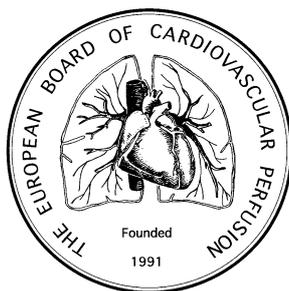


The European Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion



EBCP Recommendation on Portable and Percutaneous Mechanical Circulatory Support Devices

The European Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (EBCP) is the largest professional organisation of cardiovascular perfusionists in Europe. The EBCP aims to improve the educational standards of perfusionists so as to enhance the safety and outcomes of patients supported by extracorporeal mechanical circulatory devices. Perfusionists are the only professional body whose scope of practice includes the application of extracorporeal devices to support patients in a variety of clinical setting. These perfusionists should have qualified from an EBCP accredited educational programmes as well as be certified by the EBCP.

MCS devices, that are either a variation of, or substantially equivalent to, the systems which are currently operated by perfusionists, are beginning to be applied by other health care providers. The position of the EBCP is that optimal care and safety of patients undergoing mechanical circulatory support (MCS) must not be compromised by being operated by personnel who are not qualified perfusionists.

The EBCP believes that the safe and effective operation of these mechanical, life-supporting systems requires that a qualified perfusionist should participate directly in or supervise the use of MCS. The introduction into the clinical setting of such MCS devices without the involvement of a properly trained team threatens patient safety and subjects them to substantial and unnecessary risk of injury. The EBCP strongly recommends that throughout the implementation, operation and management of all MCS-systems, a perfusionist who is qualified by a formal education and possesses the appropriate clinical expertise should either directly operate the equipment or supervise its application.

These recommendations are based on the position-paper that was published by the ECLS Working-Group entitled *Position article for the use of extracorporeal life support in adult patients European Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery 2011*.

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