



Balloon Pump Therapy

Helping your heart

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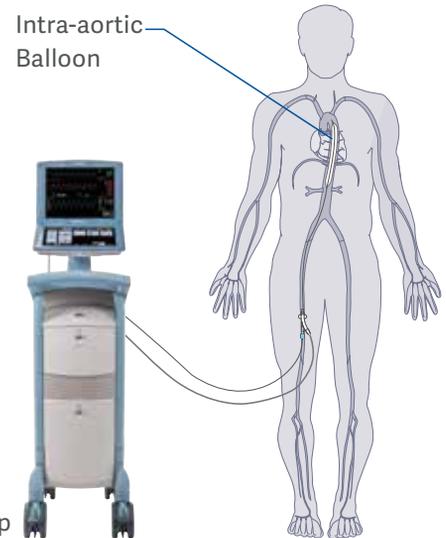
Balloon Pump Therapy

Helping the heart



For patients with certain heart conditions, the use of an Intra-aortic Balloon Pump is an effective way to help the heart work more efficiently. The balloon pump helps by increasing the amount of oxygen to the heart, while decreasing the workload on the heart.

If your doctor has prescribed Intra-aortic Balloon Pump therapy, you're in good company. More than 185,000 patients throughout the world receive this therapy each year.



Intra-aortic
Balloon Pump

The Intra-aortic Balloon assists your heart during both its rest phase and work phase. In the rest phase of the heart, the balloon inflates, pushing more oxygen-rich blood to your coronary arteries. In the work phase of the heart, the balloon deflates, decreasing the blood pressure in the aorta, which makes it easier for the heart to eject blood. This takes the workload off the heart, allowing it to function more efficiently.

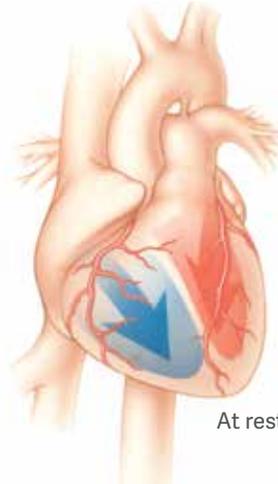
Your Heart

How it works



At work

Your heart is a muscular pump with a very demanding job: to pump oxygen-rich blood to every part of your body. Once your body's tissues have taken the oxygen needed, the oxygen-depleted blood is returned to the two chambers on the right side of your heart. These chambers then pump the blood into your lungs, where it is replenished with fresh oxygen and returned to the left side of your heart.



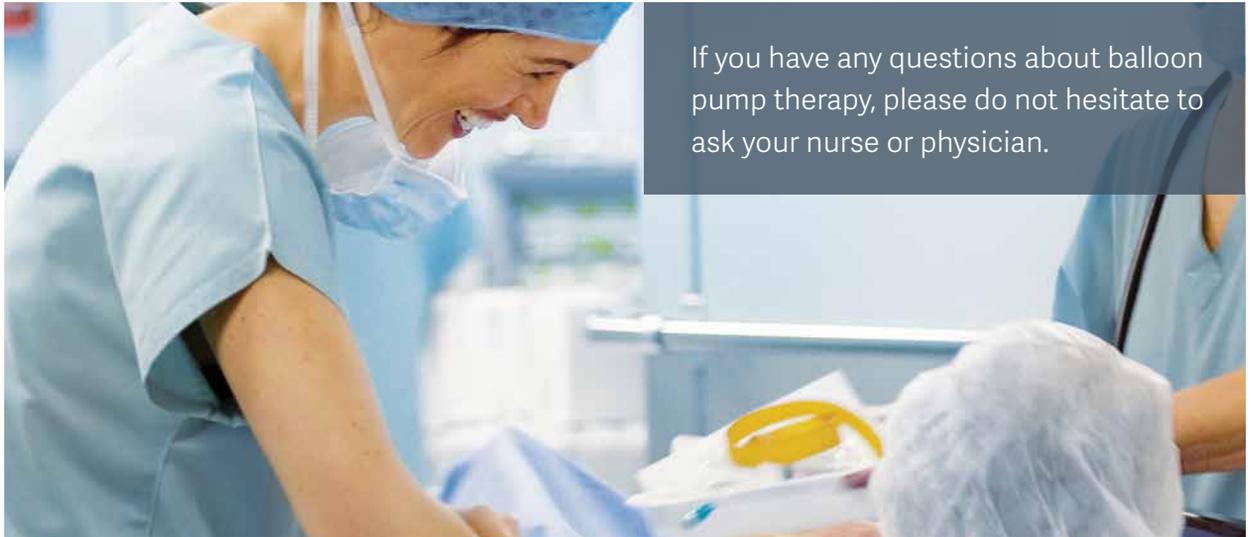
At rest

During the heart's work phase, the two left chambers of your heart pump the newly oxygenated blood throughout your body once again. The oxygen-rich blood leaves your heart through the aorta, which is the largest artery in your body.

Of course, your heart needs its own continuous supply of fuel in order to work efficiently. It has a network of oxygen supply lines called coronary arteries, which begin at the base of your aorta and surround your heart muscle in the same way the fingers of your hand wrap around a ball.

What to Expect

During Intra-aortic Balloon Pump Therapy



If you have any questions about balloon pump therapy, please do not hesitate to ask your nurse or physician.

Most likely, the therapy will be initiated in a Cardiac Cath Lab or an Operating Room; and afterwards, you will be taken to an Intensive Care Unit. Here are a few tips that can help you feel more at ease:

- **Bed rest is important during the therapy.** To help ensure that your balloon catheter functions properly, don't sit up, get out of bed, or bend the leg in which the balloon catheter is inserted.
- **You will be able to hear the balloon pump machine inflating and deflating.** Don't be concerned when the balloon pump stops briefly, as it is programmed to do so at certain intervals. During this time, your heart will continue to beat on its own.

Remember, a nurse or health care professional trained in the operation of the balloon pump will be monitoring the machine throughout your therapy.

- **Let your nurse or physician know if you notice any changes in your condition,** particularly chest pain, chest heaviness, numbness or tingling.
- **When the therapy is no longer needed,** a physician or other trained health care professional will remove the balloon catheter and hold pressure on the site until the bleeding stops. You will be on bed rest for a while after that and your nurse will give you instructions on when you can bend your leg, sit up and get out of bed.





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