

IMPROVED VEST DESIGN FOR A CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and circulatory assist systems and in particular to an improved vest design providing both ease of application and reduced energy consumption.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Cardiac arrest is generally due to ventricular fibrillation, which
10 causes the heart to stop pumping blood. The treatment of ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation. If, however, more than a few minutes have lapsed since the onset of ventricular fibrillation, the heart will be sufficiently deprived of oxygen and nutrients such that defibrillation will generally be unsuccessful. At that point it is necessary to restore flow of
15 oxygenated blood to the heart muscle by cardiopulmonary resuscitation in order for defibrillation to be successful.

U.S. patent 4,928,674 issued to Halperin et.al. teaches a method of cardiopulmonary resuscitation that generates high levels of intrathoracic pressure. Halperin et.al. teaches the use of an inflatable vest operating
20 under a pneumatic control system to apply circumferential pressure around a patient's chest. Halperin et.al. discloses various vest designs using a rigid base and one or more inflatable bladders. The present invention represents an improvement to the vest design taught by Halperin et.al. to achieve two results: first, to design a vest which can be easily applied to a patient
25 without concern for how tightly the vest is applied; and, second, to design a vest which requires less compressed air to achieve the same compression/depression cycle and therefore consumes less energy. The latter result would make a portable CPR system practical.

Other prior art vest designs suggest for CPR use, which do not
30 achieve the above results, are found in U.S. patents 4,424,806 and

4,397,306. Similarly, other pneumatic vest designs are known in the art search as the pneumatic pressure respiratory vest described in U.S. patent 2,869,537. However, such vests are not designed for cardiopulmonary resuscitation systems and therefore were not designed to achieve ease of
5 application during an emergency situation or minimize energy consumption.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is an improved inflatable vest designed to be used in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and circulatory assist systems.
10 The vest overcomes deficiencies in prior art designs and specifically accomplishes two objectives. The first objective is to achieve a vest design which can easily be applied in an emergency situation. Key to the achievement of this objective is the design of a radially expandable bladder which first expands to conform to a patient's dimensions and then applies
15 the desired circumferential pressure. The second objective is a vest design which minimizes the amount of compressed air needed in the compression/decompression cycle. Achieving this objective reduces energy consumption and makes a portable vest system practical.

In order to achieve the first objective the invented vest is designed to
20 work equally well whether it is applied tightly or loosely. It is designed to easily slip under a patient laying on his back and extend around the patient's chest. It is designed to attach easily around the patient's chest without the need for complicated hooks or locks. The improved vest is also designed with a safety valve positioned directly on the vest. Key to the improved
25 vest design is a bladder means for radially expanding when filled with compressed air to conform to the patient's dimensions regardless of how tightly or loosely the vest is applied.

In order to achieve the second objective, the "dead space" in the pneumatic hose and vest is reduced. "Dead space" is defined as that
30 volume of bladder and tubing not contributing to chest compression.

Several embodiments of the vest design are disclosed to accomplish this objective. In a first embodiment, inflation and deflation poppet valves are incorporated into the design of a multilumen pneumatic hose supplying compressed air to the vest. In a second embodiment uniquely-designed
5 inflation/deflation poppet valves are incorporated into the vest. In a third embodiment various techniques are taught to further eliminate the "dead space" occurring in the vest.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figures 1a - 1c are engineering drawings showing various views of
10 the improved CPR vest design.

Figures 2a - 2c are schematic drawings showing the radial expansion of the bladder means in order to compensate for the initial tightness of the vest.

Figure 3 is a schematic drawing of the CPR system, including the
15 improved vest design.

Figure 4 shows the pressure curve in the CPR vest during its inflation/deflation cycles.

Figure 5 is a schematic drawing showing the pneumatic control system for use with the vest.

20 Figures 6 shows the pressure curve in the vest when the vest is either tightly applied or loosely applied.

Figures 7 shows an inflation and deflation valve configuration incorporated into the pneumatic hose, to reduce energy consumption.

Figures 8a - 8b show an inflation and deflation valve configuration
25 incorporated into the vest, to reduce energy consumption.

Figure 9 is a cut-away view of a multilumen pneumatic tube used with the CPR vest.

