
Life-saving device

A portable heart-lung machine recently saved a 22-year-old soldier's life after he was shot in the chest while in Afghanistan. The extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, machine, connects to blood vessels in the groin and jugular vein. It forces the patient's blood through an artificial membrane that lets oxygen in and takes carbon dioxide out, mimicking the trade-off that takes place naturally in the lungs.

