

# This lecture uses Socrative...

Access via the app (Socrative Student) or via the webpage (<https://b.socrative.com/login/student/>) – It's free!

**ROOM NAME:  
BIOM1010HEARTS**

Also if you haven't yet watched the pre-lecture videos –  
watch one quickly - search on YouTube for these

- a. [My LVAD "Gus"](#)
- b. [The Fitness Model Without a Pulse](#)
- c. [Life with a LVAD](#)

Then fill in this form – it's anonymous!: <http://tinyurl.com/y9kfcqpw>

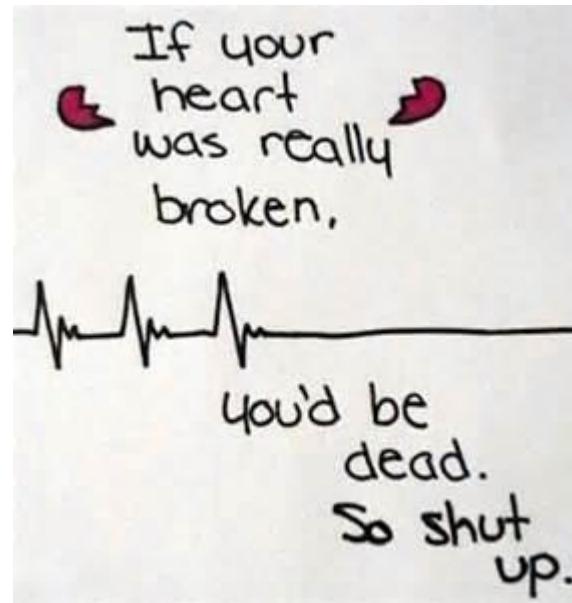


**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University

## "MENDING BROKEN HEARTS"

BIOM1010 – BIONIC HEARTS – S2 2018



Dr Michael Stevens  
[michael.stevens@unsw.edu.au](mailto:michael.stevens@unsw.edu.au)

# Learning outcomes for today

- Demonstrate the basic operating principles of ventricular assist devices (VADs) and total artificial hearts (TAHs).
- Describe the differences between first, second and third generation VADs.
- Identify which type of ventricular assist device is being used in a clinical situation.
- Describe the limitations of currently used ventricular assist devices.
- Identify which situation you would use a TAH instead of a VAD.

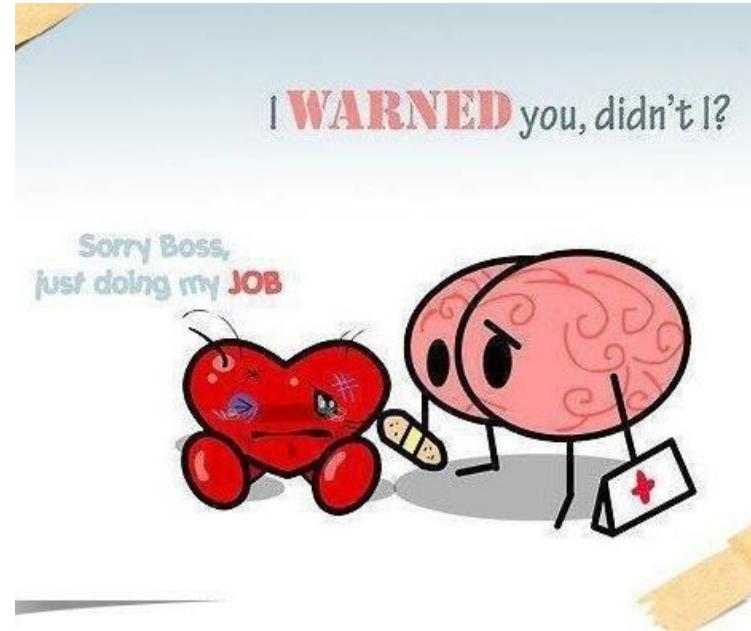
# Contents

## Part 1 – Cardiovascular Physiology

- What is it?
- What happens when your heart breaks?
- Some treatments
- **NOT EXAMINABLE**

## Part 2 – Mechanical Therapy

- Ventricular Assist Devices
- Total Artificial Hearts
- **EXAMINABLE**



NOTE: This lecture contains some graphic content  
(open heart surgery, animal surgery etc).

# But first, about me

## Education

- BEng (Medical Engineering) QUT 2010
- PhD Biomedical Engineering UQ 2014
- UNSW Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering (GSBM) 2015 – present.



## Work

- Innovative Cardiovascular Engineering Technology (ICET) Laboratory, Brisbane – Researcher.
- BiVACOR (Artificial Heart Startup) - consultant

# **Part 1 – Cardiovascular Physiology\*\***

**\*\*Ask yourself: "What anatomy and functions will a bionic heart have to replace?"\*\***

# What is the purpose of the Cardiovascular System?

## Transportation

- brings oxygen to body cells and takes away carbon dioxide (a waste product)
- carries nutrients from the gastrointestinal tract (gut) to body cells
- carries hormones from endocrine glands to body cells

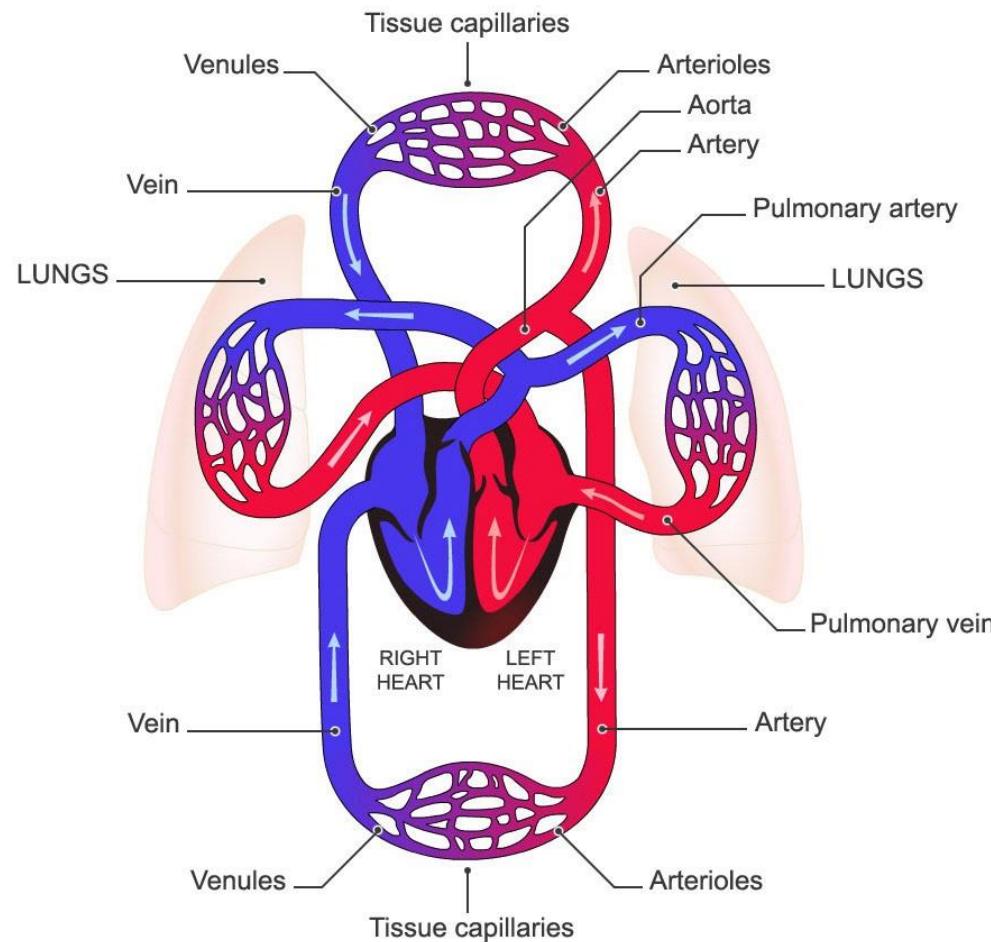
## Regulation

- helps regulate the pH of body fluid
- helps regulate body temperature
- regulates water content of cells

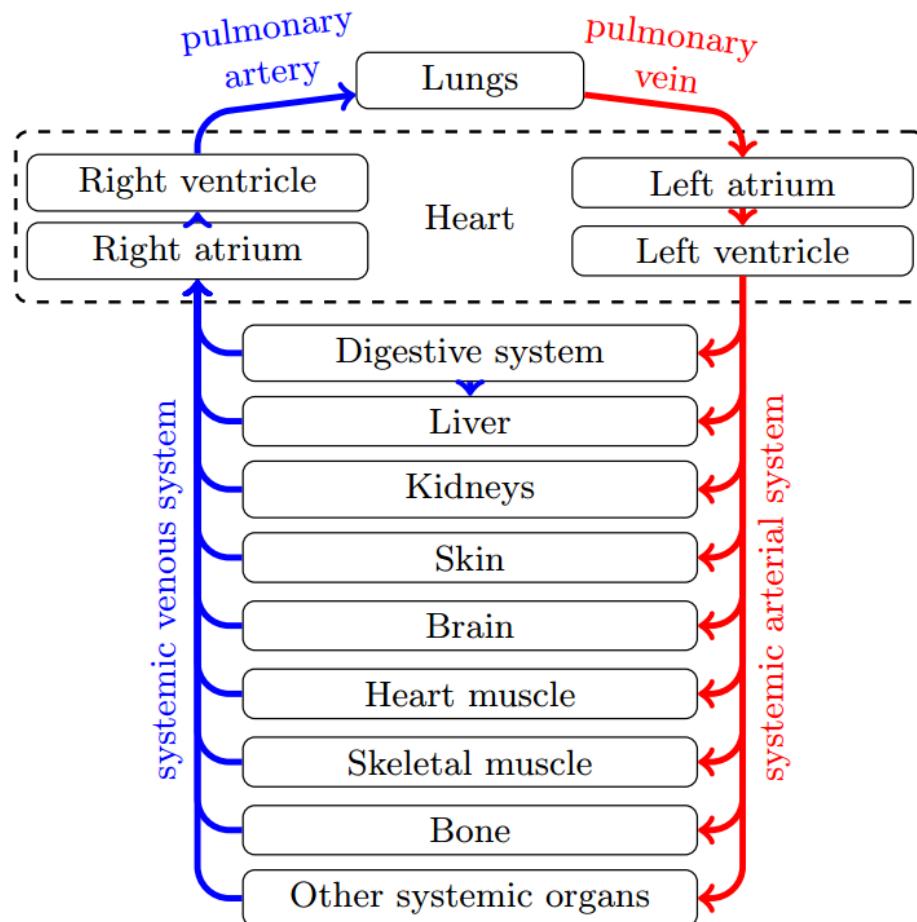
## Protection

- carries white blood cells, antibodies, and interferons that protect against disease