Figures 10a - 10c show various configurations of vest design to eliminate the "dead space".

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The details of the improved vest design 10, as taught by the present invention, are shown in Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C. The vest 10 is coupled by connector 12 to a hose and a pneumatic control system (shown in Figure 3) for controlled inflation and deflation. The vest 10 is designed to fit around a patient's chest with velcro strips 14 and 16 used to secure the vest around the patient. The body of the vest 10 comprises a belt 18, a handle 20, a radially expandable bladder 22, and pressure safety valve 24. The belt 18 can be made from polyester double coated with polyurethane. The integral safety valve 24 provides additional protection against over inflation of the vest. The handle 20 is used to assist the operator in applying the vest 10 around the patient. In operation, the patient who would be normally on his back would be rotated to his side. In one technique for applying the vest, the vest handle 20 would be pushed under the patient and the patient rotated back onto his back. The handle 20 would then be used for pulling the vest from under the patient a short distance. The portion of the vest remaining on the patient's other side would be wrapped around the chest, with the velcro strip 16 positioned to engage the velcro strip 14 adjacent to the handle 20. With the vest now secured around the patient's chest, the bladder 22 can be inflated in a controlled manner to apply circumferential compression to the chest. The controlled inflation and deflation of the vest, with the resulting circumferential compression of the chest drives oxygenated blood to the heart and brain.

The improved vest design is insensitive to how tightly the vest is applied to the patient. The vest is self compensating for different patient dimensions. The bladder 22 is designed to be radially expandable and thus to apply a preset pressure to the patient's chest regardless of how tightly the vest is initially applied. Bladder 22, as shown in Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C is made from two flat pieces of a nylon fabric double coated with polyurethane, and connected along seams 26, 28, and 32, 34. This design geometry, and similar designs using multiple side panels, allows the bladder

to extend radially (like a bellows) when inflated. Radial expansion is achieved by using an inextensible material, that has no significant ballooning when inflated, and a geometry that permits extension in one direction. This radial expansion is best shown in Figures 2a, 2b, and 2c.

- 5 When the bladder is inflated it expands radially to make contact with the patient's chest. Whether the belt 18 is attached loosely or tightly around the patient's chest, the bladder is designed to radially expanded to evenly contact the chest. After contacting the chest, the bladder can be further pressurized to apply consistent circumferential compression to the chest.
- 10 This feature of the vest design is key to the practical application of the CPR vest around a patient.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram showing the improved vest 10 as part of the overall cardiopulmonary resuscitation system. Female connector 12 on the vest 10 connects it by a hose 38 to the pneumatic control system

15 40. The vest 10 is placed around the patient using handle 20 to pull the vest under the patient's back. The vest is then secured to the patient by connecting velcro strips 14 and 16 (as shown in Figure 1A). Because of the unique vest bladder design, the vest need not be attached around the patient with any specified firmness. The bladder design allows it to compensate

20 for a loose or tight vest fit.

The pneumatic control system 40 inflates and deflates the bladder 22 to achieve a particular cycle of chest compression and release. As shown in Figure 4, the bladder is first inflated to apply a certain circumferential pressure to the chest (P_c); the bladder is then deflated in a controlled

25 manner to a second lower bias pressure (P_b). This cycle is repeated a number of times; at a set number of cycles the bladder pressure is decreased further to ambient pressure (P_a) to allow ventilation of the patient. This overall cycle is repeated as long as the treatment is applied. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4, the bladder pressure is decreased to

30 ambient pressure (P_a) on the fifth cycle.

Figure 5 is a schematic drawing showing the control system 40, connected by pneumatic hose 38 to the invented vest 10. The emergency relief valve 24 is incorporated into the vest design and would release air from the vest if pressure exceeds some set amount above the designed compression pressure (P_c). The control system 40 comprises: air tank 42 (for storing pressurized air); control valve 44 (for directing compressed air from the airtank 42 into the vest 10 and for releasing compressed air from the vest); control valve 44 (consisting of two independent valves 44a and 44b); vest pressure transducers 46 (for monitoring pressure in the vest); computer 48; motor 50; main air pump 52 (for pumping air into tank 42); pilot air pump 54 (for generating compressed air to operate control valve 44); power supply 56; batteries 58; pilot pressure manifold 60 (distributes air to pneumatic valves 44). In operation, valve 44a will be open allowing air from tank 42 to flow through connecting tube 38 to inflate vest 10.

