

Ventricular Assist Device (VAD): HeartMate II Basics



THE DEVICE

- The HeartMate II VAD is a surgically implanted device to help circulate blood in a patient with severe heart failure.
- A driveline (Percutaneous lead) exits from the upper abdominal area, and needs to be connected to a power source at all times (Power Base Unit when patient is in bed or sitting in room, or 2 battery packs when ambulating or transporting)

CONTACT PERSONNEL

- A VAD nurse coordinator, Rae Sullivan, can be reached on pager through Amcom 24 hours, 7 days per week.
- Selected nurses from CRU, 6 E, and 6 W have been trained on the operation and patient maintenance of the HeartMate II system. Only nurses with this training should be assigned to care for the patient.

KEY EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND PATIENT ASSESSMENT DIFFERENCES

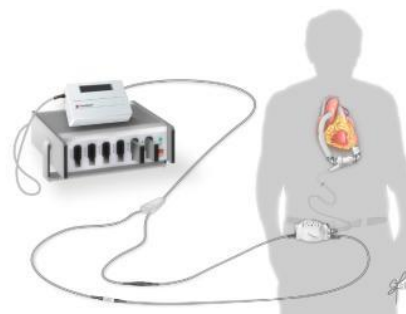
- **No Chest compressions**, as this may dislodge the pump.
- **Cardioversion and Defibrillation OK**, no need to disconnect power source.
- **Patient may not have a pulse**, as the pump is a continuous flow pump.
- **Measure BP using a manual cuff and doppler**. No systolic or diastolic can be measured, only the mean arterial blood pressure (if an arterial line is present), otherwise the first noise heard with doppler is the 1 number recorded for BP.
- **Infection prevention is critical**. All persons in contact with patient must wash hands with a CHG based soap (like Bactoshield) and wear clean gloves. Driveline dressing changes are a sterile procedure and room admittance will be restricted during dressing changes.
- **NO MRI, EVER !**



Heart Mate II System



Patient with battery pack



Patient "tethered" to power base unit