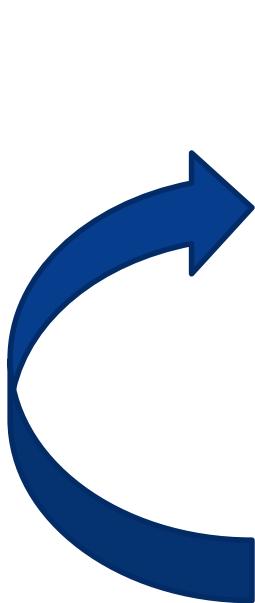
# The Circulation



# The Circulation



# The Circulation – Simplified Plumbing Equivalent



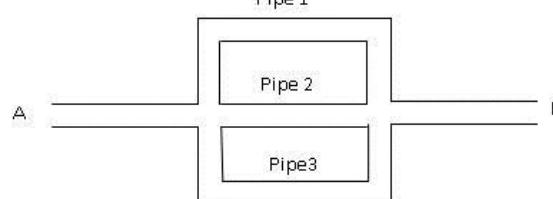
**Left Heart**



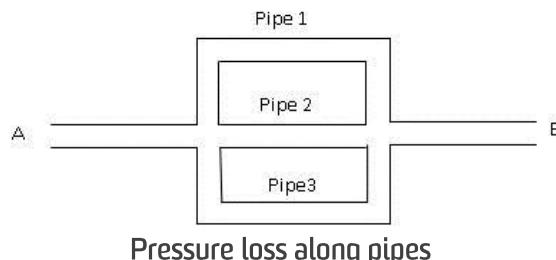
Generates pressure and flow

**Systemic Circulation**

Pressure loss along pipes



Systemic Flow = Pulmonary Flow



Pressure loss along pipes

**Pulmonary Circulation**



**Right Heart**

Generates pressure and flow

# The Heart

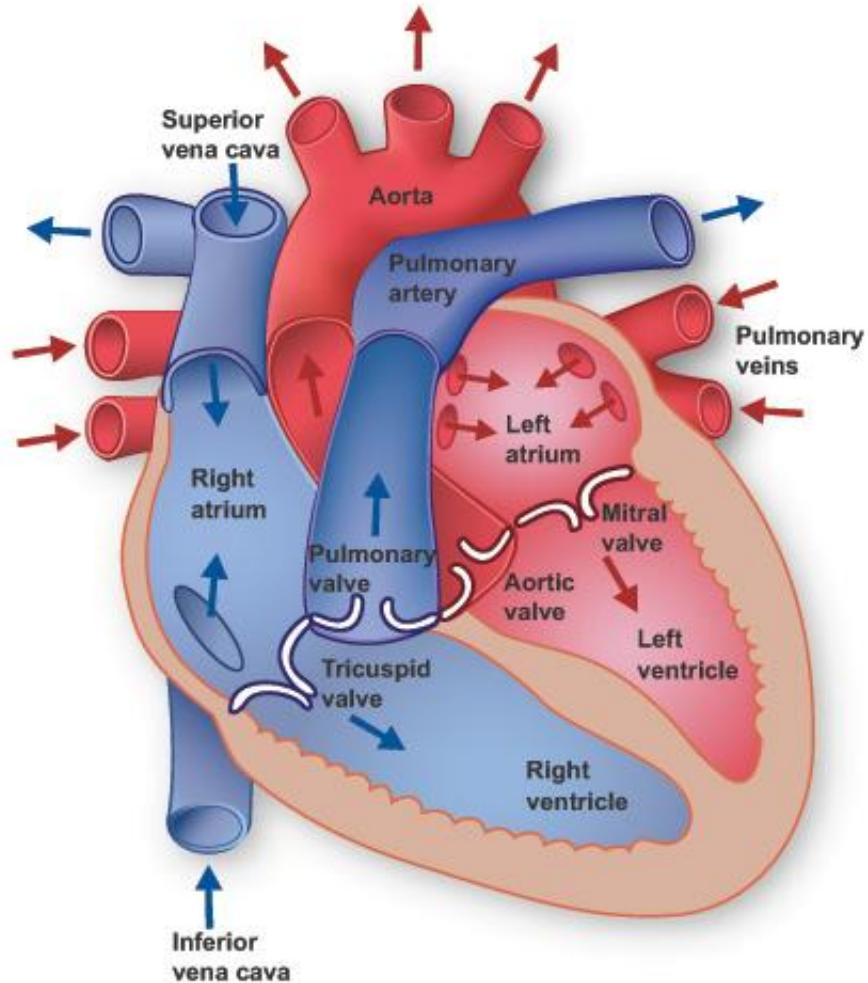
Left and right sides

Heart valves

Atria

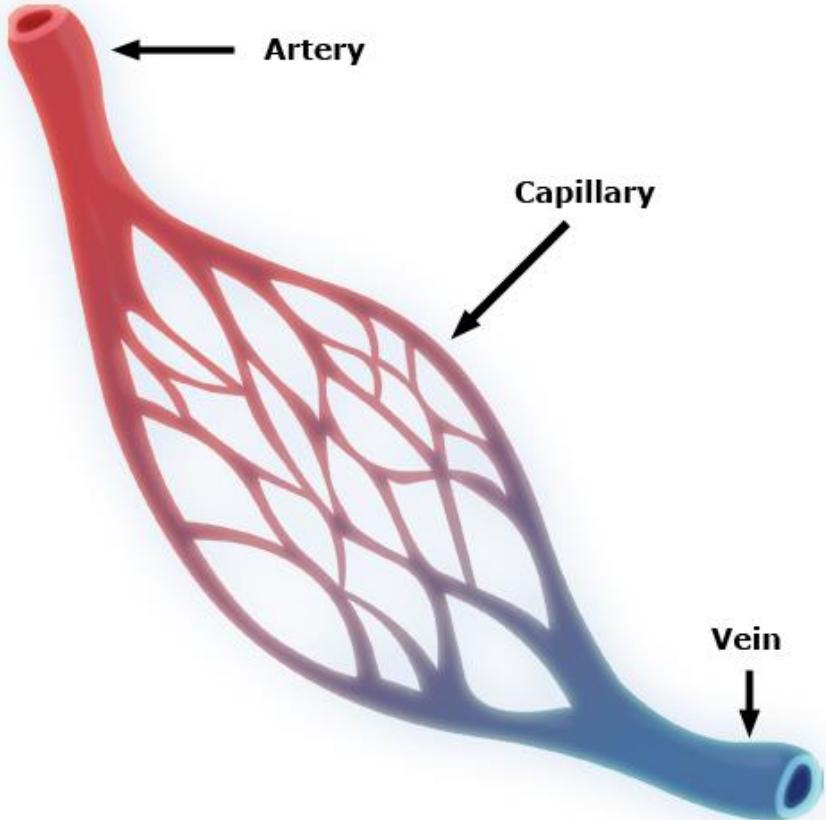
Ventricles

- 2.5 billion beats / lifetime



# Blood Flow Control:

## Tissues control local blood flow at capillary level



E.g. Exercise!

- Lack of oxygen in muscles results in dilation of capillaries
- Capillaries in non-essential regions (e.g. digestive system) are constricted
- Muscles squeeze veins, return more blood to the heart, which responds by increasing output

*Effect is more blood flow is diverted to muscles requiring more oxygen.*

# Circulatory System Summary

- Circulatory system: conduit (“Plumbing”) for blood
- Heart – pump, billions of beats per year. Ventricles main driving force
- Increased contraction, decreased resistance = more cardiac output

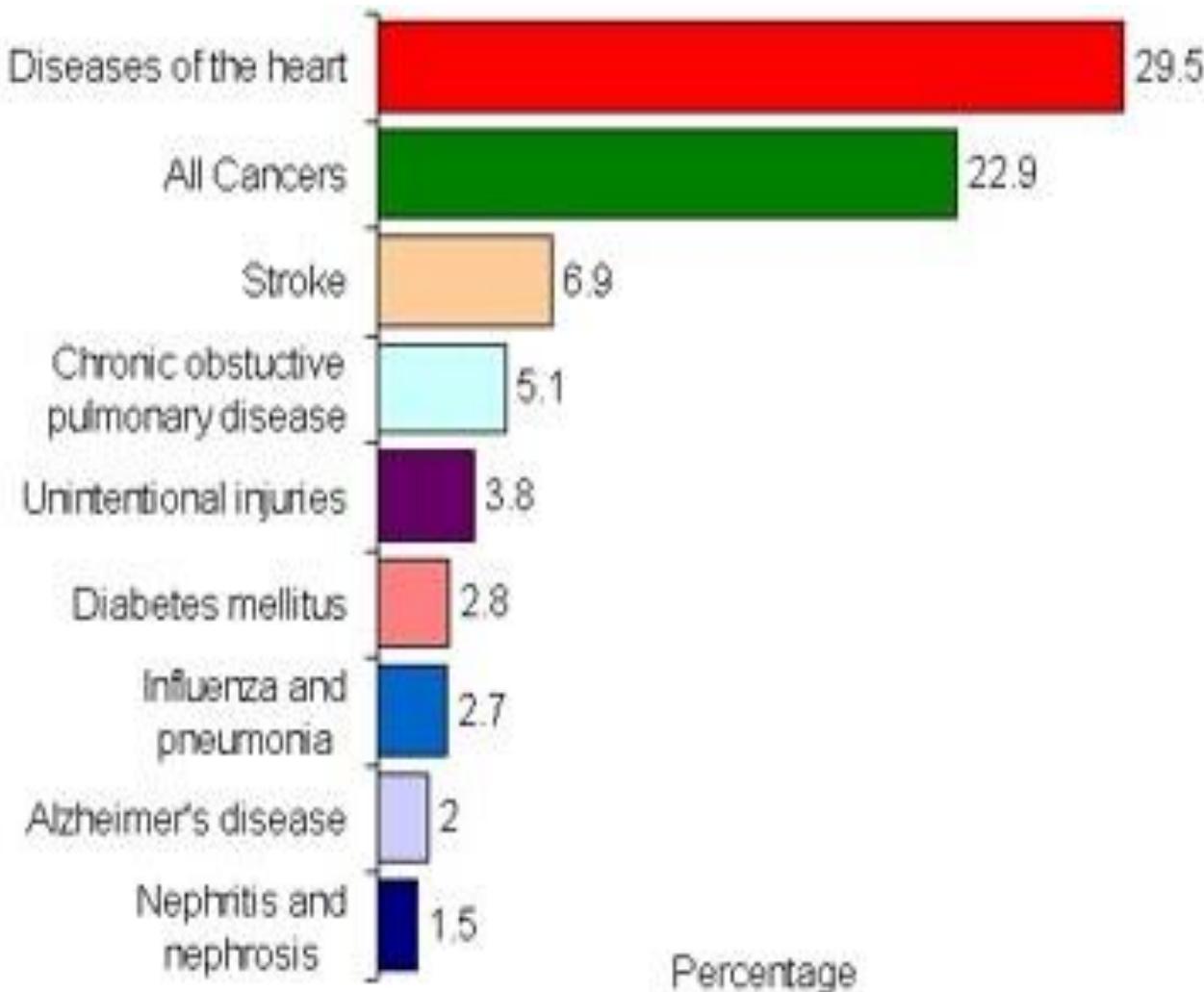


# Heart Disease

- Prevalence: About 3% of population
- Worlds biggest killer
- Kills one Australian every 10 minutes
- Over 1M US hospital admissions per year
- Cost \$35B USD per year in USA alone
- Projected cost by 2030 in USA alone: \$95B!!!!



# Heart Disease



# Heart Disease - Causes

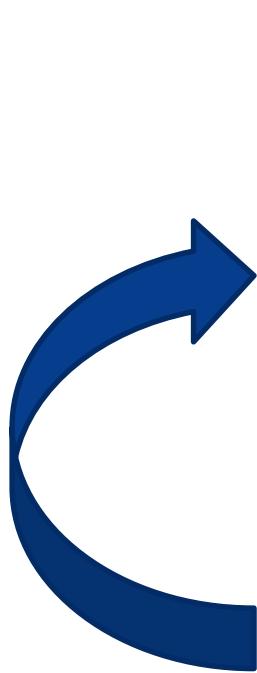
Often develops slowly over years

Many causes exist, such as

- Birth defects
- Coronary artery disease
- Cardiomyopathy
  - Dilated
  - Ischemic
- Heart valves
- Virus



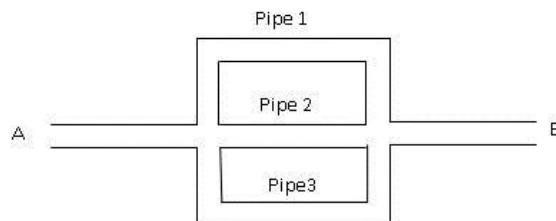
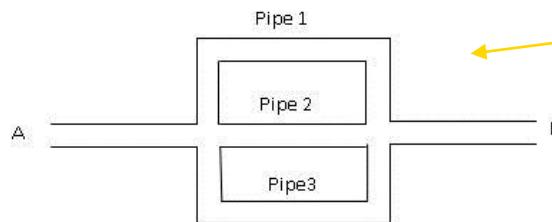
# Question: What happens to pressure and flow in the *systemic* circulation when the left ventricle fails?



Left Heart



Systemic Circulation



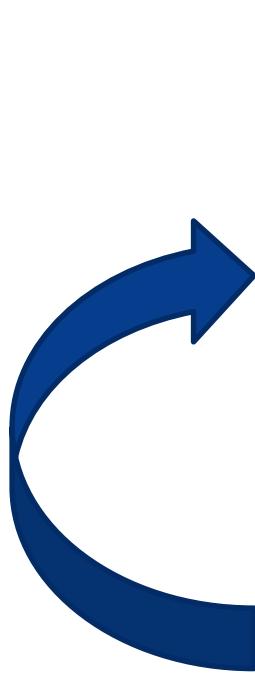
Pulmonary Circulation



Right Heart



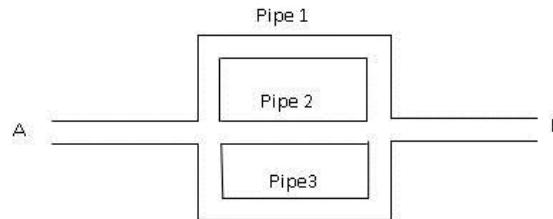
# Question: What happens to pressure and flow in the *pulmonary circulation* when the left ventricle fails?



Left Heart

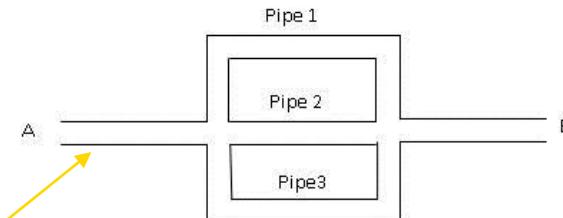


Systemic Circulation



What happens here?

Pulmonary Circulation



Right Heart



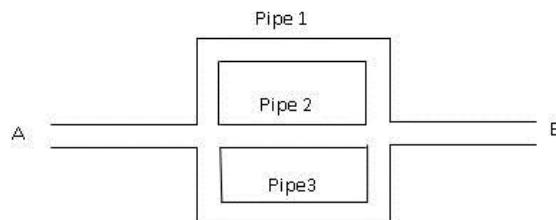
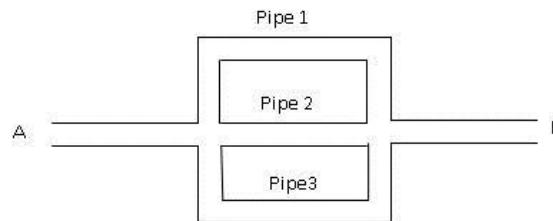
# Question: Do you think that the body compensates for LV heart failure? Yes/No?



Left Heart



Systemic Circulation



Pulmonary Circulation



Right Heart

# Heart Failure

Pumping ability decreases, causing:

- Lower SV and CO
- Damming of blood in veins.
- Increase of RAP

Compensation:

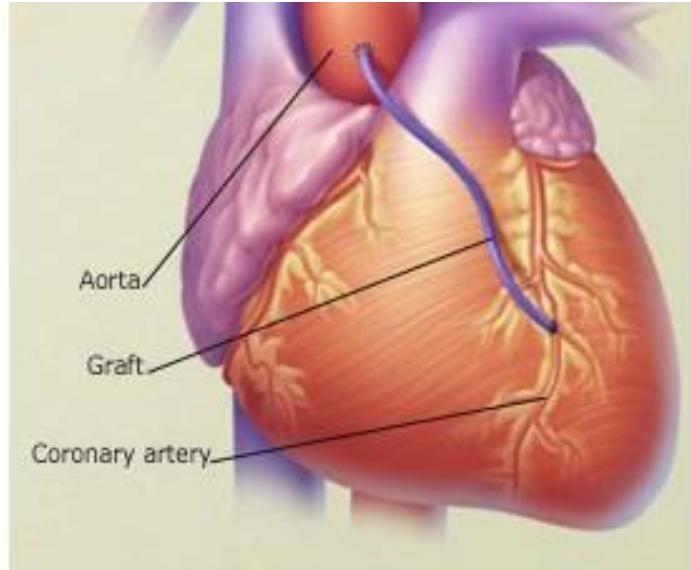
- Sympathetic stimulation: HR, contraction, venous tone
- Fluid retention by kidneys

Return resting CO to normal – but no capacity to increase CO in exercise.

