

## General Presentation Syllabus

**Title:** *Antiarrhythmics: Do They Work?*

**Intended Audience:** ALS

**Length:** 60-90 minutes

**Brief Description:**

Do antiarrhythmics work? Should we be using them at all? Historically, paramedics have used a number of antiarrhythmics in the treatment of VF, from our old standby lidocaine to the current flavor of the month, amiodarone. Yet, despite the newest drugs, the mortality rate from prehospital cardiac arrest hovers at nearly the same rate it was in the days of Johnny and Roy – over 95%. Our most startling advances in treatment of VF have come in the realm of basic life support and defibrillation. This presentation poses the questions, “Is our drug box effective? Is effective pharmacologic therapy on the horizon? Does a code even need a paramedic?”

**Objectives:**

1. Apply the principles of evidence-based medicine to current antiarrhythmic therapy for refractory ventricular fibrillation.
2. Examine current research of antiarrhythmics currently used in treatment of refractory VF.
3. Discuss the appropriate endpoint for studying efficacy of antiarrhythmics - return of spontaneous circulation, survival to hospital discharge, or survival to one year following hospital discharge?
4. Discuss the latest advances in resuscitation - BLS procedures and defibrillation, emerging pharmacologic therapies, etc.

**Resources Required:** LCD projector, computer audio, wireless mouse, wireless microphone