

Local man owes life to Citrus Cardiology's groundbreaking use of the LifeVest® external defibrillator.

Inverness, Fla., May 23, 2013 — Lady Lake resident, Frank House, owes his life to the wise decision of his cardiologist and the Zoll LifeVest external defibrillator.

House, who recently suffered a major heart attack, was advised by Citrus Cardiology cardiologist Dr. Vinod Miryala to wear a LifeVest defibrillator in the event he might experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). LifeVest is the world's first and only wearable portable defibrillator and is manufactured by Zoll Medical Corporation, a leader in medical products and software solutions, located in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Six days after being fitted with the LifeVest, which is conveniently worn under the clothing, House suddenly experienced an episode of SCA in the bedroom of his home. His wife Kelly watched helplessly as he fell unconscious to the floor. The LifeVest quickly detected House's irregular heartbeat and sent a strong electrical shock through his chest, stimulating his heart back into a normal rhythm.

Within seconds, he was conscious and unaware he had even had an SCA event. The LifeVest had done its job — it had saved Frank House's life. Dr. Miryala then implanted a permanent defibrillator and House is now leading an active life, confident that if he suffers another SCA episode, his permanent defibrillator will be as reliable as the LifeVest.

"I thanked Dr. Miryala for prescribing the LifeVest, because I know it, and he, saved my life," says House.

More than 100,000 patients have been prescribed the LifeVest defibrillator and experienced the confidence and safety of knowing they have a first-responder with them at all times in case of a cardiac emergency.

It is one on many state-of-the-art therapies utilized by Citrus Cardiology Consultants in their Inverness, Crystal River, Leesburg and The Villages offices. When a heart problem arises, Citrus Cardiology understands the concerns, questions and fears patients face. They have made it an integral part of their mission to provide each patient with clear information and honest compassion, along with the best cardiac care possible. Procedures and therapies such LifeVest, prove that Citrus Cardiology's physicians and specialists, like Dr. Miryala, provide the ultimate cardiac care you deserve.

LifeVest is your LifeLine

The LifeVest is appropriate for many conditions, including following a heart attack, before or after bypass surgery or stent placement, as well as for those suffering from cardiomyopathy or congestive heart failure. Each of these conditions puts a patient at risk for SCA and is suggested for use by those who have not been assessed as having permanent SCA risk. This product allows the physician time to make a proper assessment instead of possibly needlessly implanting a permanent defibrillator.

The LifeVest is lightweight, non-invasive, easy-to-wear and consists of two main components: the garment containing the defibrillator and a small monitor that continuously checks the heart's electrical rhythm. If an arrhythmia is detected, an electrical shock is administered through the garment and a normal heart rhythm is restored. It gives patients mobility, the freedom to return to a "normal" lifestyle and confidence in knowing they are protected if needed.

This confidence comes through the fact that LifeVest has a 98 percent first treatment success rate in resuscitating SCA victims. When an SCA occurs, there is a limited timeframe in which treatment is effective. Each minute that passes means the patient has a 10 percent less chance of survival. LifeVest warns bystanders it is preparing to deliver electrical stimulation and automatically responds within one minute of detecting a life-threatening arrhythmia. Many times this is before medical help can even be called, let alone respond to such an emergency.

In the event the patient is conscious and chooses to stop LifeVest from delivering an electrical shock, he or she can easily do so and then seek medical help.

LifeVest truly is a lifeline for those persons at risk for SCA.

The LifeVest is covered by commercial, state, and federal health insurance plans but the patient's specific health plan should be reviewed to determine coverage.