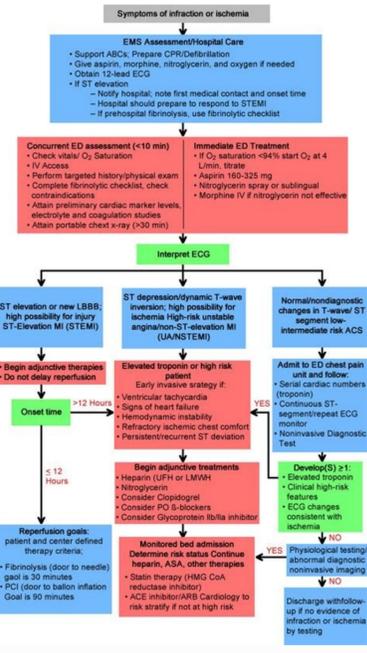
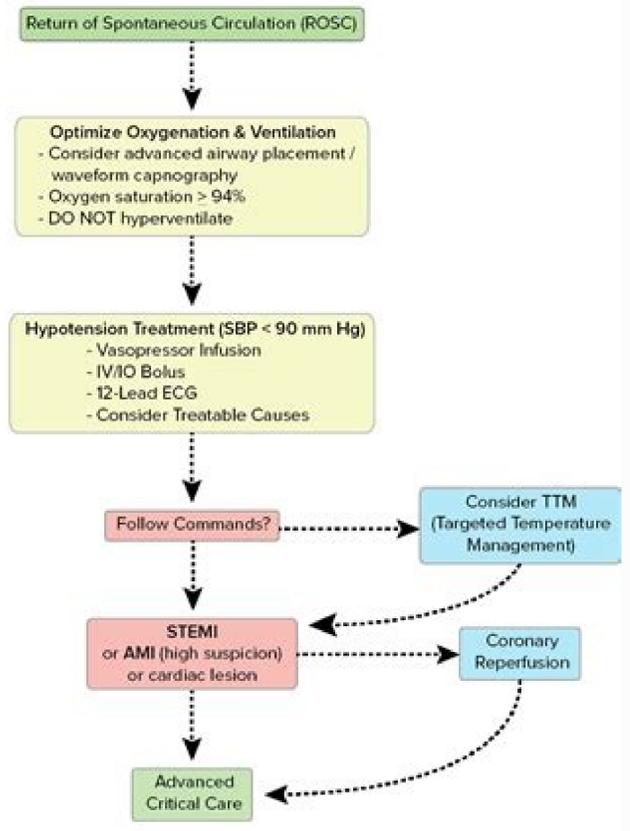


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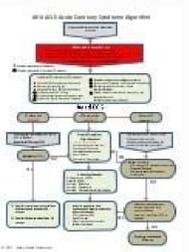


Immediate Post-Cardiac Arrest Care Algorithm

- Dosing / Details**
- Oxygenation / Ventilation**
- Begin at 10 - 12 breaths/min, titrate to target PETCO₂ (35 - 40 mm Hg)
 - Titrate FIO₂ to minimum needed to achieve SpO₂ 94% - 99%
 - Avoid excessive ventilation
- Epinephrine IV Infusion**
- 0.1 - 0.5 mcg/kg per minute
- IV Bolus**
- 1 - 2 L normal saline / lactated Ringer's
 - 4° C fluid if inducing hypothermia
- Dopamine IV Infusion**
- 5 - 10 mcg/kg per minute
- Norepinephrine IV Infusion**
- 0.1 - 0.5 mcg/kg per minute
- Reversible Causes**
- Hypoxia
 - Hypovolemia
 - Hydrogen ions (Acidosis)
 - Hyper / Hypokalemia
 - Hypothermia
 - Tension Pneumothorax
 - Tamponade
 - Toxins
 - Thrombosis (Pulmonary Embolus)
 - Thrombosis (Acute Coronary Syndrome)



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Assess if the heart rhythm is appropriate for the patient's condition.
Heart rates above 150 beats per minute (bpm) should generally be treated.