When pressure traducer 46 detects pressure approaching compression pressure (P_c) the valve 44a is closed. At the appropriate time interval, valve 44b is open allowing compressed air in the vest 10 to escape. When sensor 46 detects the pressure in the vest approaching the bias pressure (P_b), computer 48 closes valve 44b (on the fifth cycle, the valve 44b remains open until the start of the next inflation cycle, allowing vest pressure to approach ambient pressure (P_a)). Computer 48 utilizes an algorithm to operate valves 44a and 44b in advance of the pressure reaching the preset levels to anticipate the time delay between valve actuation and actual closure.

As mentioned earlier, the vest 10 is designed to expand radially. With this design feature it does not matter whether the vest is applied tightly or loosely. As shown in Figures 6, the vest will expand to conform with the chest and is further pressurized to apply pressure until the compression pressure (P_c) is reached. In Figure 6 the vest is shown tightly applied around the patient's chest and the vest is loosely applied. In both situations the vest -will expand radially the appropriate distance to contact

the chest and will then continue to apply pressure until the desired compression pressure (P_c) is achieved. However, when the vest is loosely applied, the amount of air that needs to flow into the loose vest (Figure 6) is greater and as a result the time to reach the compression pressure (P_c) will
5 be greater. (Note the difference between t_1 (62) and t_2 (64) in Figure 6.) Therefore, the need for precise application of the vest to a certain tightness around the patient's chest is avoided. This feature is very important because in the hectic situation of responding to a patient's need, precise application of the vest should not be an additional concern to the physician team.

10 In another embodiment of the vest shown in Figures 7a, 7b, 8a, and 8b, the control valves 44 are placed either in the remote (vest end) end of the pneumatic hose 38 or directly on the vest. Such placement of the inflation/deflation control valves will reduce the amount of air consumed during the inflation and deflation cycle since the hose will no longer be
15 inflated for each cycle. This feature reduces the amount of energy consumed during each cycle and will result in the use of a smaller motor, smaller storage tank and smaller batteries. This feature would be of particular importance for a portable CPR vest design.

In Figure 7b, the control valves 44 are positioned in the vest end of
20 pneumatic hose 38. A first inflation poppet valve 66 is controlled by pilot air 68 to allow pressurized air to enter the vest 10. A second deflation poppet valve 70 is controlled by pilot air 72 to allow pressure to escape from the vest 10. The inflation and deflation valves 44 work in a manner similar to those described earlier (see, Figure 5). The pneumatic hose 38
25 used in this embodiment requires at least a three lumen design. As shown in Figure 9, a first lumen 74 contains pressurized air for inflating the vest, a second lumen contains pressurized pilot air 68 for controlling the inflation poppet valve 66, and a third lumen contains pressurized pilot air 73 for controlling the deflation poppet valve 70. In an alternative design, four (4)
30 lumens are used, one lumen for vest air supply, two lumens for valve pilot

air and an additional lumen (79) used to detect vest pressure for the control computer.

Similarly, as shown in Figures 8a and b, the inflation and deflation valves 44 can be positioned on, and be part of, the disposable vest 10. As described previously, the pneumatic hose 38 contains at least three lumens to supply the inflation control pilot air, the deflation control pilot air and the pressurized inflation air (see, Figure 8a). As shown in Figure 8c, this embodiment also contains an inflation poppet valve 80 controlled by pilot air 82 and a deflation poppet 84 controlled by pilot air 86. Obviously, different valve designs are envisioned and valves that could be electronically activated are also within the contemplation of the inventors. The key is that the valves are positioned directly on the vest or on the vest end of the pneumatic hose. It is further envisioned that by placing the valves on the vest (or vest end of the pneumatic hose) that a sufficient reduction in power is achieved making a portable CPR vest system practical. This portable system would utilize a small pack of DC batteries to power the compression motors or be powered by a high pressure tank that is pre-charged with air at high pressures (around 4000psi).

