Heart failure (HF) is an important public health problem in Brazil\(^1\), and its prevalence is expected to increase because of population growth and longer life expectancy\(^2\). A great advance has occurred in the treatment of HF, with new clinical and surgical therapies. Nevertheless, morbidity and mortality have still remained elevated. In the SHIFT study, for example, despite the high adherence to the therapies recommended, mortality was 16\% and the percentage of hospitalizations due to HF aggravation was 16\% in the treatment group\(^3\). In the real world, where treatment rates are lower, worse results are expected.

Godoy et al\(^3\) have published a temporal series analysis of patients diagnosed with HF and admitted to hospitals of the Brazilian Unified Public Health System (SUS), in the city of São Paulo, between 1992 and 2010\(^4\). The results regarding the last decade have revealed a worrying scenario: 1) the number of hospitalizations has remained high; 2) the hospital length of stay has increased significantly, reaching figures almost twice greater than those reported in the Acute Decompensated Heart Failure National Registry (ADHERE)\(^5\); 3) the in-hospital mortality rate has reached alarming levels and assumed a stationary behavior around 15\%.

Those data can illustrate the size of the challenge yet to be overcome in Brazil. Although we have advanced, we still have a long way to go.

### Keywords
Heart failure/epidemiology; heart failure/therapy; heart failure/morbidity.

### References


