

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-26 DEFIBRILLATION AND CARDIOVERSION

Policy:

- To establish guidelines for defibrillation and/or counter shock for the patient experiencing lethal arrhythmias.

Equipment:

- Gloves and additional PPE as needed
- ECG monitor and defibrillation
- ECG electrodes
- Hands free defibrillation pads

Procedure:

- Don PPE
- Apply ECG electrodes in the usual manner
- If rhythm shown is one in which defibrillation is indicated, confirm absence of pulses, and proceed below:
 - Apply hands free defibrillator pads
 - Dry excess sweat or moisture with a towel before pad application
 - Apply the pads in the apex-base method or anterior-posterior method
 - Apex-Base
 - Per manufacturer's recommendations
 - One on the right upper chest
 - One on lower left chest, mid axillary line
 - Anterior-Posterior
 - Place negative electrode on left anterior chest halfway between the xiphoid process and the left nipple with the upper edge of the electrode below the nipple line.
 - Place the positive electrode on the left posterior chest beneath the scapula and lateral to the spine.
 - Turn and charge defibrillator to appropriate energy level
 - Energy level per manufacturer's recommendations
 - If unknown, select highest setting up to 360J
 - Verify that no one is in direct or indirect contact with the patient and advise all team members to "clear"
 - Push the shock delivery button to defibrillate the patient
 - Continue CPR and repeat per ACLS and system protocols
- If rhythm shown is one in which Cardioversion is indicated, proceed below:
 - Apply hands free defibrillator pads
 - Dry excess sweat or moisture with a towel before pad application
 - Apply the pads in the apex-base method or anterior-posterior method
 - Apex-Base
 - Per manufacturer's recommendations
 - One on the right upper chest
 - One on lower left chest, mid axillary line

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II-26 DEFIBRILLATION AND CARディオVERSION (continued)

- Anterior-Posterior
 - Place negative electrode on left anterior chest halfway between the xiphoid process and the left nipple with the upper edge of the electrode below the nipple line.
 - Place the positive electrode on the left posterior chest beneath the scapula and lateral to the spine.
- Turn on and charge defibrillator to appropriate energy level per manufacturer's recommendations and protocol
- Push the synchronize "Sync" button on the monitor
- Verify that no one is in direct or indirect contact with the patient and advise all team members to "clear"
- Push the shock delivery button to cardiovert the patient
- Re-evaluate the ECG rhythm and pulses and continue care per appropriate protocols

Documentation:

- Indication for procedure
- Joule settings utilized and change in rhythm if any following each defibrillation and/or cardioversion
 - Note the time for each on the rhythm strip and the corresponding PCR
- Patients condition following procedure
- Who performed procedure
- Time of procedure
- PPE and equipment used