Search for and treat the cause.
Monitor:
• Heart rhythm
• O2/sat
• Blood pressure
Provide as needed:
• Maintain an open airway
• Give oxygen

Perform synchronized cardioversion start with:
Narrow regular: give 50-100 J
Narrow irregular: give 120-200 J biphasic or 200 J monophasic
Wide regular: give 100 J
Wide irregular: defibrillate (not synchronized).
Consider providing sedation.
For regular narrow complex: consider giving adenosine.
1st dose: 6 mg IV/IO push with NS flush.
2nd dose: 12 mg IV/IO push with NS flush.

Is the Tachyarrhythmia persistent and symptomatic?
• Low blood pressure
• Change in mental status
• Chest pain
• Heart failure

Wide QRS complex ≥ 0.12 seconds

No

Yes

Provide IV access.
Obtain a 12-lead ECG if available.
Perform vagal maneuvers.
If rhythm is regular:
Give adenosine.
1st dose: 6 mg IV/IO push with NS flush.
2nd dose: 12 mg IV/IO push with NS flush.
Consider giving calcium channel blockers.
Consider giving beta blockers.
Consider requesting expert consultation.

Provide IV access.
Obtain a 12-lead ECG if available.
If rhythm is regular and monomorphic:
Give adenosine.
1st dose: 6 mg IV/IO push with NS flush.
2nd dose: 12 mg IV/IO push with NS flush.
If there is no prolonged QT or CHF:
Consider a procainamide infusion.
Infuse at 20-50 mg/min IV/IO with a maximum dose of 17 mg/kg.
Continue procainamide infusion until:
• rhythm converts.
• administration results in hypotension.
• QRS complex duration rises $>50\%$.
Maintenance infusion rate is 1-4 mg/min.
Consider giving amiodarone.
1st dose: 150 mg IV/IO over 10 minutes.
Repeat if VT recurs.
Follow with a maintenance infusion: 1 mg/min for following 6 hours.
If there is no prolonged QT:
Consider giving Sotalol:
Infuse 100 mg (1.5 mg/kg) IV/IO over 5 minutes.
Consider requesting expert consultation.

