



AmSECT's Recommendation on Portable and Percutaneous Mechanical Circulatory Support Devices

The American Society of ExtraCorporeal Technology (AmSECT) is the world's largest professional society of cardiovascular perfusionists. AmSECT seeks to foster improved care, safety and outcomes for patients supported with extracorporeal devices. Perfusionists are the only medical professionals whose scope of practice expressly includes the utilization of extracorporeal devices to support patients in a variety of clinical circumstances. Perfusionists are qualified through CAAHEP-accredited educational programs and certified by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion.

It is AmSECT's position that optimal patient care and safety must not be compromised. Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) devices which are a variation on, or are substantially equivalent to, current systems operated by perfusionists are beginning to be utilized by other health care providers. AmSECT has charged its Mechanical Circulatory Support Committee with providing knowledge, guidance and insight into MCS devices.

The MCS Committee continues to evaluate the available information regarding the current and pending generation of devices. Upon deliberation, the MCS Committee finds that safe and effective operation of these life-sustaining systems requires that a qualified perfusionist directly participate in or supervise their use. The introduction of such life support devices into the clinical setting without the involvement of a properly trained cardiovascular perfusionist will jeopardize safety and subject patients to substantial and unnecessary risk of injury. AmSECT strongly recommends that a perfusionist qualified by formal education and possessing clinical expertise be utilized directly or in a supervisory capacity throughout the implementation, operation and management of all MCS systems.

We welcome any questions and further discussion of our concerns and position on this matter.

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