# Heart Disease - Treatment

## Medical management

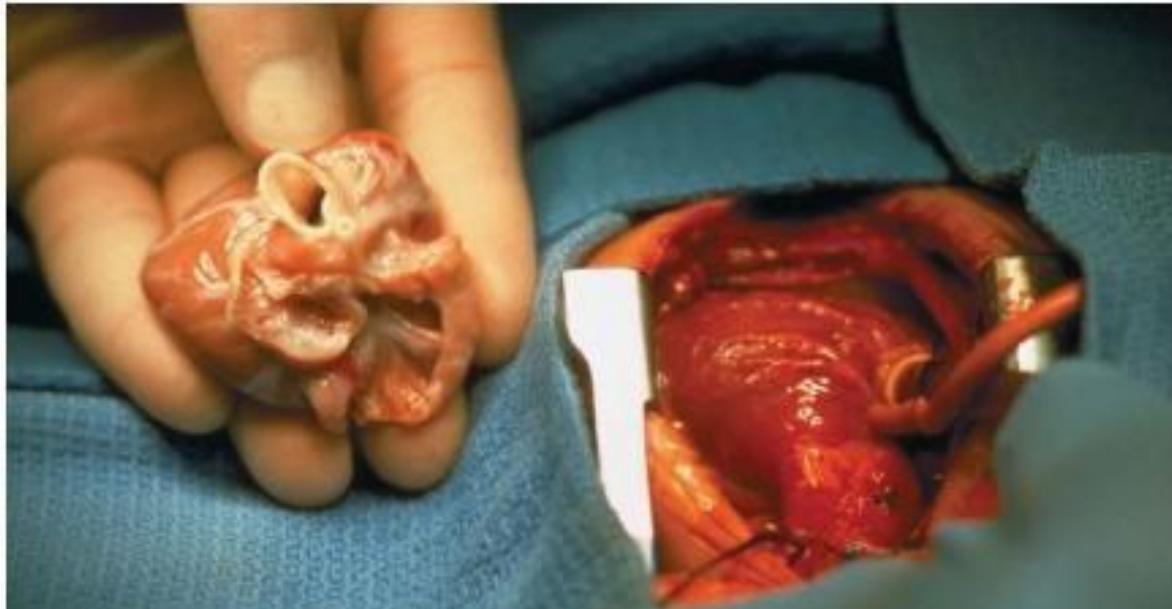
- Medicinal
  - Beta blockers (function)
  - ACE inhibitors (dilation)
- Surgical
  - Stents
  - Valve corrections
  - CABG



# Heart Disease - Treatment

## Heart transplant

- Gold standard treatment for heart failure
- First performed in South Africa in 1967 – Dr. Christiaan Barnard.
- Survival rates – 1 year (85%), 5 years (75%), 10 years (60%)



# Heart Disease - Treatment

Severe lack of donor hearts

About 65-70 heart transplants per year in Australia

Less than 4000 worldwide each year

20-40% mortality rate while waiting

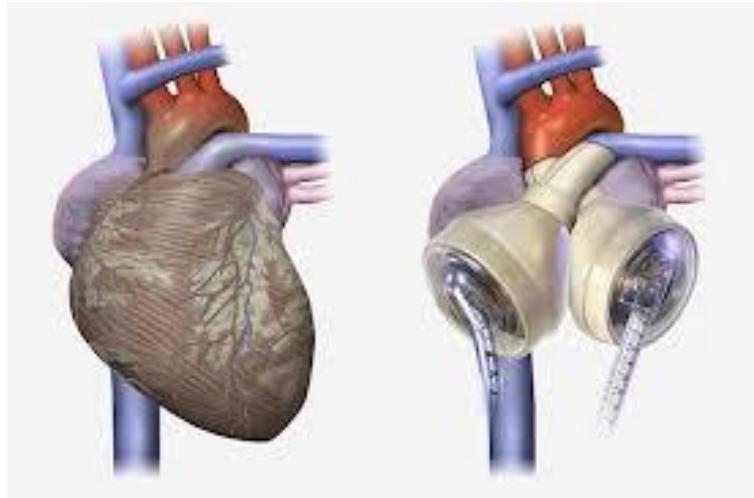
Need for mechanical support



# Cardiovascular Devices

Four main devices used to increase cardiac output:

- Intra-aortic balloon pumps
- **Ventricular assist devices**
- **Total artificial hearts**
- Extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)

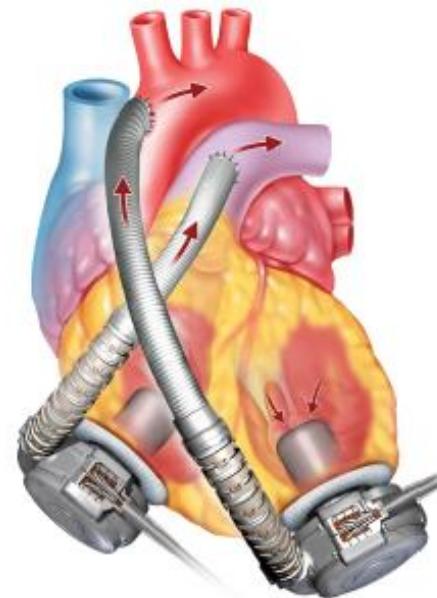
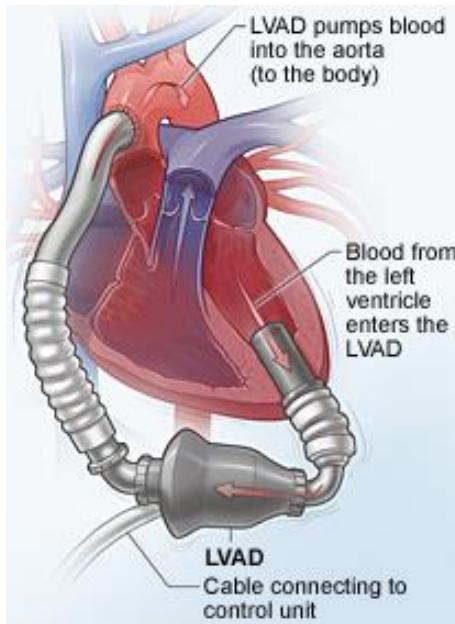


# Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs)

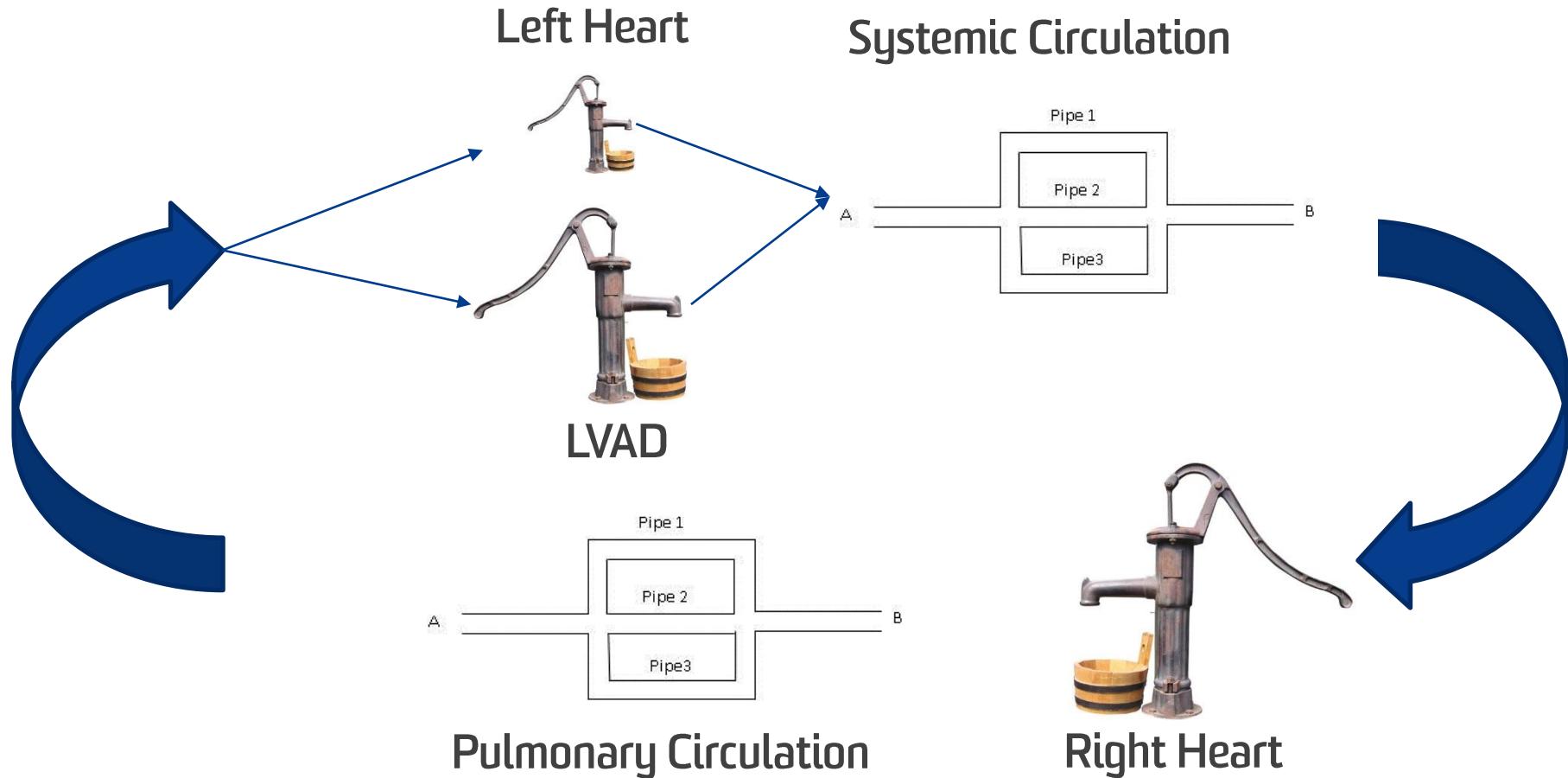
Leaves the heart in place

Supports the failing ventricle in parallel

Bridge to decision, transplant, destination, recovery.

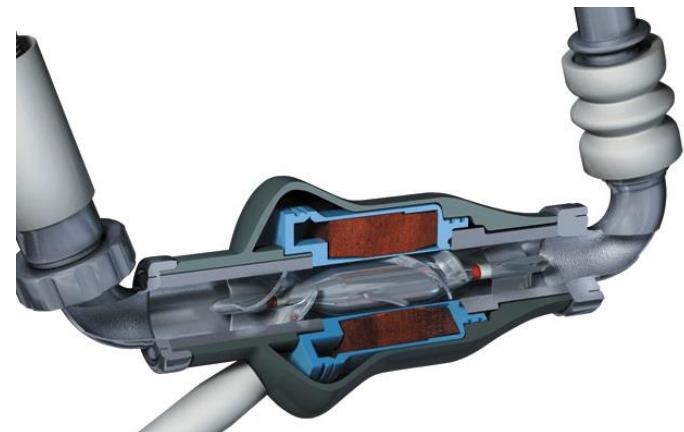
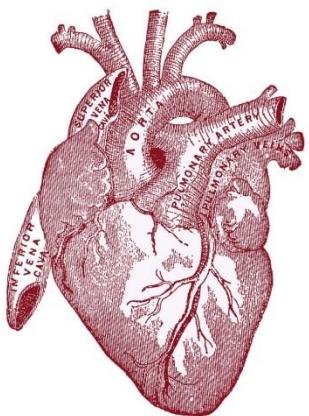
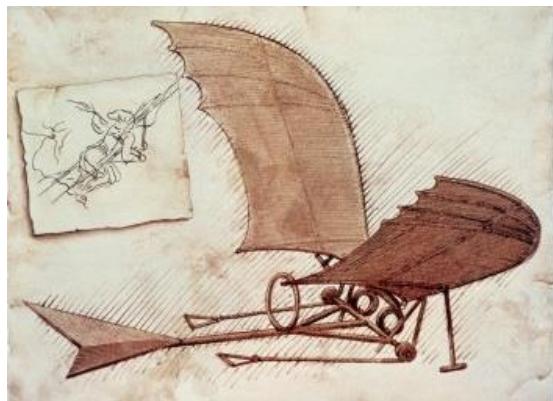


# Where do VADs fit into our plumbing analogy?



# Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs)

## Device Generations

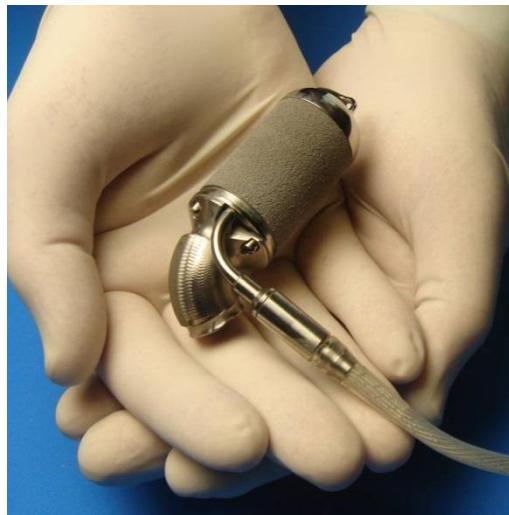


# Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs)

**1<sup>st</sup> Gen.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Gen.**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Gen.**



# Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Gen.



