

About the CardioWest™ temporary Total Artificial Heart

The CardioWest™ TAH-t is a pneumatic, biventricular, implantable bridge-to-transplant system for full cardiac replacement, taking the place of the failing heart in patients at imminent risk of death. The device offers full circulatory support, the shortest blood path and exposure to artificial surfaces, and the highest level of cardiac output when compared with other artificial heart systems previously tested. With the CardioWest™ TAH-t, patients become better candidates for eventual transplantation and have post-transplant survival rates equal to that of non-device cardiac recipients.

About SynCardia Systems

Founded in 2001, SynCardia Systems is the developer of biomechanical cardiac replacement and assist devices. Its CardioWest™ temporary Total Artificial Heart (TAH-t) is designed for severely ill patients with end-stage congestive heart failure. The device serves as an in-hospital bridge-to-transplantation for patients at imminent risk of death. SynCardia Systems is based in Tucson, Arizona and is on the Web at <http://www.syncardia.com>.

The Drivers:

To power the TAH-t, external pneumatic drivers provide pulses of air and vacuum that make the TAH-t pump blood like a human heart. Two drivers are currently in use with a third driver, an ultramodern universal driver nearing completion of development.

Big Blue:

The original driver, nicknamed Big Blue for its large size and blue color, is used by hospitals in the United States and Europe. Robust in design, it powers the TAH-t in the Operating Room and is used throughout the patient's hospital recovery until the patient receives a human heart transplant.

EXCOR® TAH-t Portable Driver (Europe only):

Since receiving the CE Mark in July, 2006, granting approval for use in Europe, the EXCOR TAH-t portable driver has been used both in the hospital and for stable TAH-t patients recovery at home. At-home living speeds recuperation, dramatically lowers costs and improves patients' quality of life. The EXCOR TAH-t driver allows many patients to leave home to shop, visit friends and enjoy a fuller life. This driver is not approved by the FDA for use in the U.S.