

Questions and Answers Ventricular Assist Device

What is a Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)?

A ventricular assist device (VAD) is a mechanical pump that's used to support heart function and blood flow in people who have weakened hearts.

How does a VAD work?

The device takes blood from a lower chamber of the heart and helps pump it to the body and vital organs, just as a healthy heart would.

What are the parts of a VAD?

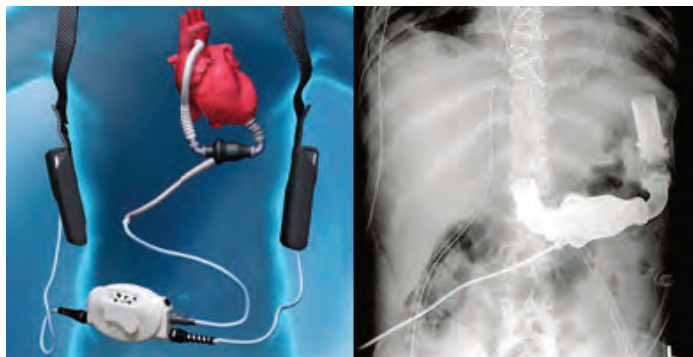
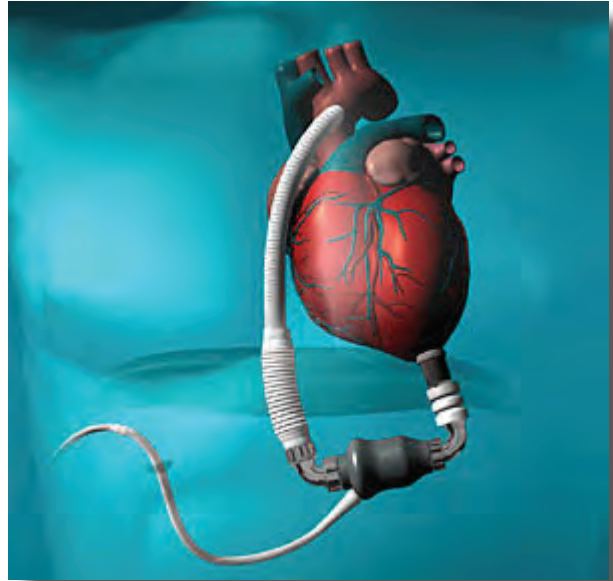
The basic parts of a VAD include: a small tube that carries blood out of your heart into a pump; another tube that carries blood from the pump to your blood vessels, which deliver the blood to your body; and a power source.

What is the power source?

The power source is either batteries or AC power. The power source is connected to a control unit that monitors the VAD's functions. The batteries are carried in a case usually located in a holster in a vest wrapped around the patients shoulders.

What does the control unit or controller do?

The control unit gives warnings, or alarms, if the power is low or if it senses that the device isn't working right. It is a computer.



The portability of the HeartMate II enables patients to resume many of their normal daily activities.