


Travelling & Working with a VAD

By
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A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located at the bottom right of the slide.

Travelling with VADs

- ◆ Are approved for ground travel
- ◆ Are approved for air travel in both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters

No boundaries.....

- ◆ In order to be eligible recipient for transplant, they can live a max of 5 ½ hours driving distance from transplant centre
- ◆ If they exceed that distance, an attempt will still be made to contact them but the likelihood of them returning in time for transplant is diminished

Ground Travel

- ◆ We've had a number of issues with older style VADs
- ◆ Manipulating the suitcase in and out of a vehicle is tricky
- ◆ Had a car door shut on a electrical cable causing it to break
- ◆ A VAD pt was refused a cab ride because she wouldn't put her "suitcase" in the truck

Ground Travel

- * A VAD pt traveled a long distance (20 hours) by car and had her car adapter fail just short of her destination.

Driving

- ◆ Until recently, almost all of our HM II pts drove



Heartmate II

- ◆ To date, we have had no issues with HM II pts travelling by car/ bus
- ◆ New HM II peripherals have car adapter that pts can plug into the cigarette lighter

Travel by Air

- ◆ Given a letter that states what the device is and what it does.
- ◆ It does not interfere with aircraft navigation equipment
- ◆ Approved for use by Transport Canada and the batteries fall within the restrictions set by the Dangerous Goods Act

Travel by Air

- ◆ Instructed to keep backups and/or Power base units with them and not stored with the baggage.
- ◆ They need to be “wanded” at security because their implanted devices will trigger the alarms.

Travelling by Water



Back To Work/School

- ◆ Many are capable of going back to work/ school
- ◆ Some limiting factors:
 - They are on a waitlist so may be viewed as unreliable employees
 - They've been forced to relocate to be eligible for transplant

Back to Work/School

- ◆ The type of work they do should be considered
 - Heavy lifting prohibited
 - Avoid toxins in workplace
 - In case of PVADs, avoiding acetone is important

Return to Work

Largely depends on financial resources

If income on assistance or CPP is stable, many will not return to work until after transplant.

Consideration of medical coverage

Lobster Fisherman



Questions????