

A nursing guide for patient care after percutaneous cardiopulmonary support.

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Information is presented about a relatively new procedure being used in the critical care area. The percutaneous insertion technique for the initiation of cardiopulmonary bypass support (PCPS) has given new hope for patients who are considered high risk for elective coronary angioplasty and to those who suffer cardiopulmonary arrest in the cardiac catheterization laboratory or critical care unit. The initiation process of cardiopulmonary bypass support and the criteria for elective cases are reviewed and two case studies follow. Specific attention is given to the immediate postprocedural phase, where nursing responsibilities and prioritization of patient care are addressed. A nursing care guide is included.