
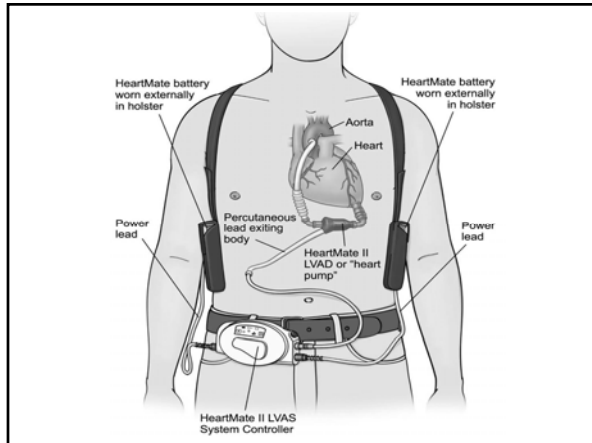


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Baptist Health

Care of the VAD Patient


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How Does It Work?

- The HeartMate II pumps blood from the weakened left ventricle to the aorta
- The inflow graft is connected to the apex of the left ventricle
- The outflow graft is connected to the ascending aorta
- The pump is designed to last for up to ten years



Important Clinical Info

- Non-pulsatile VAD patients – are typically pulseless as this is a continuous flow device
- Assess the patient for signs of good circulation to determine if perfusion is adequate.
- Automatic blood pressures are not accurate and usually can't be obtained as pts do not have systolic or diastolic function due to continuous flow provided by VAD
- Blood pressure can be measured by manual cuff with doppler
- May be difficult to obtain an O2 sat due to lack of pulsatility
- Pts are anticoagulated on Coumadin and aspirin and are at risk for bleeding

How Does It Work?



The Black Bag

VAD PATIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY A BAG WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES WHICH CONTAINS:

- Extra System Controller
- Extra Batteries
- Extra Battery Clips
- Emergency Contacts



Discharge Planning

- Pre-discharge
 - Evaluate patient readiness
 - Assess support network
 - Assess the home environment
 - Provide proper equipment
 - Train the patient and caregiver
 - Notify and train local EMS
 - Notify patient's cardiologist and primary care MD
 - Notify the electric company

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Discharge Planning

- Post discharge
- Clinic follow-up
- System controller interrogation
- Evaluate percutaneous lead exit site
- Interview patient and caregiver about system controller operation (alarm history, changes in how the pump sounds or feels, or changes in pump parameters)
- Address any equipment issues
- Interview patient about any problems, difficulties, or concerns

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Contact Information for:

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