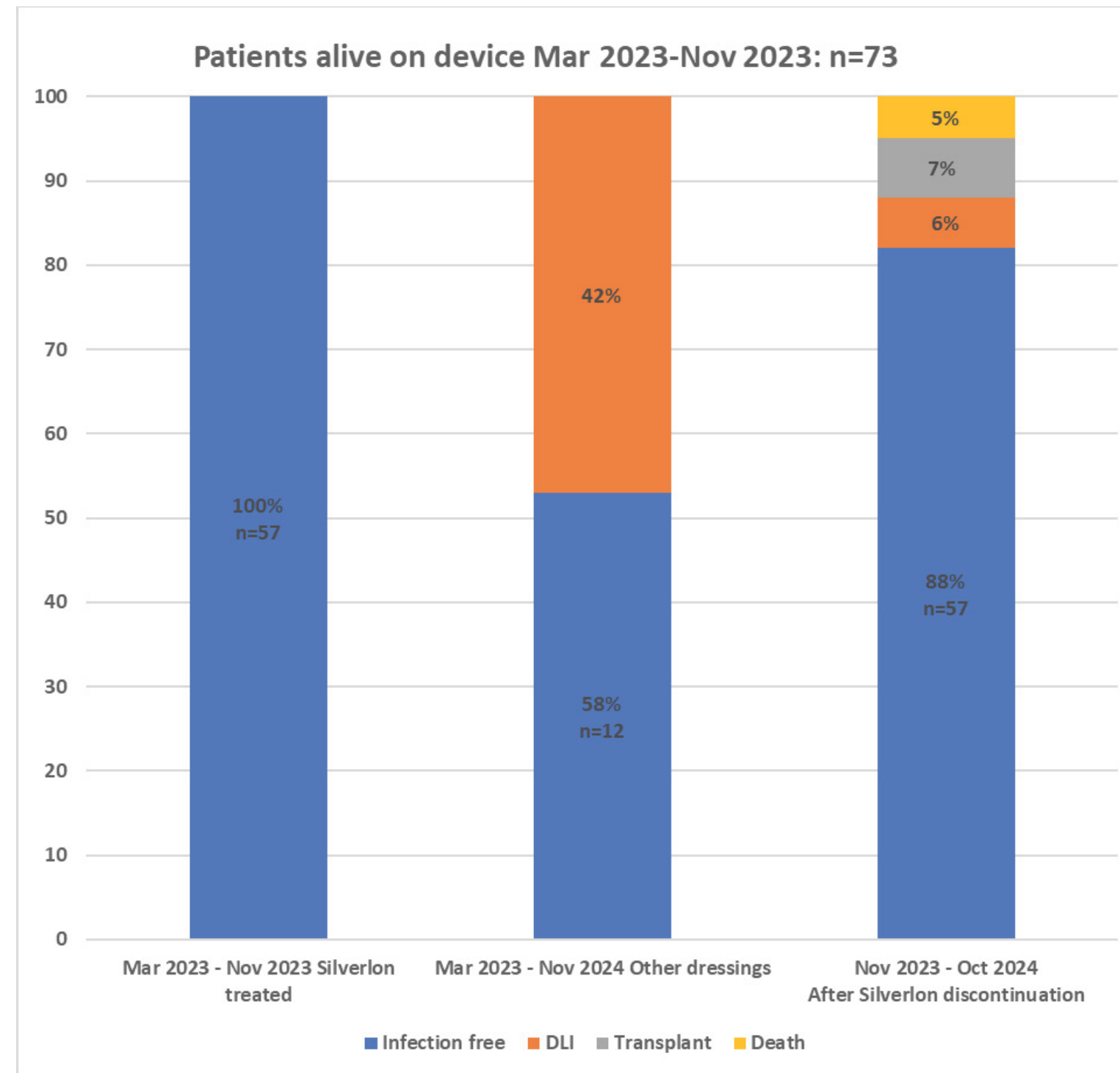


Figure 1: Summary of data from three time periods

## Results

- 73 patients were alive on device between March 2023 and October 2023; 4 had preexisting DLI.
- Silverlon was used in 57 patients (84% male, 51% ischemic, mean INTERMACS 2.9, 44% blood group O, 49% Bridge to Candidacy) for an average period of 30 weeks (2-36 weeks).
- There were no incidences of DLI in patients using Silverlon and no DLI related readmissions.
- For patients in whom other dressings were used, there were 5 incidences of DLI and 5 episodes of readmissions.
- Following cessation of Silverlon use (due to nonavailability in the U.K.); out of 57 patients in whom Silverlon was used, 50 were alive on device, 3 patients developed DLI, 4 were transplanted and 3 died (other causes).

## Conclusion

- We found Silverlon use to be effective in prevention of DLI and DLI related readmissions.
- This study includes a small sample size observed over a short period of time. Larger studies need to be undertaken to further evaluate the efficacy of Silverlon silver-plated dressing technology in prevention of DLI.