Background: the vagus nerve regulates many organ functions. Whether vagal stimulation will improve function in heart failure is the focus of this trial.

Purpose: evaluation of the safety and impact of right vagal nerve stimulation on left ventricular (LV) remodeling, functional capacity, QOL over 6 months in patients with systolic heart failure.

Trial Design: Randomized trial in NYHA class II-III HF patients, (LF ejection fraction ≤ 35%); n=96; 6 month f/u. Right vagal nerve stimulation vs. no stimulation for 6 months.

Primary Endpoint: Left ventricular end-systolic dimension at 6 months

Trial Results

No difference in left ventricular end-systolic dimension at 6 months between the control group and the group who received vagal stimulation (Baseline LVESD (cm)/6 months: 4.9/4.9 for therapy; 5.2/5.1 for control)
QOL was greater in the stimulation group and the safety profile was acceptable.

Conclusion: Vagal nerve stimulation did not result in cardiac remodeling in this trial.

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