There are 3 main reasons these pumps are used:

- For the person waiting for a heart transplant, the pump keeps the heart pumping until the donor heart is ready.
- For the person with a heart injury, the pump can help the injured heart recover and then the pump is removed.
- For the person who is not able to get a transplant, the pump can help improve quality of life.

There are different types of these pumps. Your doctor will decide the best type for you and your condition. Some of the pumps are placed inside the body and some of the pumps have parts that fit inside and outside the body.

When the pump is placed

The pump is put in during surgery that lasts 4 to 6 hours. Some patients are on the heart-lung bypass machine while the pump is placed. The sternum or chest bone is opened to place the pump into the heart. The mechanical part of the pump is often placed in the abdomen with wires coming out of the skin to connect to a power source.

You may stay in the hospital for 2 to 8 weeks after the pump is placed. During this time, you and you caregiver will be taught about the pump and how to trouble shoot any problems.

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or e-mail health-info@osu.edu.