Pulsatile

Pneumatic or electric

Sit outside the body (usually)

Infection

Blood clots

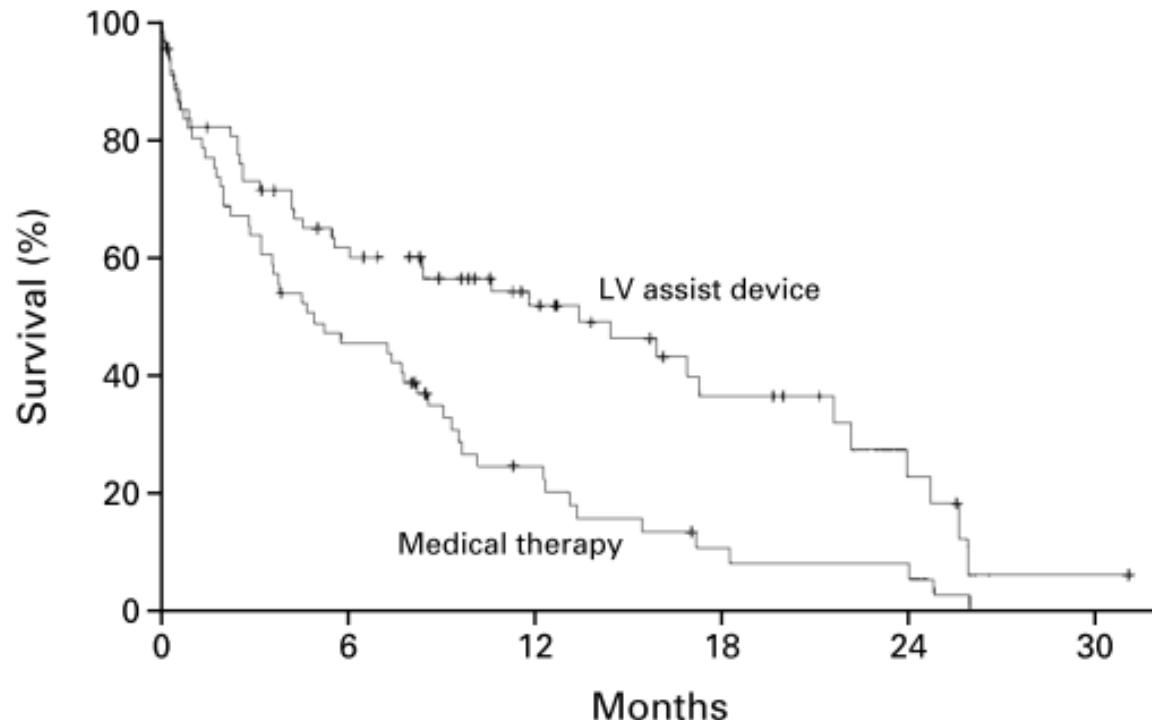
Large drive consoles

Short term support

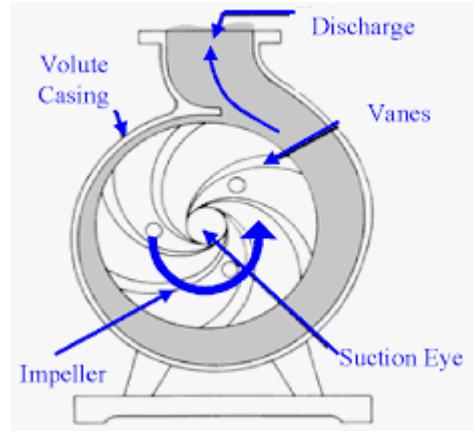
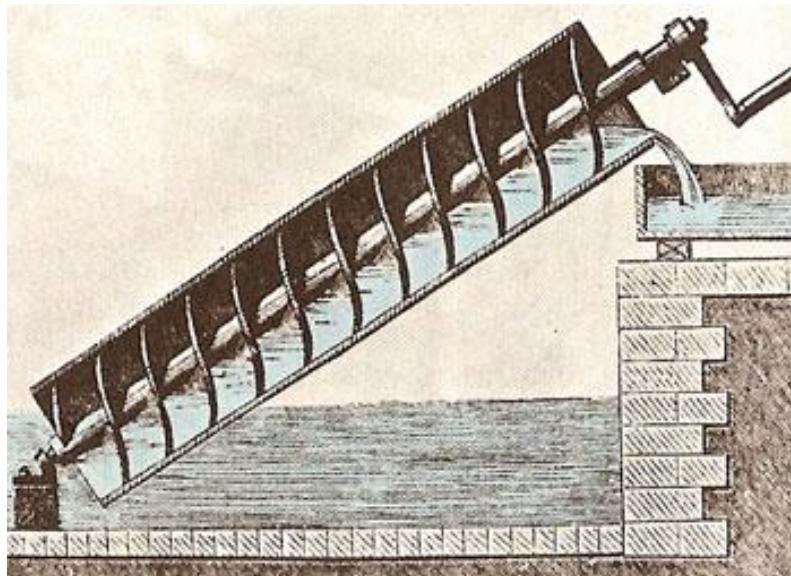
No longer used in developed countries

# 2001 - The REMATCH Trial

- Randomized Evaluation of Mechanical Assistance for the Treatment of Congestive Heart Failure.
- 129 patients, randomized between LVAD vs conventional medical treatment

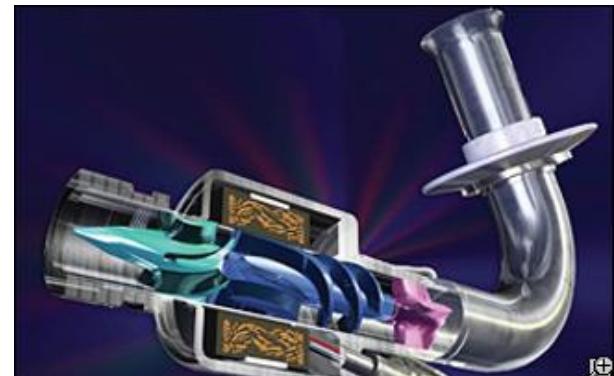


# Humans have been pumping fluids for a LONG time...



# 1998 – Second Generation VADs

2<sup>nd</sup> Gen.



Centrifugal



Continuous flow



Axial

# Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs)

Smaller

Electrically driven

Small external  
components

**Mechanical contact**

Blood damage

Infection

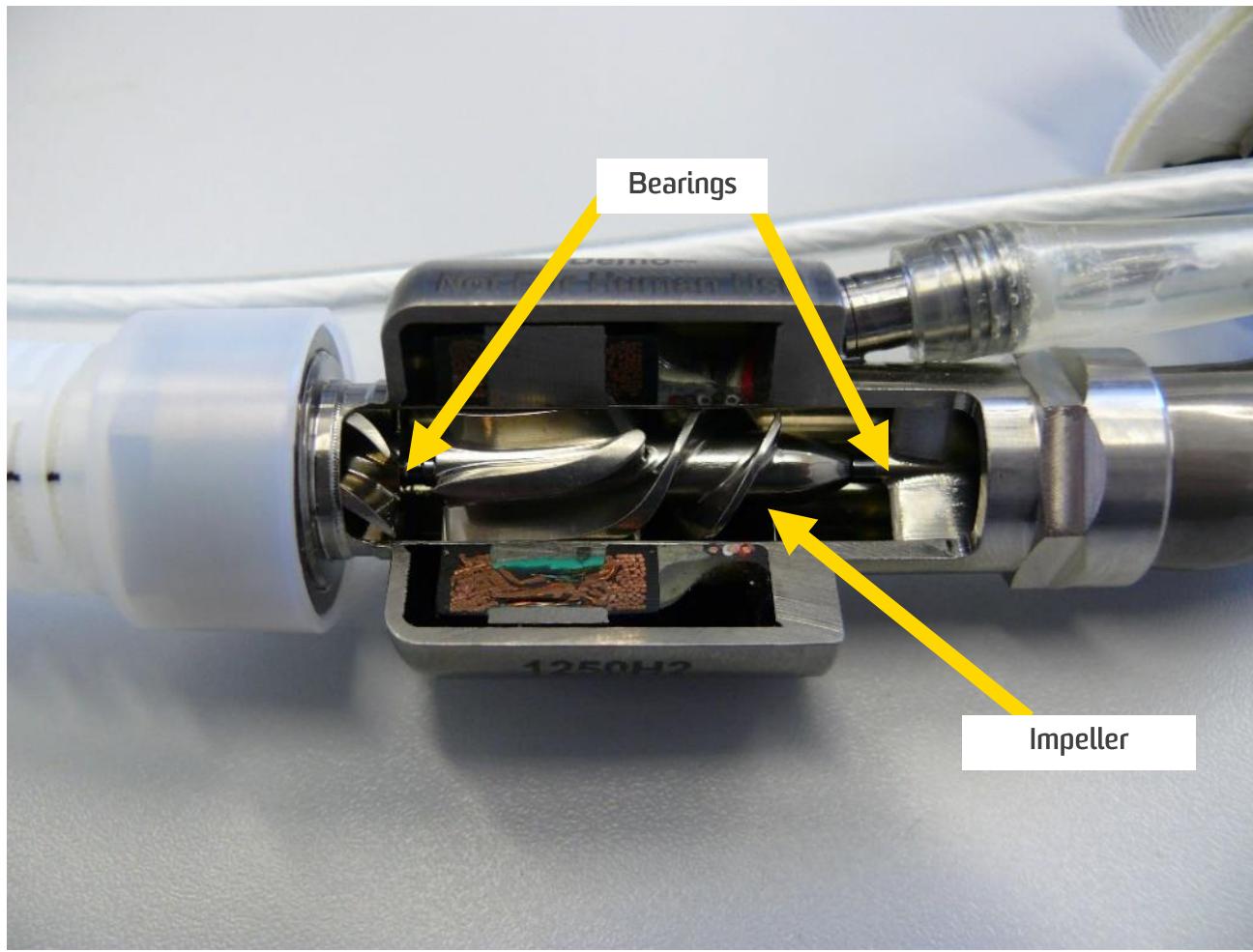
First implanted in 1998

Longest support over 8  
years

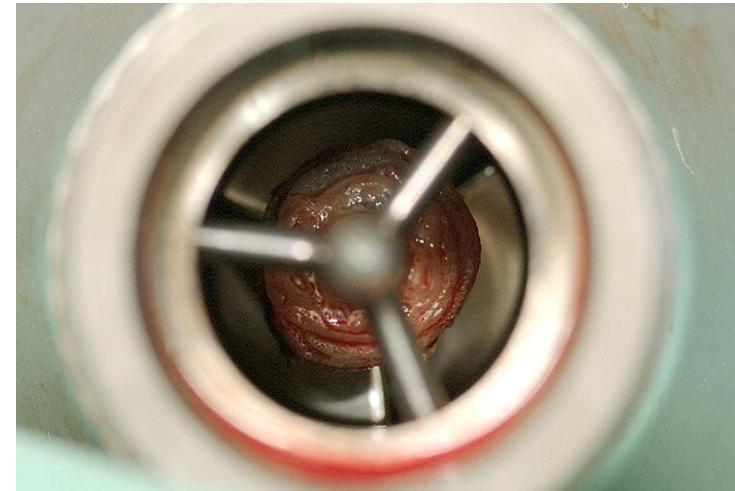
**2<sup>nd</sup> Gen.**



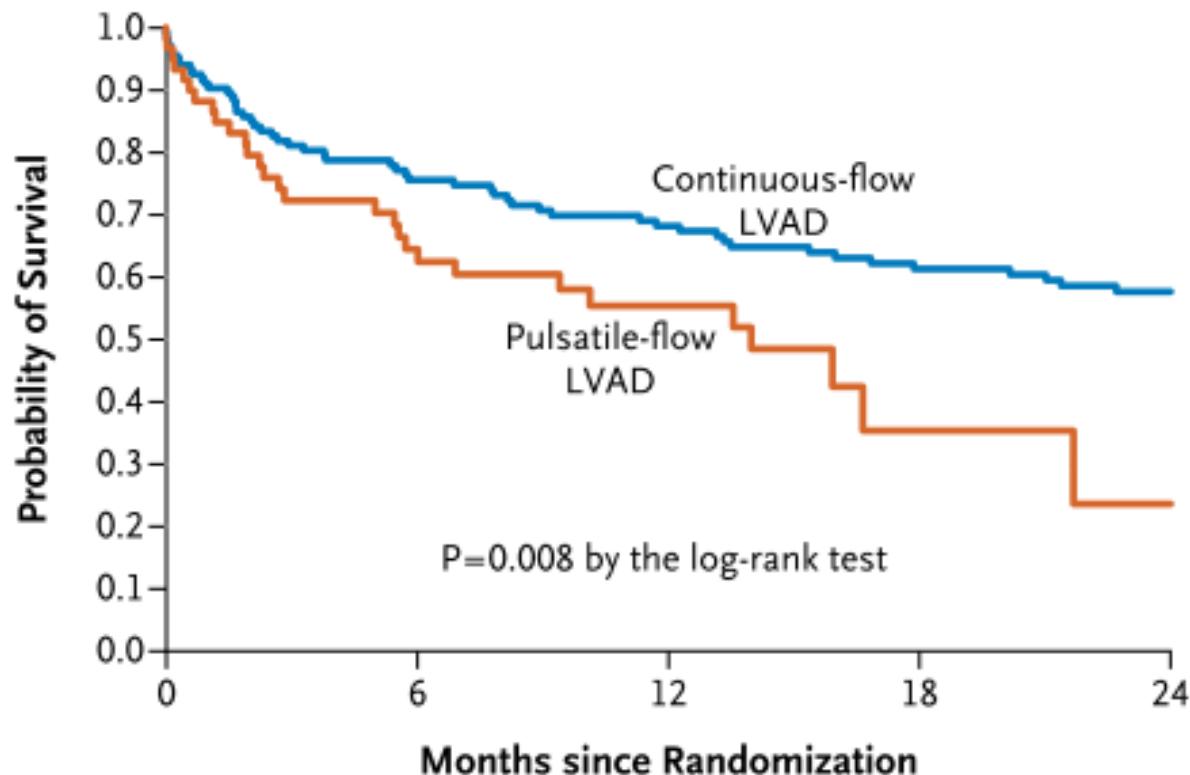
# 1998 - Second Generation LVADs



# The mechanical bearing causes issues...



# Survival on second gen LVADS better than first gen



M. S. Slaughter et al "Advanced Heart Failure Treated with Continuous-Flow Left Ventricular Assist Device," *N Engl J Med*, vol. 361, no. 23, pp. 2241–2251, Dec. 2009.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation VADs



3<sup>rd</sup> Gen.



Continuous flow

- Centrifugal
- Axial

Completely implantable

- No mechanical wear

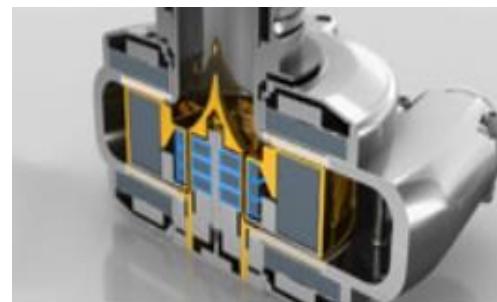
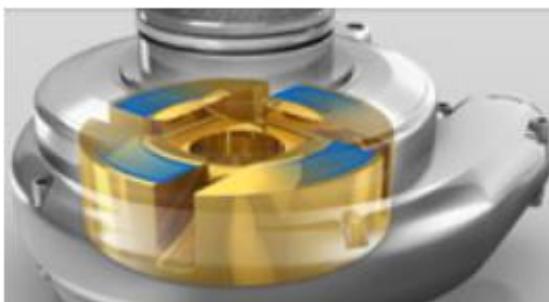
HOW?

