

References

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Paraphernalia

THERMODILUTION CARDIAC OUTPUT The Swan-Ganz catheter is a balloon-tipped double-lumen tube which can be passed from a peripheral vein through the right heart and into the pulmonary artery. Through it can be measured right atrial, pulmonary arterial, and pulmonary wedge pressures. This catheter has now been modified by adding a thermistor near the tip, thus permitting measurement of cardiac output by the thermodilution technique. Fidelity of pressure response through the catheter, and accuracy and precision of the thermodilution method, were measured and found satisfactory. This catheter was used in 33 patients with no apparent complications. Repeated right and left ventricular function curves were made, which permitted better assessment of therapy. (Forrester, J. S., and others: *Thermodilution Cardiac Output Determination with a Single Flow-directed Catheter*, *Amer. Heart J.* 83: 1972.)