

CARDIAC EMERGENCIES

Other Cardiac Dysrhythmias C9

SINUS TACHYCARDIA

Heart rate 100-160, regular.

1. Ensure a patent airway
 - **OXYGEN** - low flow
2. Position of comfort. If decreased level of consciousness, position on left side
3. Cardiac monitor
4. Consider:
 - **IV ACCESS TKO** if other vital signs abnormality exists
 - Treat underlying cause

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

1. Ensure a patent airway
 - **OXYGEN** - low flow
2. Cardiac monitor
3. **IV ACCESS TKO**
4. If well tolerated, transport with cardiac monitoring
5. If unstable:
 - ventricular rate greater than 150 **and**;
 - BP less than 80, or;
 - unconsciousness or obtundation, or;
 - severe chest pain or dyspnea
6. **OXYGEN** – high flow. Be prepared to support ventilation.
7. Prepare for **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION**. If awake and aware, sedate with **MIDAZOLAM** - initial dose 1 mg, titrate in 1-2 mg increments (maximum dose 5 mg).
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 100 joules (low energy setting – 75 joules)
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 200 joules (low energy setting – 120 joules)
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 300 joules (low energy setting – 150 joules)
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 360 joules (low energy setting – 200 joules)
 - **12-Lead ECG**
8. **Contact Base Hospital if any questions or if additional therapy is required**

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ATRIAL FLUTTER

Variable rate depending on block. Atrial rate between 250-350, “saw-tooth” pattern.

1. Ensure a patent airway
 - **OXYGEN** - low flow
2. Cardiac monitor
3. **IV ACCESS TKO**
4. If well tolerated, transport with cardiac monitoring
5. If unstable:
 - ventricular rate greater than 150 **and**;
 - BP less than 80, or;
 - unconsciousness or obtundation, or;
 - severe chest pain or dyspnea
6. **OXYGEN** – high flow. Be prepared to support ventilation.
7. Prepare for **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION**. If aware and aware, sedation with **MIDAZOLAM** 1-5 mg IV (initial dose 1mg, titrate in 1-2 mg increments).
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 50 joules (low energy setting – 50 joules)
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 100 joules (low energy setting – 75 joules)
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 200 joules (low energy setting – 120 joules)
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 300 joules (low energy setting – 150 joules)
 - **SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION** at 360 joules (low energy setting – 200 joules)
 - **12-Lead ECG** post-conversion if patient condition permits
8. **Contact Base Hospital if any questions or if additional therapy is required**