

Overview

The LifeVest® wearable cardioverter defibrillator (WCD) is manufactured by ZOLL in its Pittsburgh, PA, facility. The LifeVest WCD is worn by patients at risk for sudden cardiac death (SCD), providing protection when a patient's condition is changing and permanent SCD risk has not been established. LifeVest is designed to detect certain life-threatening rapid heart rhythms and automatically deliver a treatment shock to save a patient's life.

Peace of Mind and Lifesaving Therapy

While some defibrillator devices are implanted under the skin, the LifeVest WCD is worn directly against the patient's skin. LifeVest is lightweight and easy to wear, allowing patients to return to most common activities of daily life, like work, shopping, and moderate exercise with peace of mind that they have protection from SCD.

LifeVest is non-invasive and consists of a garment, an electrode belt, and a monitor. The garment, worn under the clothing, contains the electrode belt, which is designed to detect certain rapid heart rhythms and deliver treatment shocks. The monitor is worn around the waist or from a shoulder strap and is designed to continuously monitor the patient's heart.



Timely defibrillation is the single most important factor in saving a victim from SCD. 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.

If certain life-threatening rapid heart rhythms are detected, LifeVest is designed to alert bystanders and deliver a treatment shock to restore a normal heart rhythm. LifeVest does not require bystander intervention. In a typical situation, the entire event, from detecting a life-threatening rapid heartbeat to automatically delivering a shock, occurs in about one minute.



Protecting Patients

LifeVest is used for a wide range of patients, including those who have a reduced heart function following a heart attack, before or after bypass surgery or stent placement, or for those with cardiomyopathy or heart failure that places them at particular risk. LifeVest allows a patient's physician time to assess their long-term arrhythmic risk and make appropriate plans.

The LifeVest WCD 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 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

On any given day, tens of thousands of people around the world have protection from SCD by wearing the LifeVest WCD.

Media Contact

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