

General Presentation Syllabus

Title: *Unraveling Tachycardia*

Intended Audience: ALS

Length: 60-90 minutes

Brief Description:

Once upon a time, EMS providers, when treating tachycardia, were faced with a few simple questions - is it wide or narrow? Do I use adenosine or lidocaine? Is it stable, or in need of emergent cardioversion? All that notwithstanding, when we consulted the AHA algorithms, we were faced with the daunting task of unraveling long, difficult-to-understand and needlessly complex tachycardia algorithms. This presentation will address the AHA approach to treatment of tachycardia and offer some practical, real-world approaches to treating this class of arrhythmias.

Objectives:

1. Identify clinical signs of hemodynamically unstable tachycardias.
2. Discuss the mechanism(s) of reentry tachycardia, and differences in treatment approach to automatic focus tachycardias.
3. Discuss the use of, and inherent risks, of antiarrhythmic therapy in tachycardia treatment.
4. Discuss and describe the indications and contraindications for emergency and elective synchronized cardioversion.

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