

Every Dose, Every Day



From childhood on, we have been taught that proper care and maintenance of equipment will prolong its life and use. A VAD is no different. Your life depends on proper care and maintenance of all parts of the device, as well as yourself. Below are some tips to help you get the most out of the life of your device.

Self-Care	Device Care
Change the driveline dressing as instructed by your VAD center	Do not use any cleaners on your driveline or controller without checking with your VAD coordinator first.
Alert your coordinator with any sign or symptoms such as: Redness, Tenderness, Itching or drainage from the site	Always have your controller bag secured to something or someone, so that it does not drop to the ground or pull on the driveline.
Be sure and get your labs drawn on a routine basis, especially your PT/INR	Do not expose the external components of the device to water and do not submerge yourself in water
Contact your VAD coordinator prior to travel	Do not vacuum, as this may cause static electricity
Alert outside physicians and dentists to the fact you are on a blood thinner. Never stop the medication for a procedure, without checking with your VAD coordinator first.	Do not expose to magnets (such as MRI, metal detectors)
Always call your coordinator when you are asked to start a new medication, especially an antibiotic, as this may alter your blood thinner levels.	The controller and charged batteries should ALWAYS be within arm's reach
Be sure and bring ample supply of batteries or power sources when you travel out of your home.	Use a 3 pronged outlet only and do not charge your device off of a power strip or generator
You still need regular medical check-ups and dental appointments. Be sure and visit your primary care doctor on a routine basis for non-cardiac care.	Always secure the driveline with a plastic clip or anchor. To prevent your driveline from risk of fraying or fracturing (which will cause the connection to fail), make a daily effort to untangle your driveline so that it does not kink or bend.

