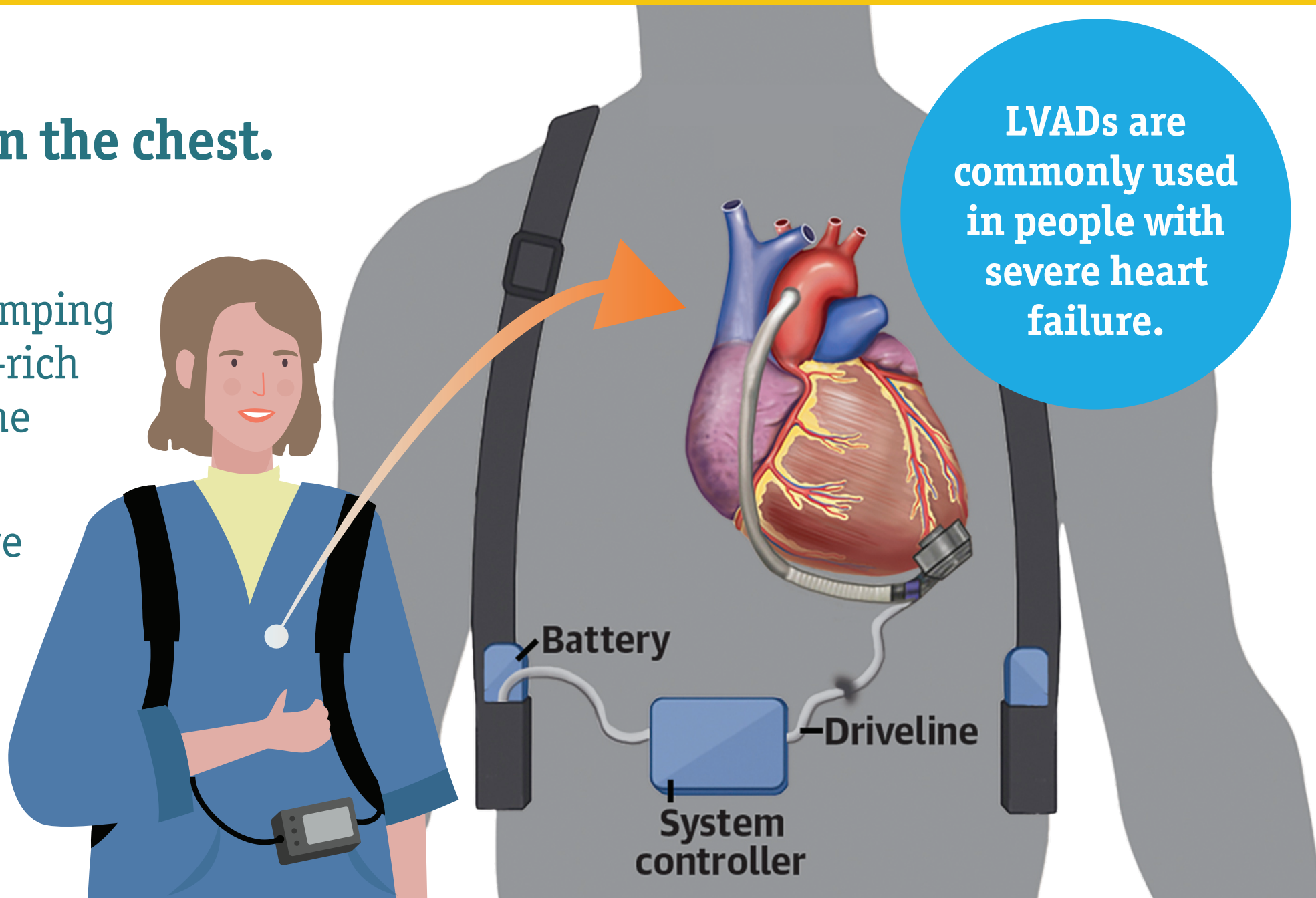


What is a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)?

An LVAD is a battery-operated, mechanical heart pump placed in the chest.

An LVAD:

- ▶ Helps the left ventricle (the main pumping chamber of the heart) pump oxygen-rich blood to the rest of the body when the heart is too weak to do so
- ▶ Requires open-heart surgery and care afterward with support from others
- ▶ Connects through an opening in the skin



When is it used?

An LVAD may be used:

To give your heart time to heal due to conditions affecting the heart muscle ("bridge to recovery")

While you await a new heart ("bridge to transplant")

If a heart transplant isn't possible now or you prefer not to have one ("destination therapy")

Short term

.....> Long term

What are the possible benefits and harms?

✓ Benefits

- Improved quality of life, resume activities
- Better breathing
- More energy
- Prolonged life

✗ Harms or risks

- Major operation, risk of bleeding or infection
- Stroke
- Blood clots
- Right-sided heart failure

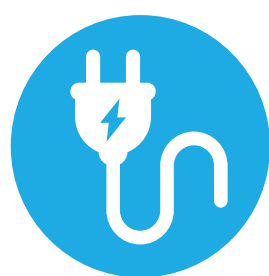
Things to consider



Your goals and wishes



Blood thinners



Power source



Need to keep dry



Costs



Ongoing care and changes in lifestyle

Need help making a decision? Use our decision aid.

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