

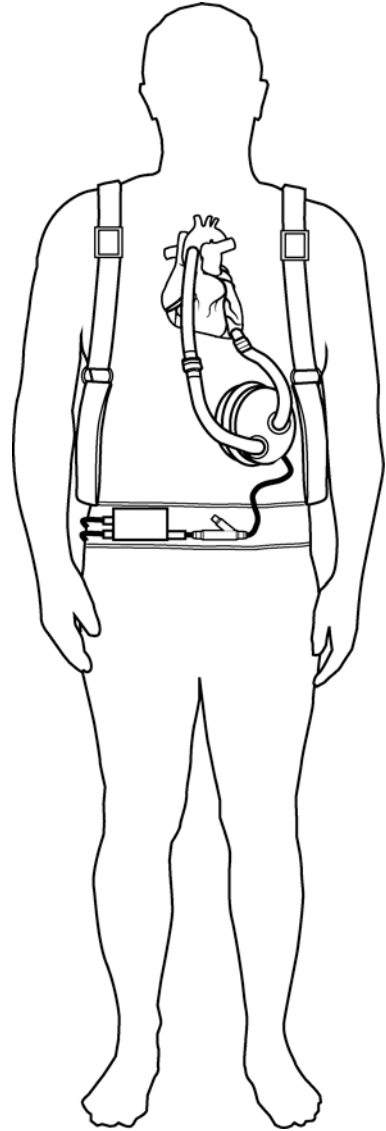
Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)

A type of heart pump, called a ventricular assist device or VAD, is used when the heart is not able to pump enough blood. There are two types of heart pumps.

- Left ventricular assist device (LVAD) - supports the pumping of the left ventricle of the heart
- Biventricular assist device (Bi-VAD) - supports the pumping of the right and left ventricles of the heart

There are 3 main reasons these pumps are used:

- For the person waiting for a heart transplant, the pump keeps the heart pumping until the donor heart is ready.
- For the person with a heart injury, the pump can help the injured heart recover and then the pump is removed.
- For the person who is not able to get a transplant, the pump can help improve the quality of life.



Learn more about your health care.

There are different types of these pumps. Your doctor will decide the best type for you and your condition. Some of the pumps are placed inside the body and some of the pumps have parts that fit inside and outside the body.

The pump is put in during surgery that lasts 4-6 hours. Some patients are on the heart-lung bypass machine while the pump is placed. The sternum or chest bone is opened to place the pump into the heart. The mechanical part of the pump is often placed in the abdomen with wires coming out of the skin to connect to a power source.

You may stay in the hospital for 2-8 weeks after the pump is placed. During this time, you and your caregiver will be taught about the pump and how to troubleshoot any problems.

- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**