

Aquapheresis Therapy[™] using the Aquadex FlexFlow

a simple and unique
approach to fluid removal



Patient Information

aquadex[™]
FlexFlow
by CHF Solutions

As part of your overall fluid management plan, your doctor and healthcare providers have or may be considering the Aquadex FlexFlow Fluid Removal System. This pamphlet will introduce and describe fluid overload and the Aquadex FlexFlow Fluid Removal System. Your doctor and healthcare providers are the best resources for answers to your specific questions.

What is Fluid Overload?

Fluid overload is a condition in which more fluid is going into your body than is coming out. This fluid, primarily water, builds up in various locations in a patient's body and leads to an increase in weight, swelling in the legs and arms (peripheral edema), and/or in the abdomen (ascites).

Eventually, this fluid enters the air spaces in the lungs, reduces the amount of oxygen that can enter the blood, and causes shortness of breath (dyspnea). Fluid can also collect in the lungs when a patient lies down at night and can make nighttime breathing and sleeping difficult (nocturnal dyspnea).

What Causes Fluid Overload?

Fluid overload can be caused by many reasons, including problems with the heart, kidneys, lungs or a combination of any of these vital organs. Fluid overload can also be experienced after certain surgical operations.

What are the Treatments for Fluid Overload?

Your healthcare provider may prescribe a low-salt diet, fluid restriction, or other therapies to help you reduce the fluid. A water pill (diuretic)

may be give orally or intravenously (through your veins). However, sometimes these treatments don't work or they temporarily stop working, and you may be hospitalized to change your medications and/or to remove extra fluid.

What is the Aquadex FlexFlow?

Aquapheresis Therapy using Aquadex FlexFlow is a device-based therapy intended to remove extra salt and water from the blood and body. It uses a technique called *ultrafiltration*.

Ultrafiltration is a process by which blood containing excess fluid is withdrawn and passed through a special filter (hemofilter). The filter removes the excess fluid from your blood. This blood is returned to you and the fluid is collected in a bag for later disposal.

The Aquadex FlexFlow is composed of three basic components: the console (the blue machine with the two pumps), the blood filter circuit, and the venous catheters.

Tell Me More About the Aquadex FlexFlow

Your healthcare provider may prescribe Aquapheresis Therapy using the Aquadex Flex Flow to meet your specific needs. If so, trained medical personnel will insert catheters in selected veins in your body. Once in place, the catheters are connected to the blood filter circuit. When treatment is begun, the pump at the front of the console will begin to withdraw blood from your veins and into the blood filter circuit. Excess salt and water is filtered out of your blood at a rate prescribed by your physician.

The filtered blood, minus the excess salt and water, is returned to you through a catheter. The fluid removed is collected in a collection bag, which is emptied periodically.

You may be given a blood thinner (anticoagulant) before and/or during your treatment to avoid any problems with blood filter circuit clotting.

What Should I Expect During My Treatment?

Trained medical personnel will check with you periodically during the treatment. You will see the pumps on the console turning, your blood flowing through the blood filter circuit, and the excess fluid slowly being collected in the collection bag.

You may notice that you feel better right away, or it may take some time depending on your condition and amount of excess fluid that needs to be removed. If you had shortness of breath, it may go away.

Although the risks for this treatment are minimal, if you feel dizzy, nauseated, or have pain or bruising at your catheter sites or experience other unusual and unexpected symptoms during your treatment, tell your healthcare provider immediately.



How long is the Treatment?

The length of time of the treatment is determined by how much total fluid needs to be removed and how fast your healthcare provider can remove it. The less you move, the more efficiently the blood gets pumped through the filter and the sooner the desired amount of fluid may be removed.

What Should I Expect After My Treatment?

After the treatment is completed, the Aquadex FlexFlow will be stopped and the blood filter circuit will be disconnected from the catheters. The catheters may be removed or your healthcare provider may decide to leave them in place to be used to administer fluids and medication at a later time.

When the catheters are removed, dressings will be placed on the locations. These should be monitored for signs of bleeding or infection.

The doctor will adjust your medications as needed. Depending upon your condition, you may be treated with the Aquadex FlexFlow more than once or you may be able to go home from the hospital right away.

CHF Solutions, Inc. is a privately held manufacturer of innovative medical devices for cardiac care and the developer of the aquapheresis therapy and the Aquadex FlexFlow Fluid Removal system.

For More Information:

Contact CHF Solutions by calling our toll free Customer Service line at

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or visit **www.chfsolutions.com**
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Rx only

Indication:

The Aquadex System is indicated for temporary (up to 8 hours) ultrafiltration treatment of patients with fluid overload who have failed diuretic therapy; and extended (longer than 8 hours) ultrafiltration treatment of patients with fluid overload who have failed diuretic therapy and require hospitalization. All treatments must be administered by a healthcare provider, under physician prescription, both of whom having received training in extracorporeal therapies.

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