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation LVADs have no mechanical contact between impeller and housing.

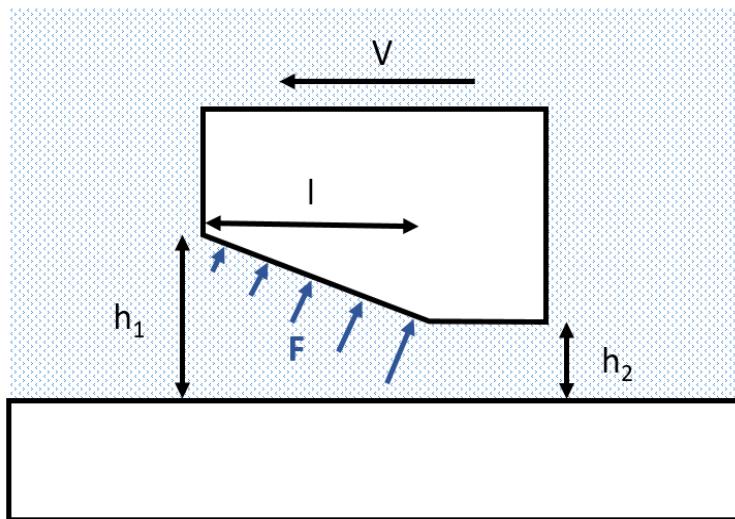


Achieved through different types of bearings:

- Hydrodynamic Bearings
- Electromagnetic Bearings



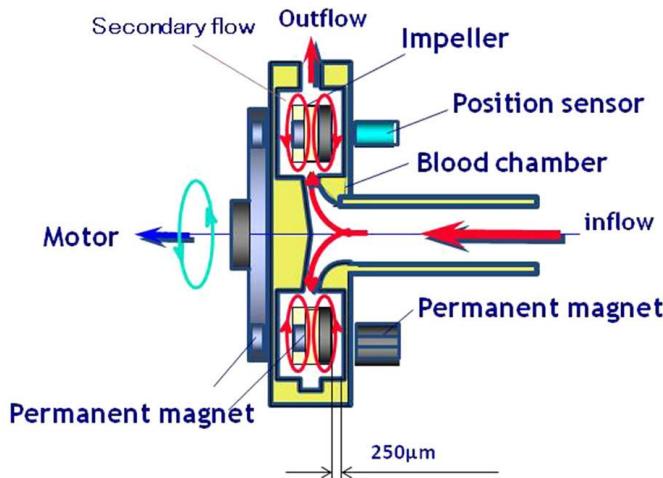
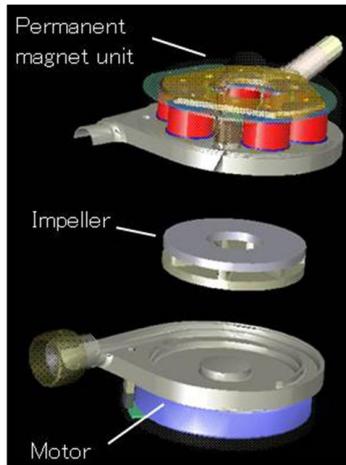
# Hydrodynamic Bearings



$$F = 0.1602 \frac{\mu V l^2}{h^2}$$

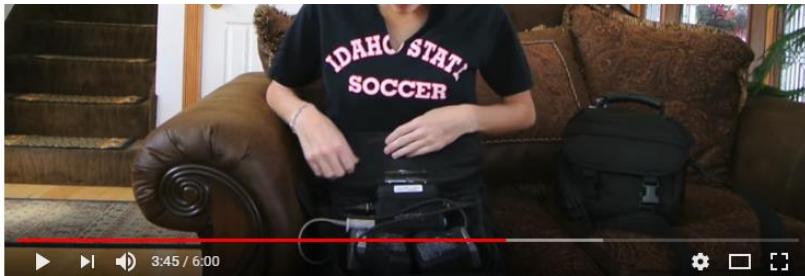
- High pressure fluid (blood) underneath rotor
- Rotor “surfs” on top of blood
- Clearance ( $h$ ) needs to be large enough to prevent blood trauma
- Small clearance ( $h$ ) required to generate pressure.
- Changes in clearance require change in speed or surface area -> knock-on effects to size and hydraulic characteristics
- Minimum start up speed required

# Electromagnetic bearings



- Impeller magnetically suspended
- Large gaps ok – great for blood!
- Magnets are large and bulky – makes device bigger and harder to implant
- Requires sensors (eddy current) for active control of rotor position

# Patient video diaries



[My LVAD "Gus"](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxDufhpmfvg>

[The Fitness Model Without a Pulse](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNUATS8Jhuk&t=0s>

[Life with a LVAD](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_eqC\\_oDQe1g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eqC_oDQe1g)

# Not just the pump!



Image from [heartware.com](http://heartware.com)



# Question

You see a patient in the intensive care unit implanted with a single left ventricular assist device. You can only see a small cable exiting the patient's skin, attached to a tiny console on the patient's bedside table. You overhear the doctors discussing that there may be some blood clots forming around the mechanical bearing. The device most likely implanted is a:

- a) First generation LVAD
- b) Second generation LVAD
- c) Third generation LVAD
- d) Total artificial heart

# Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs) - Complications

## The Major Complications

### Adverse event

- Bleeding
- Right heart failure
- Myocardial infarction
- Cardiac arrhythmia
- Pericardial drainage
- Hypertension
- Arterial non-CNS thrombosis
- Venous thrombotic event
- Hemolysis
- Infection
- Neurologic dysfunction
- Renal dysfunction
- Hepatic dysfunction
- Respiratory failure
- Wound dehiscence
- Psychiatric episode
- Total burden

# Question: Which complication do you think is the most prevalent?

## The Major Complications

- Adverse event
  - Bleeding
  - Right heart failure
  - Myocardial infarction
  - Cardiac arrhythmia
  - Pericardial drainage
  - Hypertension
  - Arterial non-CNS thrombosis
  - Venous thrombotic event
  - Hemolysis
- Infection
  - Neurologic dysfunction
  - Renal dysfunction
  - Hepatic dysfunction
- Respiratory failure
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- Psychiatric episode
- Total burden

# Bleeding

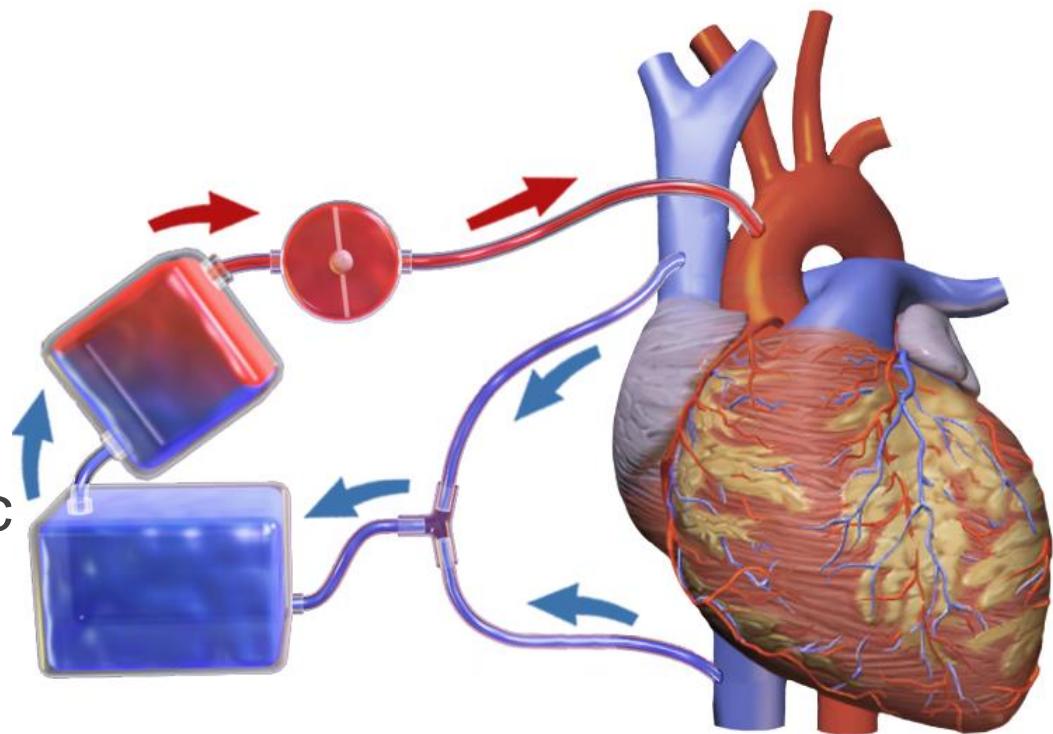
Major cause of mortality  
with VADs

Blood thinners required –  
decreases blood viscosity  
and doesn't clot

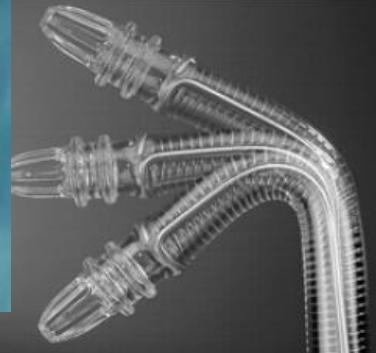
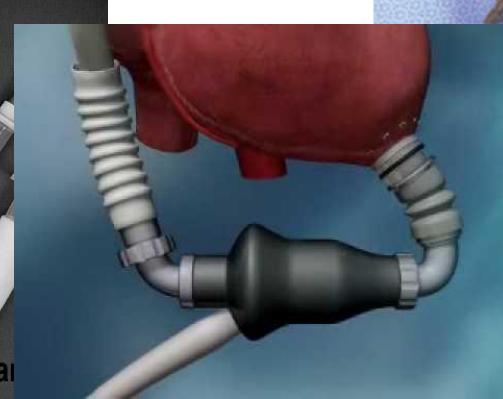
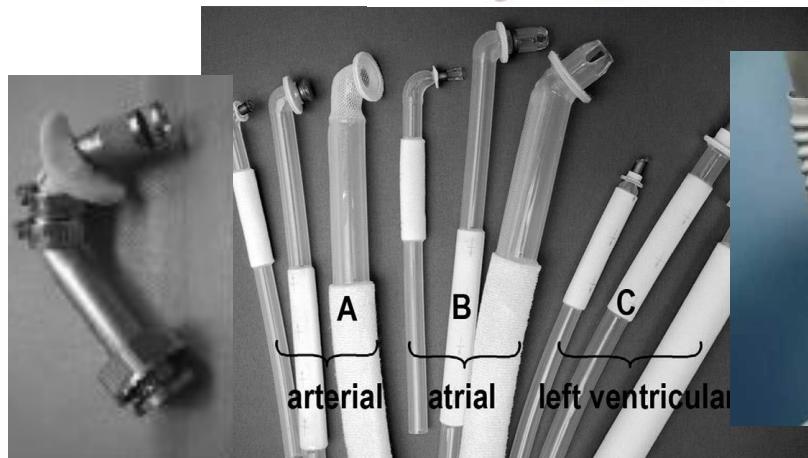
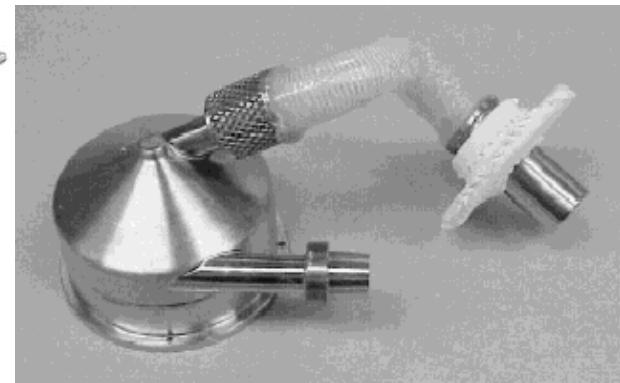
Coagulopathy issues in sic  
patients

Cardiopulmonary bypass

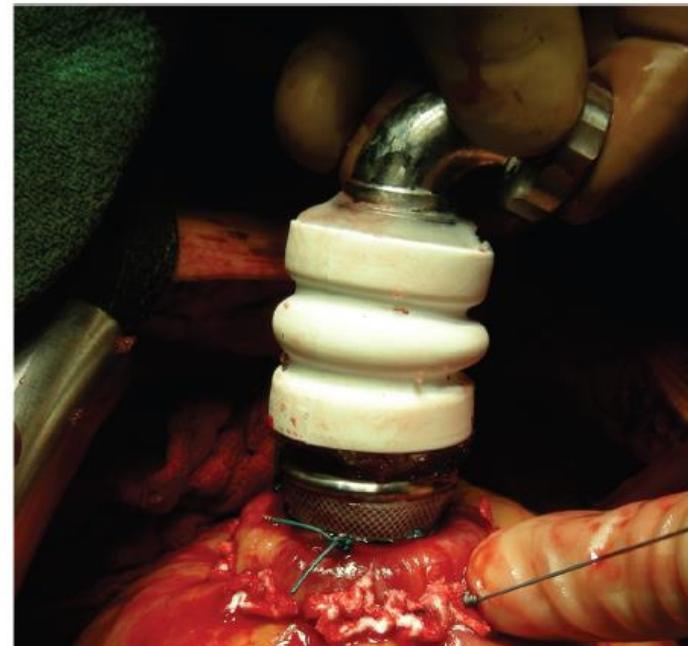
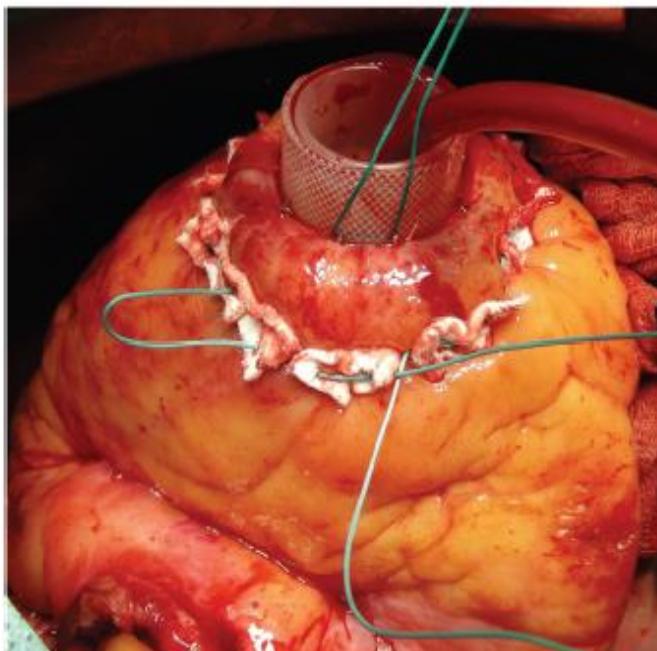
Cannula fixation



# Bleeding



# Bleeding



Operative time  $\approx$  40 mins.

