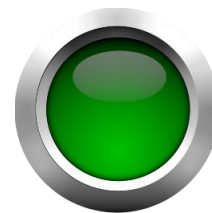


Pacing SOP

Further reading

Corpus user manual
Resuscitation council guidelines 2021



Related SOPs

Procedural sedation SOP Acute coronary syndrome SOP Post cardiac arrest SOP
Prehospital emergency anaesthesia SOP

Indications

1. Symptomatic bradycardia unresponsive to atropine
2. Ventricular standstill

Considerations

Sedation if required

Look carefully at asystole in cardiac arrest patients with short downtime – the presence of P-waves may respond to pacing

Both therapy pads **and** 3-lead monitoring must be attached to perform pacing

Defibrillation is not possible whilst pacing

12-lead ECG recording is not possible whilst pacing

Pacing SOP

Technique

- <c>ABCDE approach
- Attach therapy pads to chest and ensure good skin preparation. The anterior/posterior position is preferable, although it is possible to use the conventional (apex/sternum) position. This can be useful if defibrillation is expected or a second set of pads can be applied to allow a quick change if needed for defibrillation.
- Attach 4 ECG monitoring cables (3 lead monitoring)
 - **Good CRM is essential to ensure therapy pads and monitor electrodes are not displaced during patient movement. Covering monitoring electrodes with tape can add extra security to them in the pre hospital environment and it is useful to brief the team prior to any movement to avoid any accidental disconnection**
- Select fixed pacing
- Set rate at 70bpm initially. This may be increased to 80bpm once effective pacing is established if needed to improve perfusion
- Starting at 50mA, increase current until electrical capture is obtained and then increase until mechanical capture is obtained confirmed by palpable pulse/ultrasound
 - **Skeletal muscle contraction can occur at currents as low as 10mA care should be taken not to confuse these with mechanical capture, ultrasound can be useful in these cases. A common failure in pacing is using insufficient current**
- Monitor patient closely and should GCS improve consider (if not already provided):
 - Sedation
 - PHEA