Figures 10a, 10b and 10c show various embodiments of vest design that further reduce energy consumption by reducing the "dead space" in the vest. Thirty percent (30%) to forty percent (40%) of the energy used to operate the CPR vest is consumed by moving compressed air into "dead space" found in the vest's bladder and tubing. "Dead space" is defined as that volume of the bladder and tubing not contributing to chest compression. (The "dead space" in the tubing can be eliminated as described above, by placing the control valves directly on the vest or the vest end of the pneumatic hose.) Several solutions for reducing the "dead space" in the vest itself are shown in Figures 10a, 10b, and 10c. In Figure 10a, a secondary bladder 88 is inflated by an air source to reduce the "dead space". This secondary bladder may be positioned either in front or behind the main bladder. It may also be partitioned as more fully described relative

to Figure 10c. In Figure 10b, foam or other substances 90 are placed in the bladder to reduce the "dead space". In an alternative embodiment, the foam or other expandable substance would be injected into a secondary bladder to remove dead space in the primary bladder. In Figure 10c, a partitioned,
5 or honeycombed design 92 is used to reduce the "dead space". Reducing the "dead space" reduces the amount of compressed air needed to inflate the vest and to achieve the desired compression pressure (P_c). With less compressed air movement being required, less energy is needed to operate the CPR system.

10 Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.



WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An inflatable vest to circumferentially fit around a patient's chest
2 comprising:
3 a belt sized to fit around a patient's chest with a width to cover a
4 substantial portion of a patient's chest; and,
5 a bladder means, secured to the belt, for radially expanding when
6 filled with compressed air first to conform to the patient's dimensions
7 and then to apply circumferential pressure against a patient's chest.
- 1 2. The vest of claim 1, wherein said bladder means is made from an
2 inextensible material.
- 1 3. The vest of claim 1, further comprising first and second velcro
2 strips fixed on opposite ends of the belt for attaching said belt around the
3 patient.
- 1 4. The vest of claim 1, further comprising a handle integral to one
2 end of said belt.
- 1 5. The vest of claim 1, further comprising a fitting mounted on said
2 belt and in fluid communication with said bladder, said fitting adapted to
3 couple to a pneumatic hose.
- 1 6. The vest of claim 1, further comprising a safety valve mounted on
2 said belt and in fluid communication with said bladder, said safety valve for
3 releasing pressure from said bladder above a preset bladder pressure.
- 1 7. The vest of claim 1, wherein said bladder means further comprises:
2 a first panel of an inextensible material; and,



3 a second panel of an inextensible material attached to said first panel
4 and said belt to form an air tight chamber capable of radial expansion.

1 8. An inflatable vest to circumferentially fit around a patient's chest
2 comprising:

3 a belt of inextensible material sized to fit around a patient's chest with
4 a width to cover a substantial portion of a patient's chest;

5 a handle integral to one end of said belt;

6 first and second velcro strips fixed on opposite ends of said belt for
7 attaching said belt around a patient's chest;

8 a bladder secured to said belt and further comprising;

9 a first panel of an inextensible material,

10 at least one side panel of an inextensible material attached to edges of
11 said first panel and attached to said belt to form an air tight chamber there
12 between;

13 a fitting mounted on said belt and in fluid communication with said
14 chamber, said fitting adapted to couple with a pneumatic hose; and,

15 a safety valve mounted on said belt and in fluid communication with
16 said bladder for releasing pressure when pressure in said chamber exceeds a
17 certain preset safety limit.

1 9. The vest of claim 8, wherein said belt is made from polyester
2 double coated with polyurethane.

1 10. The vest of claim 8, wherein said first panel and said at least one
2 side panel are made from a nylon fabric double coated with polyurethane.

1 11. The vest of claim 8, wherein said side panels are attached to said
2 first panel and said belt by seams running along edges of said side panels.



1 12. A pneumatic hose designed to couple to a CPR vest so as to
2 inflate and deflate said vest, said pneumatic hose comprising:
3 a hose; and,
4 a coupling attached to an end of said hose and having an output port
5 and an exhaust port, said coupling comprising,
6 an inflation valve for controlling fluid communication from said hose
7 to said output, so as to inflate a CPR vest attached to said coupling, and
8 a deflation valve for controlling fluid communication from said output
9 to said exhaust port, so as to deflate a CPR vest attached to said coupling.