# Infection

Most significant short- and long-term complication with VADs

Can spread all the way to VAD and require urgent transplant

VERY difficult to treat

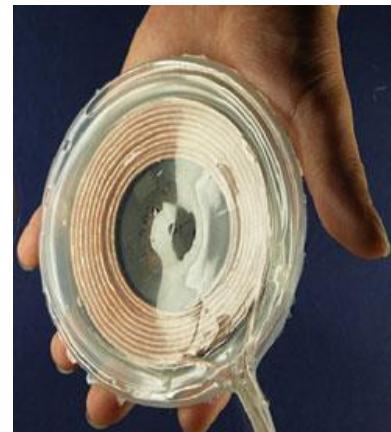
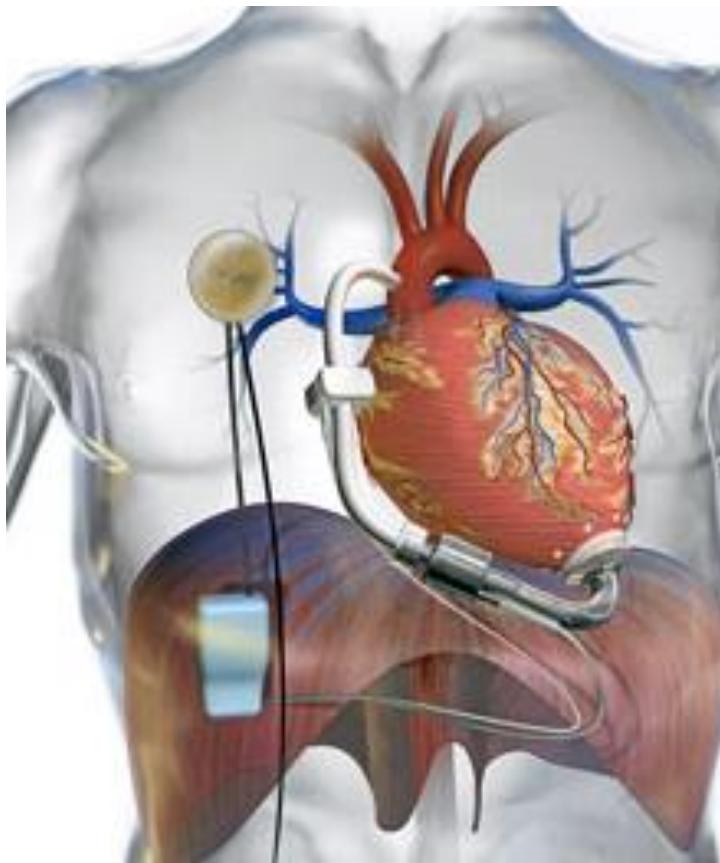
Potentially due to trauma at exit site

Driveline design and coating can influence VAD infection



# Infection

## Transcutaneous Energy Transfer

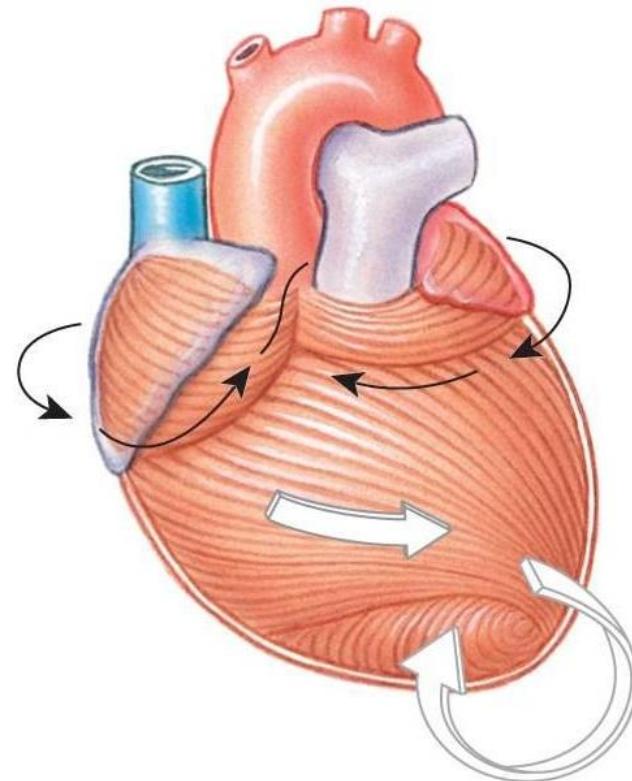
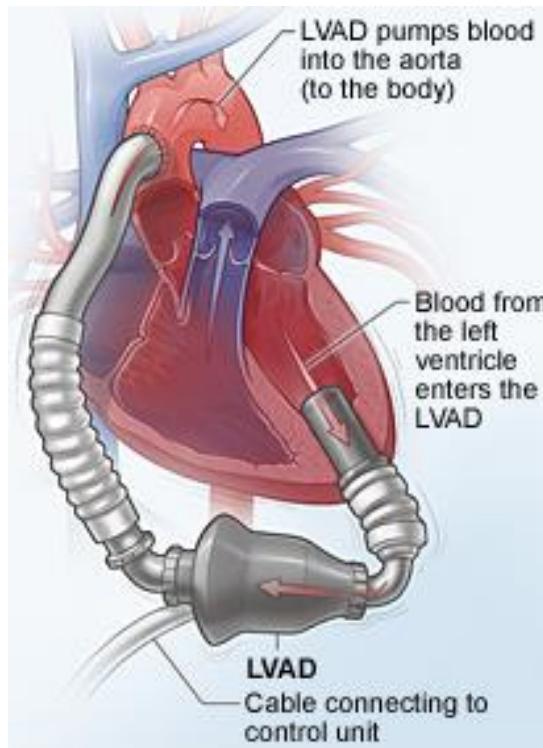


# Right Heart Failure

Right ventricle now needs to keep up with the left side

Septal position influence

Remodelling of LV and RV (and spiral muscle shape)



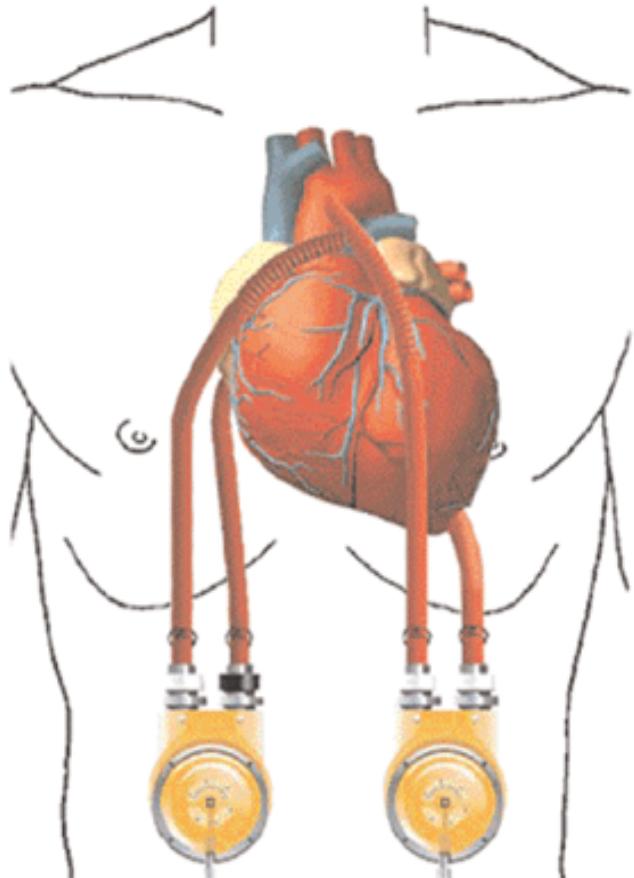
# Left and / or Right Heart Support

LVAD support more common

LVAD support often unmasks right heart failure in up to 40% of patients .

RVAD options:

- First gen devices
- Short term 3<sup>rd</sup> gen devices
  - < 30 days
- 2 x long term LVADs



# Left and / or Right Heart Support

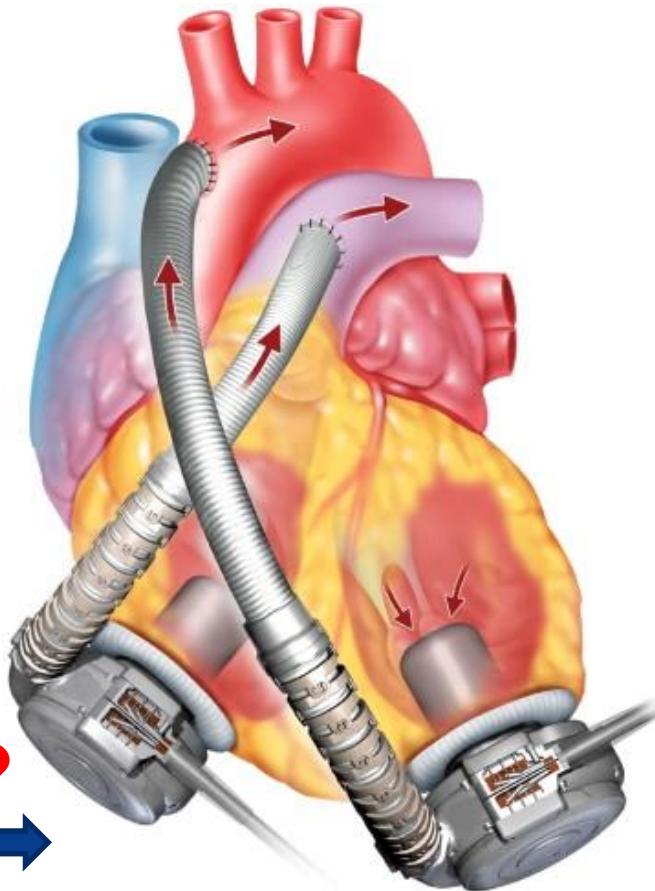
LVAD support more common

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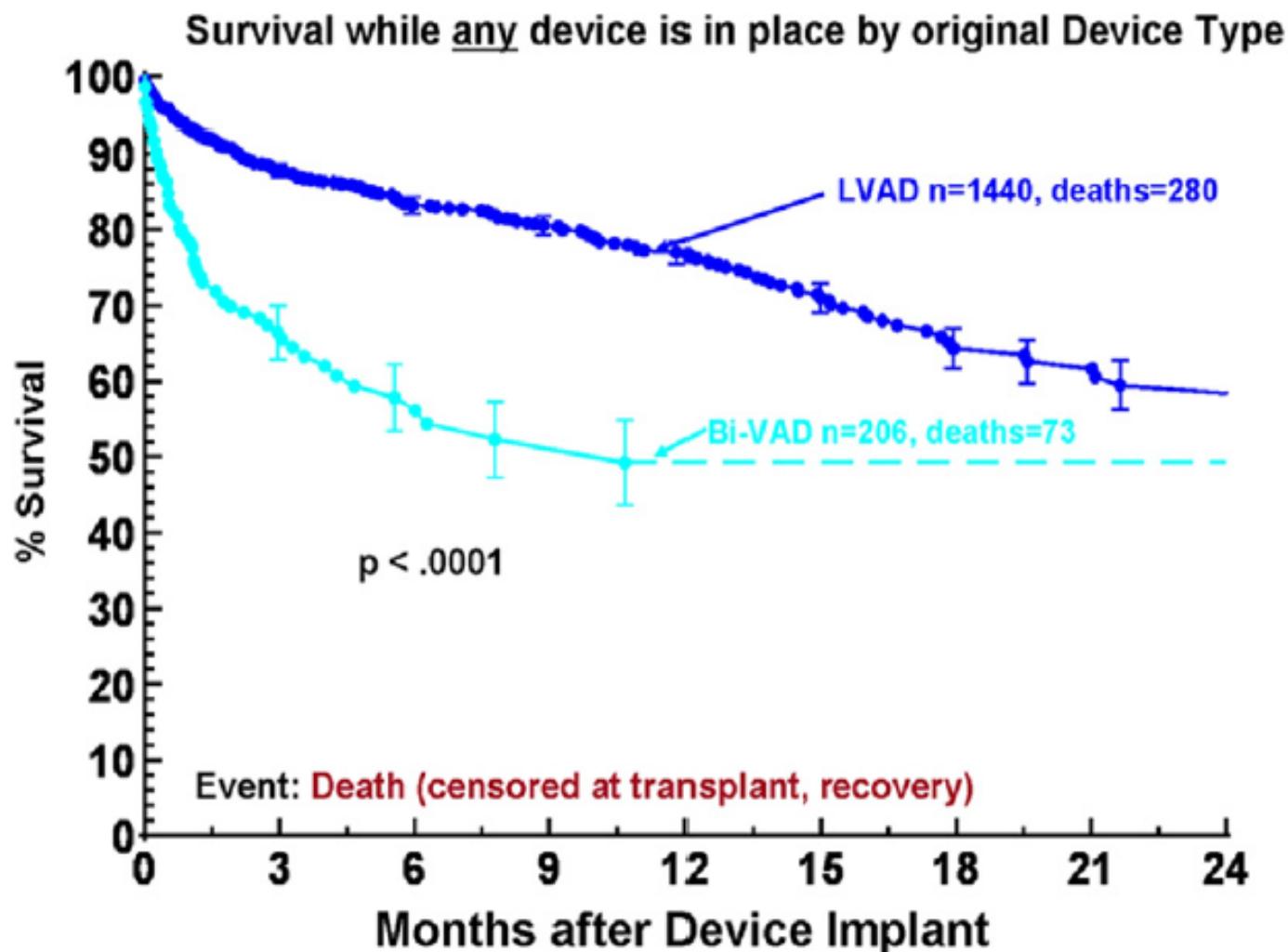
RVAD options:

