

C200 VENTRICULAR ASSIST DEVICES

Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) A Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) is a mechanical device used to support circulation in a patient with significant cardiac ventricular dysfunction. The Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) is commonly used to support the left side of the heart and to provide extra cardiac output to the body. This device can be placed short term to bridge patients until they can receive a heart transplant or long term for people who are not candidates for a transplant. LVAD patients can be identified by an electric driveline cable that comes directly out of their abdomen and connects to an external control pack powered by two external batteries they will be wearing with a bag, harness or vest. The patient still has underlying heart function and rhythm that can be assessed and treated as appropriate per protocols.

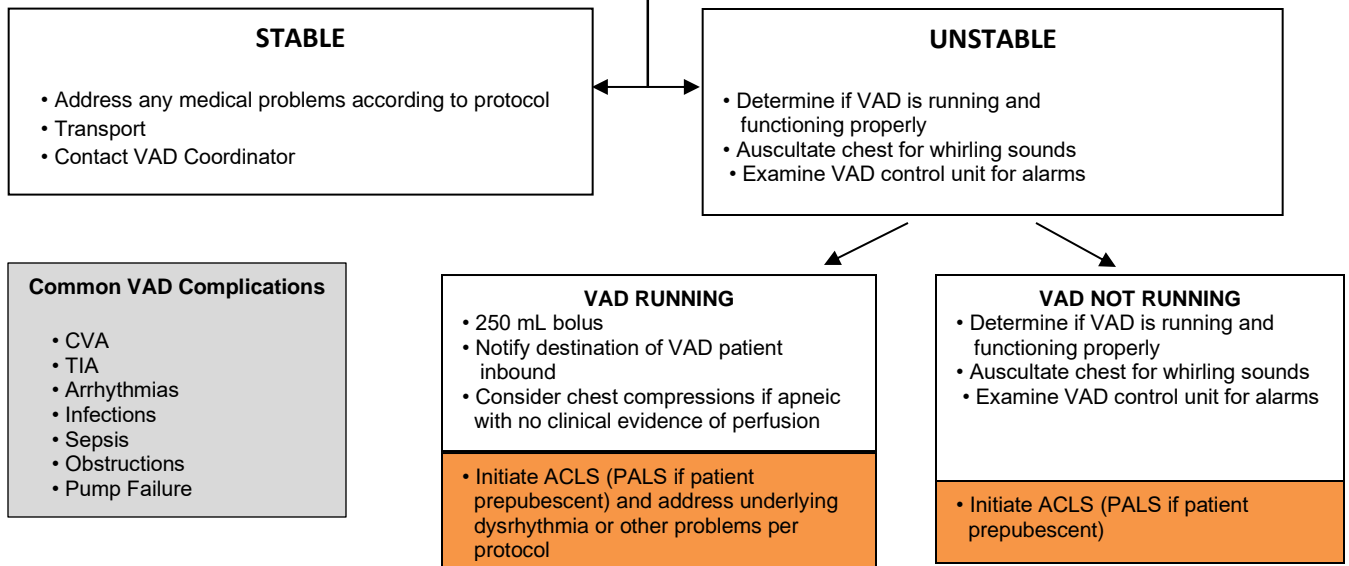
EMT	AEMT
EMT-I	Paramedic

Assess the patient

Typically, LVAD patients have no discernible pulse. Blood pressure measurement requires manual BP cuff and Doppler which the patient may have. Utilize other parameters for patient assessment:

- Level of consciousness
- Respiratory rate and work of breathing
- Signs of perfusion: skin color/temperature, capillary refill (HR >100 is hemodynamically unstable)
- Cardiac monitor, SpO2, blood glucose level

Is the Patient Stable?



Key Points

- Unstable VAD patients should be transported to the nearest appropriate facility. University of Colorado Hospital is the only facility in the region that definitively treats VAD patients—and is therefore the preferred destination when patient condition is stable and conditions/operational factors allow transport.
- Contact VAD Coordinator as soon as possible at 24/7 pager # (303) 266-4522. For pediatric patients contact the Children's Hospital Colorado transplant coordinator pager at (303) 890-3503. Provide patient name, DOB, condition & ETA at destination for consultation and/or if transporting to University of Colorado Hospital. VAD coordinator will call back.
- VAD patient family members are excellent resources to assist with patient history and evaluation/repair of VAD alarms/faults.
- **It is vital to transport the patient's back-up batteries and emergency equipment with the patient.**
- Device specific information for EMS can be found at: <https://www.mylvad.com/medical-professionals/resource-library/ems-fieldguides>