1 13. The pneumatic hose of claim 12, wherein said hose is a
2 multilumen hose including a first and second lumen adapted to provide
3 pilot control air and wherein said inflation valve and deflation valve are
4 poppet valves controlled by such pilot control air.

1 14. A pneumatic hose designed to couple to a CPR vest so as to
2 inflate or deflate the vest, said pneumatic hose comprising:
3 a multilumen hose with a first larger lumen adapted to communicate
4 pressurized air and a second and third smaller lumen adapted to
5 communicate pilot control air;
6 a fitting connected to the end of said multilumen hose;
7 a deflation exhaust port;
8 an inflation poppet valve positioned in the end of said multilumen
9 hose having an input coupled to said first larger lumen and an output
10 coupled to said fitting and controlled by air pressure carried by said second
11 lumen; and,
12 a deflation poppet valve positioned in the end of said multilumen hose
13 having an input coupled to said fitting and an output coupled to said
14 exhaust port and controlled by air pressure carried by said third lumen.



1 15. The vest of claim 14, wherein said multi-lumen hose has four
2 lumens, a first larger lumen adapted to communicate pressurized air, a
3 second and third smaller lumen adapted to communicate pilot control air
4 and a fourth lumen used to communicate vest pressure to a pressure sensor.

1 16. An inflatable vest to circumferentially fit around a patient's chest,
2 comprising:
3 a belt sized to fit around a patient's chest with a width to cover a
4 substantial portion of a patient's chest;
5 a bladder means, secured to the belt, for radially expanding when
6 filled with compressed air first to conform to the patient's dimensions and
7 then to apply circumferential pressure against a patient's chest;
8 a fitting adapted to couple the vest to a pneumatic hose carrying
9 compressed air;
10 an inflation valve for controlling fluid communication from said
11 fitting to said bladder means;
12 deflation exhaust port; and,
13 a deflation valve for controlling fluid communication from said
14 bladder means to said deflation exhaust port.

1 17. The vest of claim 16, wherein said fitting is adapted to couple to a
2 multilumen hose having a first and second lumen adapted to provide pilot
3 control air and wherein said inflation valve and deflation valve are poppet
4 valves controlled by such pilot control air.

1 18. An inflatable vest to circumferentially fit around a patient's chest
2 comprising:
3 a belt sized to fit around a patient's chest with a width to cover a
4 substantial portion of a patient's chest;



5 a bladder means, secured to the belt, for radially expanding when
6 filled with compressed air first to conform to the patient's dimensions and
7 then to apply circumferential pressure against a patient's chest;
8 a fitting adapted to couple to a multilumen pneumatic hose carrying
9 compressed air and a first and second pilot control air lumen;
10 a deflation exhaust port;
11 an inflation poppet valve positioned on said belt, having an input
12 coupled to said fitting and an output coupled to said bladder means and
13 controlled by air pressure provided by said first pilot control lumen; and
14 a deflation poppet valve positioned on said belt, having an input
15 coupled to said bladder means and an output coupled to said deflation
16 exhaust port and controlled by air pressure provided by said first pilot
17 control lumen.

1 19. An inflatable vest to circumferentially fit around a patient's chest
2 comprising:
3 a belt sized to fit around a patient's chest with a width to cover a
4 substantial portion of a patient's chest;
5 a bladder means, secured to the belt, for radially expanding when
6 filled with compressed air first to conform to the patient's dimensions and
7 then to apply circumferential pressure against a patient's chest; and
8 a means to reduce the "dead space" in the bladder means, thus
9 reducing the energy necessary to inflate and deflate the vest.

1 20. The vest of claim 19, wherein said means to reduce "dead space"
2 is a secondary bladder inflated within the bladder means.

1 21. The vest of claim 20, wherein said secondary bladder is injected
2 with a foam.



1 22. The vest of claim 19, wherein said means to reduce "dead space"
2 is foam placed within the bladder means.

1 23. The vest of claim 19, wherein said bladder means is partitioned
2 into separate bladders representing a honey-combed design.