- First gen devices
- Short term 3<sup>rd</sup> gen devices
  - < 30 days
- 2 x long term LVADs

**HOW?**



# Left and / or Right Heart Support



# Respiratory Failure

Some patients require prolonged ventilation after LVAD

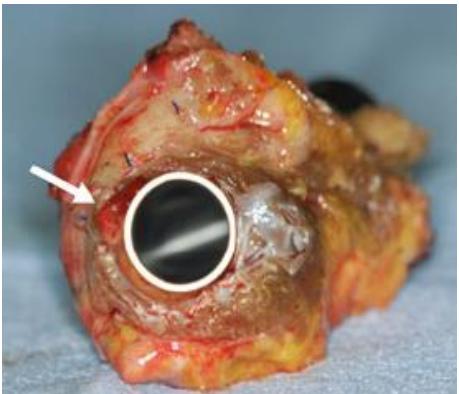
Associated with poor outcomes and high cost

Alternative options such as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)



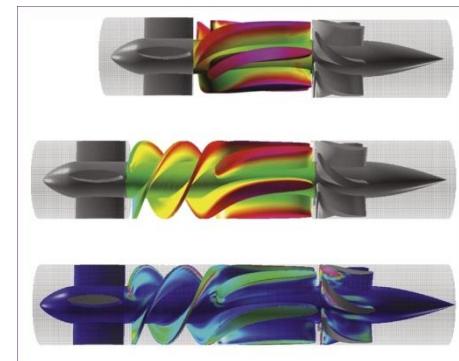
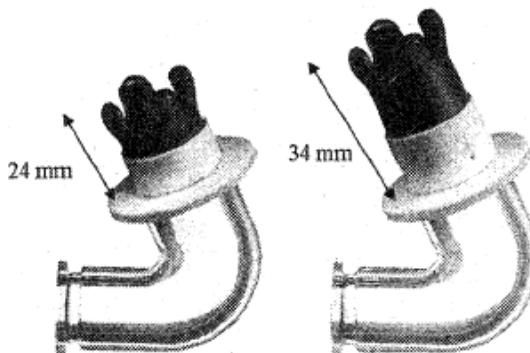
# Neurologic Dysfunction

Can be due to thrombus (clots) which form in the ventricle or LVAD



Crucial to optimise LVAD and ventricular flow dynamics

Studies have shown cannula design can reduce neurologic complications from ~23% to ~4%

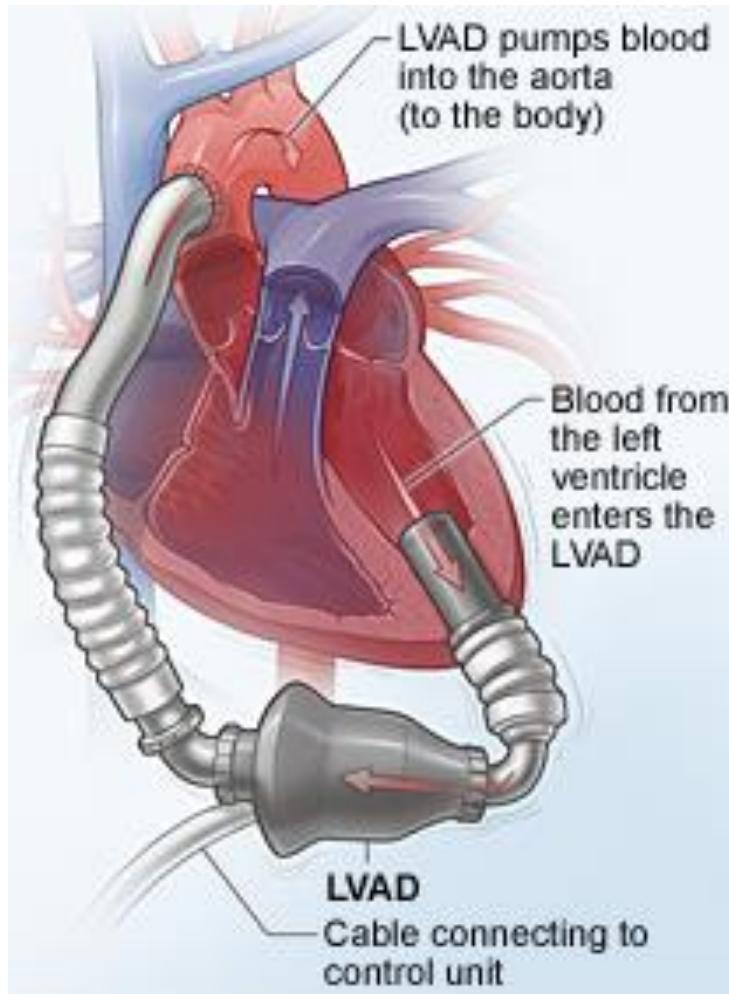


# Cardiac Arrhythmia

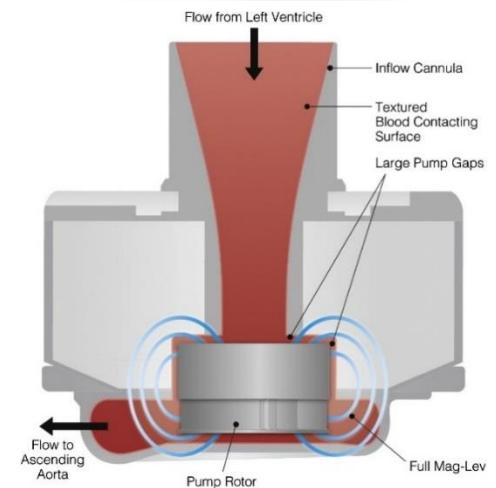
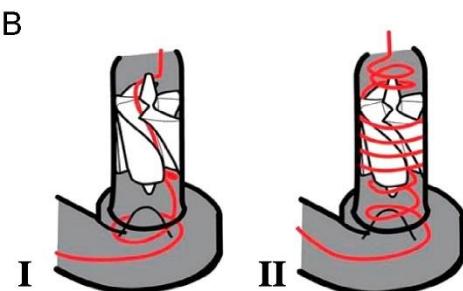
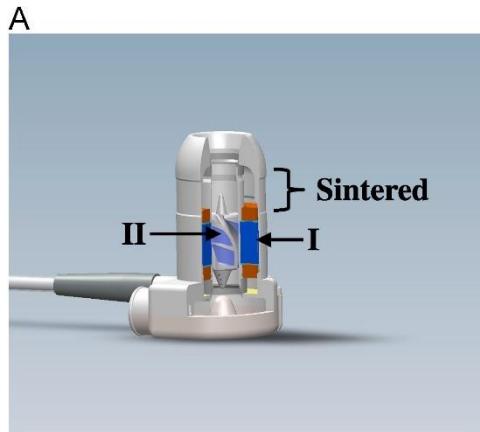
May cause reduced flow,  
right heart failure,  
thrombus

Can be caused by  
cannula – heart  
interference

Heart can be sucked  
onto the cannula by  
negative pressure  
created by LVAD



# VADs are getting smaller – is this a good thing?



# Question:

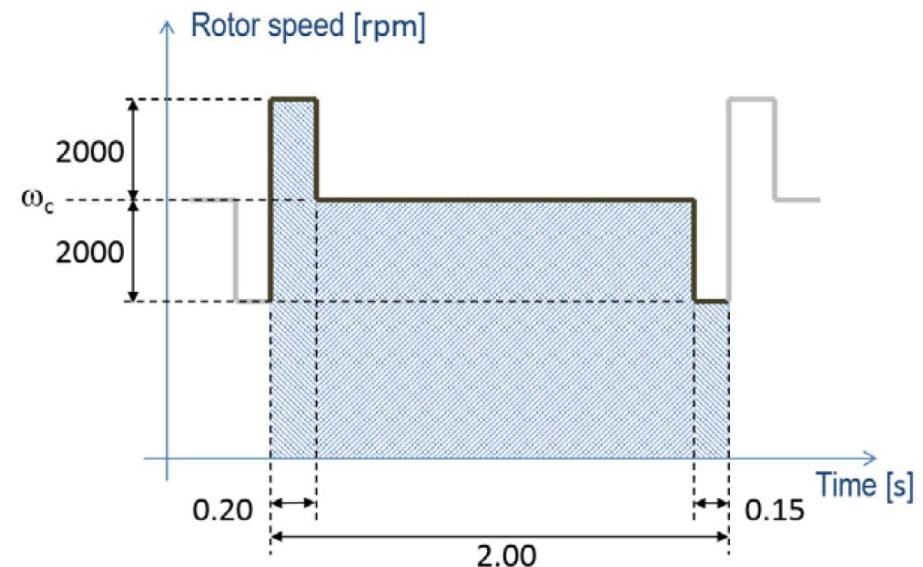
LVADs are getting smaller - is this a good thing? Give one reason for your argument.

*Example answer:*

**"Yes: I have tiny hands"**



# Generating an artificial pulse...sort of...



# Total Artificial Hearts (TAH)

Completely replaces the heart

Used if –

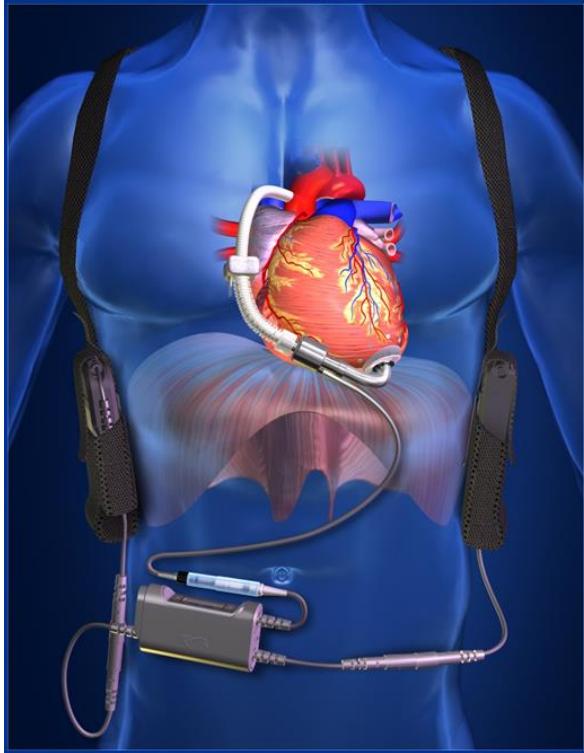
- Native heart cannot support life
- Usually ineligible for transplant

Large size – needs a large patient

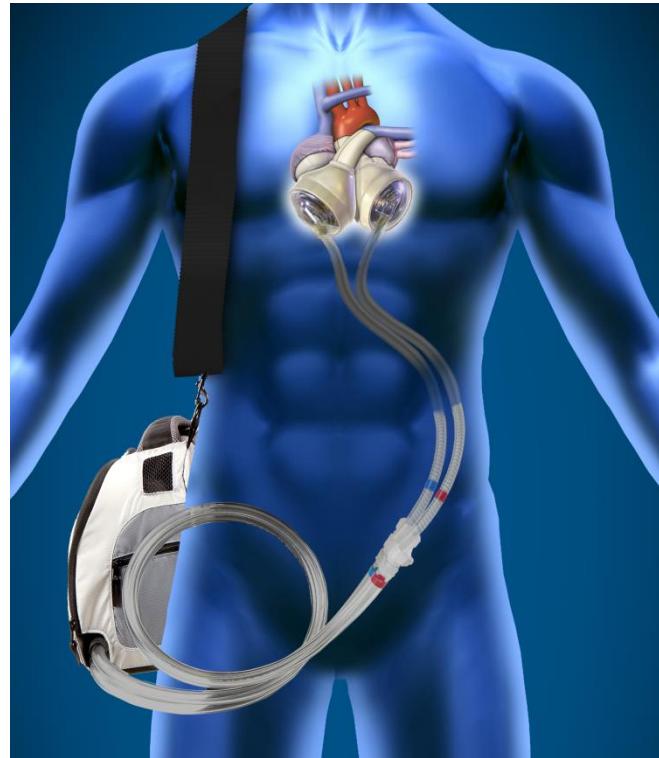
(Some women and children ineligible)



# Total Artificial Hearts (TAH)

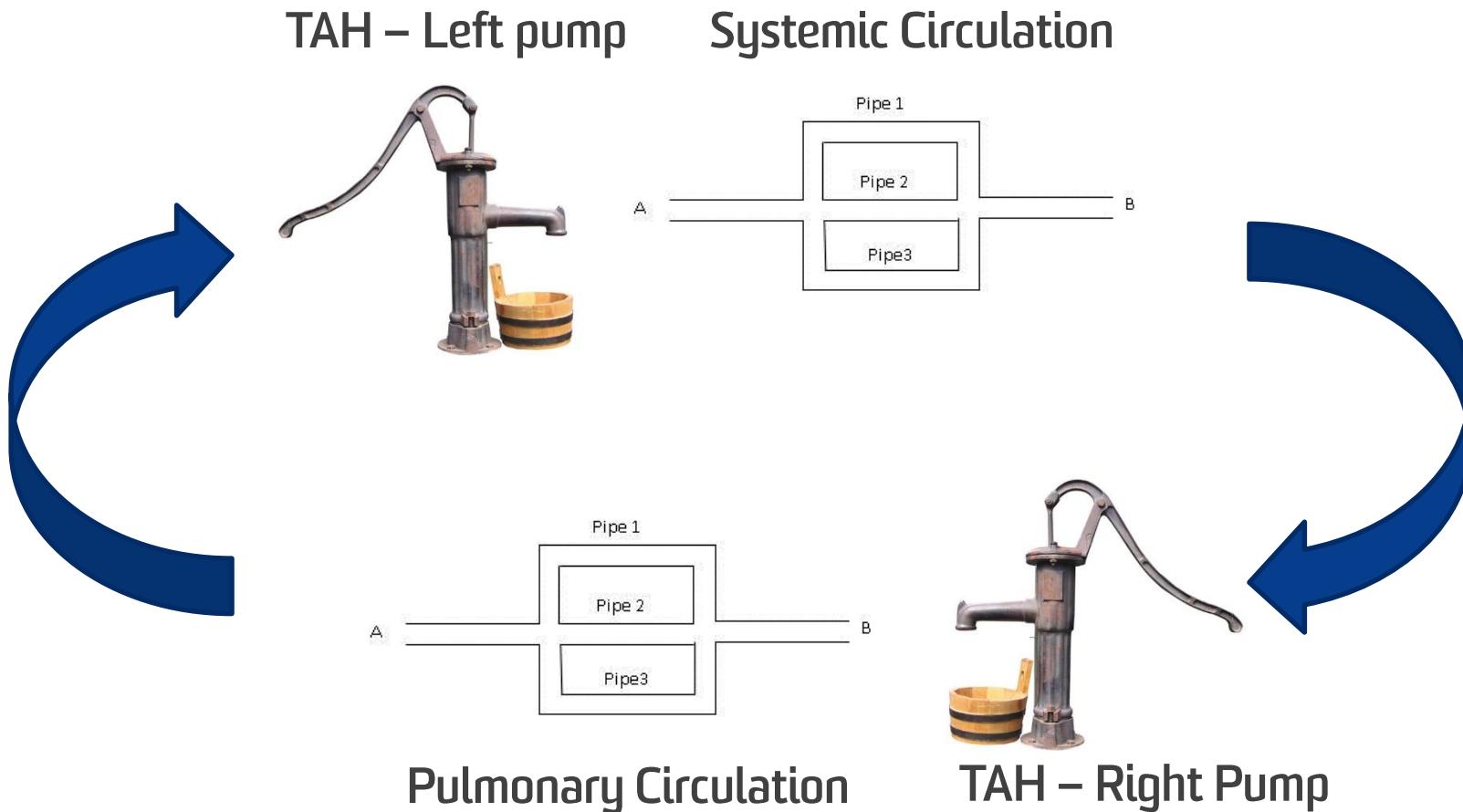


Left ventricular assist  
device (LVAD)



