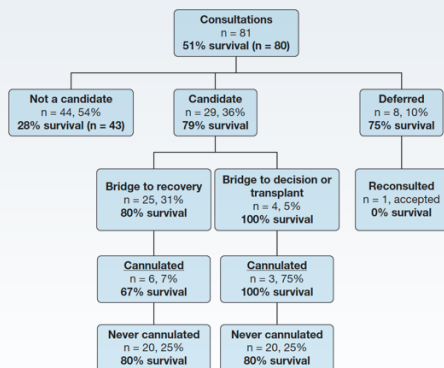


What Are the Reasons Behind VV-ECMO Candidacy Decisions, and Are Decisions Made Consistently Across Patients?

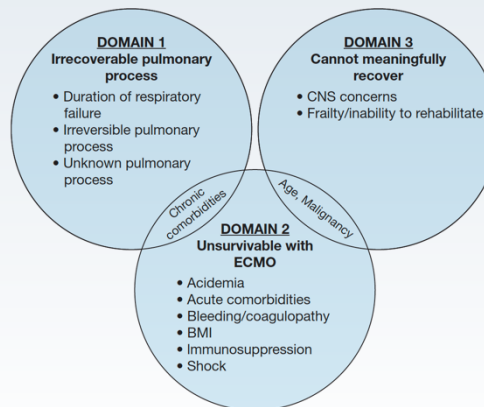
STUDY DESIGN

- Prospective observational study of patients considered for venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO)
- Multidisciplinary decision made by majority consensus



RESULTS

Identified **15 unique contraindications** used to deny ECMO in 44 instances, and categorized these into 3 domains:



Identified **4 patterns of inconsistencies**

1. Contraindications mentioned in some but not all noncandidates
2. Contraindications invoked at inconsistent thresholds
3. Contraindications prohibitive in some patients that were nonprohibitive for others
4. Discordant decisions between surgical and nonsurgical patients

ECMO candidacy decisions are inconsistent. Assessment of the inconsistencies in our ECMO candidacy determinations revealed hypotheses and lessons with which to begin conversations and efforts to improve such processes.