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## Automatic External Defibrillators

In case of sudden cardiac arrests or SCAs are they are often referred to, AEDs can help revive a patient saving him from inevitable death. An Automatic External Defibrillator or an AED is a portable device that has become a boon for people who suffer from unexpected heart seizures, since it is the only medical instrument that can save the life of a patient and comes in handy in providing emergency relief.

### Easy to Use Equipment

AEDs are equipped with adhesive pads that can easily be attached to the chest of the patient in a manner that would prompt the person using the AEDs on the shock waves to be transmitted to the heart of the patient that would resuscitate the patient by regulating the heartbeat of the patient. AEDs are easy to use by lay men who can operate it with initial training. The light weight and small sized AEDs are akin to a laptop or a notebook can easily be carried around. AEDs are based on the state of the art technology and offer the user with both audible and visual prompts to send electrical shocks to the heart of the patient. When used along with a CPR or a Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, an AED increases the survival chances of the patient by nearly 50 to 80 percent.

### AED – A Heart Defibrillator

A heart defibrillator comprises of transmitting a therapeutic dose of shocks to the heart of the patient. AEDs could easily be categorized as an effective heart defibrillator since it is capable of evaluating the heart rhythm of the patient and send shocks to the heart. While an AED is a heart defibrillator and meant for use as external units, these can also be implanted or could be used in a transvenous manner.

AEDs are available in two models – an automatic mode and semi-automatic mode. While the functioning of the AEDs in both cases is identical, in the semi-automatic mode, the AED analyzes the electrocardiogram after application of the electrodes and if the shock waves are to be transmitted to the patient, it prompts the operator to send the shocks by pushing a button. However, in an automatic mode, operator intervention is not required as the AED transmits the shock only if the shock treatment is required.

While AEDs are available in a large variety of models, there are several manufacturers worldwide who are engaged in the production of superior quality AEDs. It would be pertinent to mention that no compromise can be made in the manufacture and purchase of a superbly manufactured AED. One of the most well-known AED is the ZOLL AEDPlus which meets the anthropometric chest attributes of 99 percent of the population. The single piece electrode design of the ZOLL AED Plus takes care of the anatomical variation. However, if required, the lower electrode of the ZOLL AED Plus can be segregated and adjusted to accommodate the balance 1 percent of the population.

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