Total artificial heart  
(TAH)

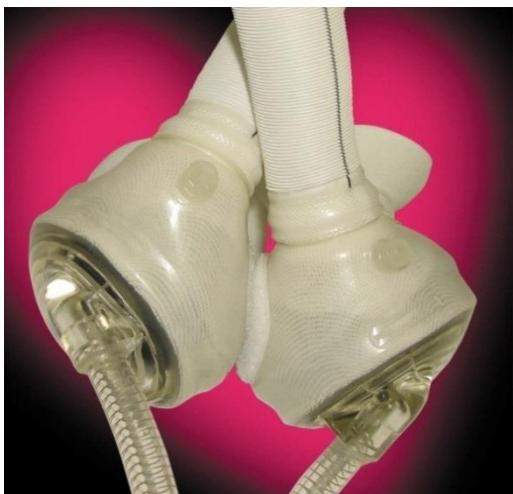
# How do TAHs fit into the plumbing analogy?



# Total Artificial Hearts (TAH)

## Syncardia

Pulsatile pneumatics  
>1300 implants  
4 years support  
Infection



## Abiocor

Pusher plate  
TETS  
Blood clots  
Taken off market



## Carmat

Pusher plate  
Biological coating  
<5 implants  
Limited success so far



# 1969 – First Human TAH Implant



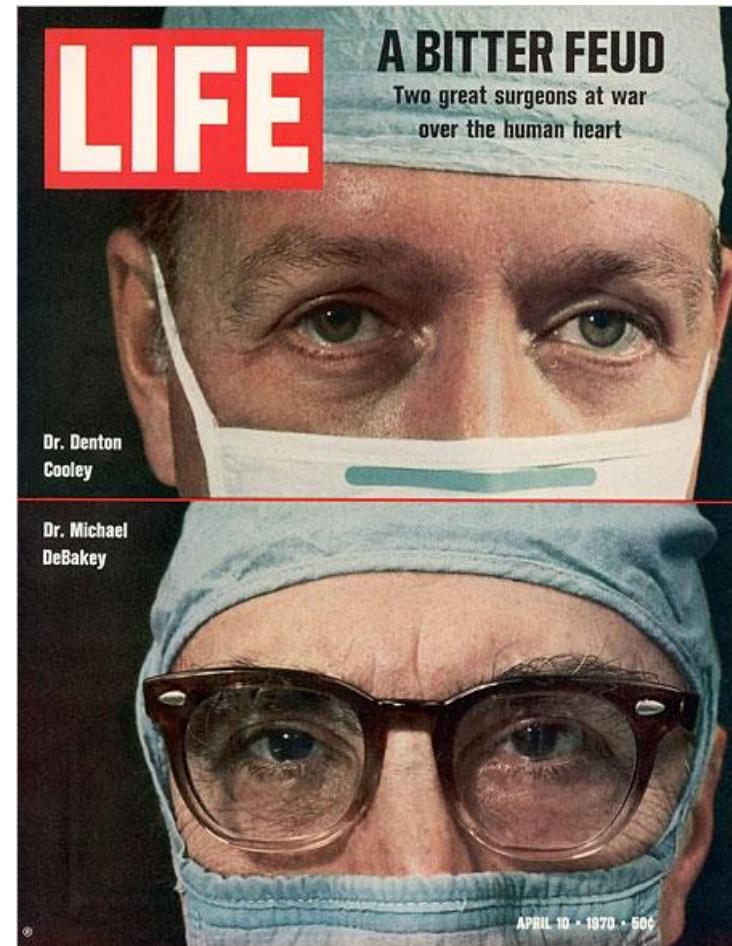
- Patient: Haskell Karp
- Device: Liotta-Cooley TAH...
- Support duration: 65 hours
- Heart Transplant
  - Died 32 hours later, renal failure and bronchopneumonia

## Great milestone in the TAH community?

- Shirley Karp (wife): filed a lawsuit against Cooley/Liotta and St Luke's Hospital
- Judge ruled in favour of Cooley/Liotta.

# 1969 - TAHs were at the centre of one of the biggest feuds in medicine

- Denton Cooley, associate of DeBakey
- 1960: Cooley moved out of Baylor and into St Luke's Hospital, establishing famous Texas Heart Institute
- 1969: Cooley commandeered an artificial heart from DeBakey's lab at Baylor and implanted into patient at St Luke's, without permission. First ever human implant.
- Cooley censured by American College of Surgeons
- 40 year feud, reconciled before Debakey died in 2008.



# Total Artificial Hearts (TAH)



Longest support to date: Almost 4 years

# Recent News: Driver failure has caused increased mortality in TAH patients



[https://www.tctmd.com/news/fda-warns-deaths-stroke-due-power-system-problems-total-artificial-heart-system?utm\\_source=TCTMD](https://www.tctmd.com/news/fda-warns-deaths-stroke-due-power-system-problems-total-artificial-heart-system?utm_source=TCTMD)

# Notice one thing about these TAHs?

They pulse...therefore, they are first generation devices

What about second and third generation TAHs?

Continuous Flow TAHs – Can the human body be supported with only continuous flow?

# 2 x LVAD as a TAH. – Video (4 min)

## WARNING

This video contain graphic content of open heart surgery in humans and animals.

It is also overly-dramatic

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/33741794?title=0&byline=0&portrait=0>

# TAHs Under Development



Cleveland Clinic  
Short term in-vivo



BiVACOR  
Short term in-vivo

TAH owned and commercialized by  
BiVACOR inc, Houston, Texas

Links to international research centres  
in Australia, Japan, Germany, Taiwan

3<sup>rd</sup> generation

- Zero mechanical wear

Flow balancing

- Automatically adjusts impeller speed  
and position to deliver required  
blood flow



Image courtesy of bivacor.com

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/special-features/bivacor-heart-daniel-timms-stroke-of-genius/news-story/5bf85088fbe2d148b8028db1c7eb3a40?nk=6ba94a6496363b3c2e86978c864d8373-1534804000>

# Question:

Which do you think is better to implant: a total artificial heart (TAH) or a VAD? Give one reason why

Think about:

- Advantages/disadvantages of leaving the ventricles in
- Size of each device
- Which surgery is easier?
- Cost?

Answer example:

"VAD: They are more shiny"

# VAD or TAH?

## SIZE

VAD

HeartWare's HVAD



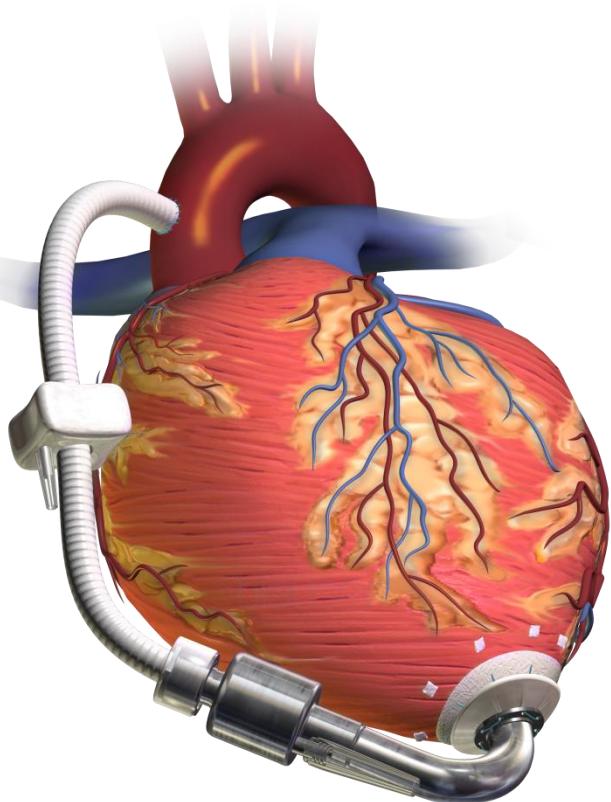
TAH



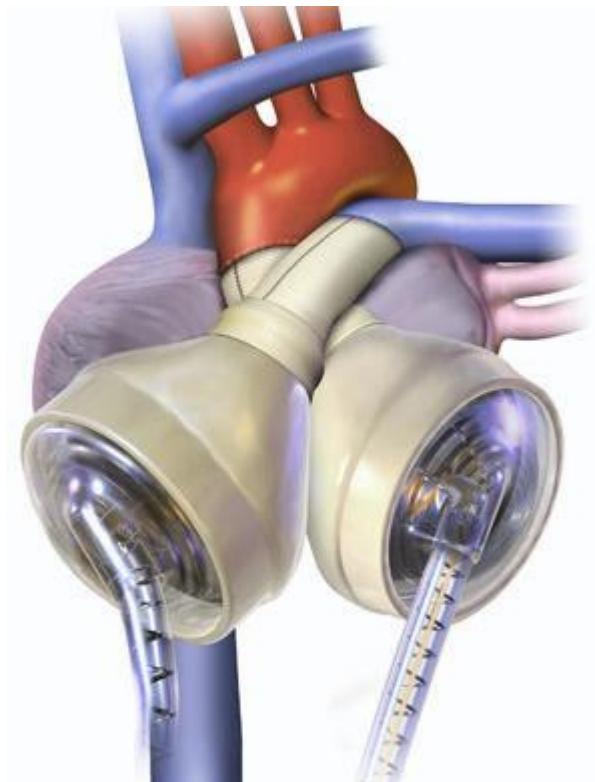
# VAD or TAH?

## IMPLANTATION

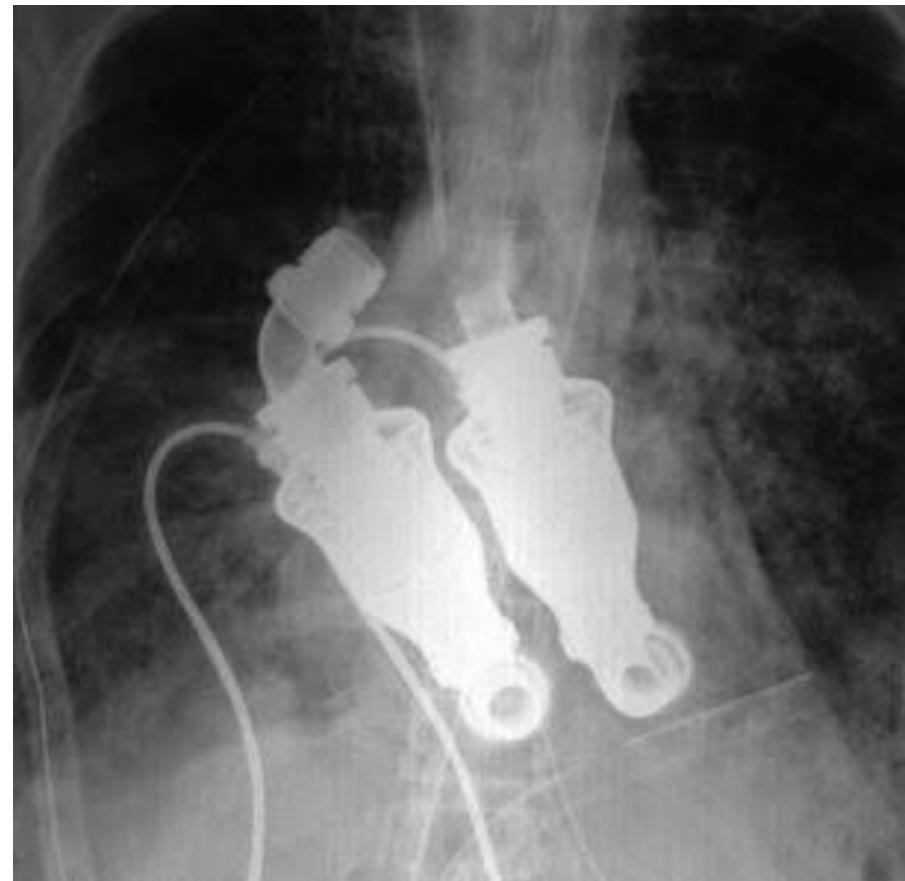
VAD



TAH



# VAD AS TAH



Dual HMII LVADs as TAH

# What next?

1. Finish the cardiovascular system videos (if you haven't done so already).
2. Watch the two remaining videos on the Moodle page
  - "LVAD and its peripherals"
  - "LVAD in action"

## Before the tutorial

Read the review paper by Samak et al. (2015), located on Moodle (or online here

<https://basic.medscimonit.com/abstract/index/idArt/895418>)

## During the tutorial

Work in groups to solve the problems – follow your tutor's instructions

Refer to the lecture notes to answer the questions

# Thank you!

- Email me ([michael.stevens@unsw.edu.au](mailto:michael.stevens@unsw.edu.au)) if you have any questions!