



The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Questions to Ask the Doctor Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)

- Why do you recommend that I receive an LVAD?
- Can I wait to have the LVAD surgery or do I need it now?
- What are the risks of the surgery?
- How many of these surgeries have you performed?
- What type and brand of LVAD will I receive?
- What do I need to do to prepare for the surgery?
- What should my caregivers do to prepare for my surgery and recovery?
- How long will the surgery take and how long will I be in the hospital?
- What can I expect to feel like after the LVAD surgery?
- Will I need any medications before or after the LVAD surgery?
- Will the LVAD permanently treat my condition or will I need another procedure or replacement device at some point?
- When can I be left alone, without a caregiver?
- How long will I be away from work?
- Will I be able to do everything I've always done, such as showering, exercising, swimming, and traveling?
- How will living with an LVAD affect my other health conditions and medications?
- What are the complications of living with an LVAD?