

LifeVest®

Overview

The LifeVest® wearable defibrillator is manufactured by ZOLL in its Pittsburgh, PA facility. The LifeVest wearable defibrillator is worn by patients at risk for sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), providing protection during their changing condition and while permanent SCA risk has not been established. The LifeVest allows a patient's physician time to assess their long-term arrhythmic risk and make appropriate plans.

To date, the LifeVest has been prescribed to more than 25,000 patients.

Physical Attributes

The LifeVest is lightweight and easy to wear, allowing patients to return to their activities of daily living, while having the peace of mind that they are protected from SCA. The LifeVest is non-invasive and consists of two main components – a garment and a monitor. The garment, worn under the clothing, detects arrhythmias and delivers treatment shocks. The monitor is worn around the waist or from a shoulder strap and continuously monitors the patient's heart.



Protecting Patients

If a life-threatening heart rhythm is detected, the device alerts bystanders and delivers a treatment shock to restore normal heart rhythm. The entire event, from detecting a life-threatening arrhythmia to automatically delivering a treatment shock, usually occurs in less than a minute. Timely defibrillation is the single most important factor in saving a SCA victim's life. A treatment shock must be delivered within a few minutes after an event to be effective; with each passing minute, a patient's chances of survival drops 10 percent. The LifeVest does not require bystander intervention and has a 98 percent first treatment shock success rate for resuscitating patients from SCA.



Insurance Coverage

The LifeVest is used for a wide range of patient conditions or situations, including following a heart attack, before or after bypass surgery or stent placement, as well as for those with cardiomyopathy or congestive heart failure that places them at particular risk.

The LifeVest is covered by most health plans in the United States, including commercial, state, and federal plans. This list summarizes the types of patient conditions and situations that are covered. The patient's specific health plan coverage policy should be reviewed to determine coverage for prescribing a LifeVest.

- Primary prevention (EF \leq 35% and MI, NICM, or other DCM), including:
 - After recent MI (Coverage during the 40 day ICD waiting period)
 - Before and after CABG or PTCA (Coverage during the 90 day ICD waiting period)
 - Listed for cardiac transplant
 - Recently diagnosed nonischemic cardiomyopathy (Coverage during the 3 to 9 month ICD waiting period)
 - NYHA class IV heart failure
 - Terminal disease with life expectancy of less than 1 year
- ICD indications when patient condition delays or prohibits ICD implantation
- ICD explantation

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