

UNDERSTANDING ECMO

FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

What is ECMO?

ExtraCorporeal Membrane Oxygenation

ExtraCorporeal Life Support (ECLS)

Provides temporary support for patients with severe cardiac and/or pulmonary failure and can completely or partially replace the function of the heart and/or lungs.

How does ECMO work?

Mechanical cardiopulmonary assistance supports patients that are unresponsive to more conventional care.

- Provides systemic perfusion and gas exchange
- Allows the heart and/or lungs to rest and recover or to bridge to a different form of support or transplantation

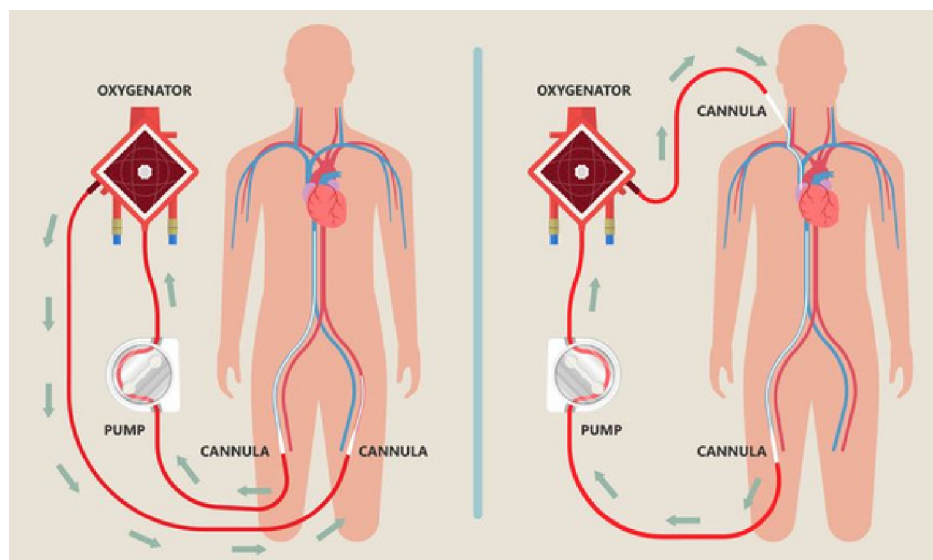
What are the types of ECMO?

Veno-Arterial (VA) ECMO

Supports the Heart and Lungs

Veno-Venous (VV) ECMO

Supports the Lungs ONLY



Provides respiratory & cardiovascular support

Allows oxygen-rich blood to circulate through the body even if the heart is too weak to pump it

Most of the patient's blood runs through the circuit, bypassing the heart and the lungs

Drains blood from a major vein and returns to a major artery

Provides respiratory support ONLY

Patient's cardiac function must be intact

Delivers full or partial extracorporeal pulmonary support

Drains blood from a major vein and returns to a major vein