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Heart failure and left ventricular dysfunction are common and are most often caused by myocardial ischemia/infarction secondary to occlusive coronary artery disease. Although recent refinements in medical therapy have resulted in improved survival, morbidity and mortality remain high in patients with advanced heart failure. Heart transplantation remains an option for selected patients, and implantable left ventricular assist devices may soon provide another treatment strategy for such patients. However, patients with established postischemic heart failure, significant myocardial viability, and coronary artery anatomy amenable to surgical revascularization can derive significant functional and survival benefit after coronary artery surgery, albeit with an increased perioperative risk. We discuss the role of coronary artery surgery in ischemic heart failure and review the evidence for such an approach.