adition, ultrasound of the thoracic cavity representing pleural movement during sliding. Unlike capnography, confirmation of ETT placement via ultrasonography is not dependent on adequate pulmonary blood flow and CO2 in exhaled gas.96-98 One small prospective study of experienced clinicians compared tracheal ultrasound to waveform capnography and auscultation during CPR and reported a positive predictive value for ultrasound of 98.8% and negative predictive value of 100%.78 The usefulness of tracheal and pleural ultrasound, like fiberoptic bronchoscopy, may be limited by abnormal anatomy, availability of equipment, and operator experience.2015 Recommendations—UpdatedContinuous waveform capnography is recommended in addition to clinical assessment as the most reliable method of confirming and monitoring correct placement of an ETT (Class I, LOE C-LD).If continuous waveform capnometry is not available, a nonwaveform CO2 detector, esophageal detector device, or ultrasound used by an experienced operator is a reasonable alternative (Class IIa, LOE C-LD).Ventilation After Advanced Airway PlacementsALS 808The 2015 ILCOR systematic review addressed the optimal ventilation rate during continuous chest compressions among adults in cardiac arrest with an advanced airway. This 2015 Guidelines Update for ACLS applies only to patients who have been intubated and are in cardiac arrest. The effect of tidal volume and any other ventilation parameters during CPR are not addressed in this recommendation.Except for respiratory rate, it is unknown whether monitoring ventilatory parameters (eg, minute ventilation, peak pressure) during CPR can influence outcome. However, positive pressure ventilation increases intrathoracic pressure and may reduce venous return and cardiac output, especially in patients with hypovolemia or obstructive airway disease. Ventilation at inappropriately high respiratory rates (greater than 25 breaths/min) is common during resuscitation from cardiac arrest.79,80 There is concern that excessive ventilation in the setting of cardiac arrest may be associated with worse outcome.2015 Evidence SummaryNo human clinical trials were found addressing whether a ventilation rate of 10 breaths/min, compared with any other ventilation rate, changes survival with favorable neurologic or functional outcome. Although there have been a number of animal studies,93,91-99 and 1 human observational study,90 evaluating ventilation rates during CPR, the design and data from these studies did not allow for the assessment of the effect of a ventilation rate of 10 per minute compared with any other rate for ROSC or other outcome.2015 Recommendation—UpdatedAfter placement of an advanced airway, it may be reasonable for the provider to deliver 1 breath every 6 seconds (10 breaths/min) while continuous chest compressions are being performed (Class IIb, LOE C-LD).Management of Cardiac ArrestDefibrillation Strategies for Ventricular Fibrillation or Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia: Waveform Energy and First-Shock SuccessALS 470Currently manufactured manual and automated external defibrillators use biphasic waveforms of 3 different designs: biphasic truncated exponential (BTE), rectilinear biphasic (RLB), and pulsed biphasic waveforms; they deliver different peak currents at the same programmed energy setting and may adjust their energy output in relation to patient impedance in differing ways. These factors can make comparisons of shock efficacy between devices from different manufacturers challenging even when the same programmed energy setting is used. A substantial body of evidence now exists for the efficacy of BTE and RLB waveforms, with a smaller body of evidence for the pulsed waveform. An impedance-compensated version of the pulsed biphasic waveform is now clinically available, but no clinical studies were identified to define its performance characteristics.2015 Evidence SummaryThere is no evidence indicating superiority of one biphasic waveform or energy level for the termination of ventricular fibrillation (VF) with the first shock (termination is defined as absence of VF at 5 seconds after shock). All published studies support the effectiveness (consistently in the range of 85%-98%)91 of biphasic shocks using 200 J or less for the first shock.91 Defibrillators using the RLB waveform typically deliver more shock energy than selected, based on patient impedance. Thus, in the single study in which a manufacturer's nonescalating energy device was programmed to deliver 150 J shocks, comparison with other devices was not possible because shock energy delivery in other devices is adjusted for measured patient impedance. For the RLB, a selected energy dose of 120 J typically provides nearly 150 J for most patients.2015 Recommendation—UpdatedDefibrillator settings (using BTE, RLB, or monophasic waveforms) are recommended to treat atrial and ventricular arrhythmias (Class I, LOE B-NR).Based on their greater success in arrhythmia termination, defibrillators using biphasic waveforms (BTE or RLB) are preferred to monophasic defibrillators for treatment of both atrial and ventricular arrhythmias (Class IIa, LOE B-R).In the absence of conclusive evidence that 1 biphasic waveform is superior to another in termination of VF, it is reasonable to use the manufacturer's recommended energy dose for the first shock. If this is not known, defibrillation at the maximal dose may be considered (Class IIb, LOE C-LD).Defibrillation Strategies for Ventricular Fibrillation or Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia: Energy Dose for Subsequent ShocksThe 2010 Guidelines regarding treatment of VF/pulseless ventricular tachycardia (PVT) recommended that if the first shock dose did not terminate VF/RLB, the second and subsequent doses should be equivalent, and higher doses may be considered. The evidence supporting energy dose for subsequent shocks was evaluated for this 2015 Guidelines Update.2015 Evidence SummaryObservational data indicate that an automated external defibrillator administering a high peak current at 150 J biphasic fixed energy can terminate initial, as well as persistent or recurrent VF, with a high rate of conversion.92 In fact, the high conversion rate achieved with all biphasic waveforms for the first shock makes it difficult to study the energy requirements for second and subsequent shocks when the first shock is not successful. A 2007 study attempted to determine if a fixed lower energy dose or escalating higher doses were associated with better outcome in patients requiring more than 1 shock. Although termination of VF at 5 seconds after shock was higher in the escalating higher-energy group (82.5% versus 71.2%), there were no significant differences in ROSC, survival to discharge, or survival with favorable neurologic outcome between the 2 groups. In this study, only 1 manufacturer's nonescalating energy device, programmed to deliver 150-J shocks, was used. Thus, it is not possible to compare this 150-J shock with that delivered by any other device set to deliver 150 J. There is a decline in shock success with repeated shocks. One nonrandomized trial that used a BTE waveform reported a decline in shock success when repeated shocks at the same energy were administered.93 For the RLB waveform, 1 observational study reported an initial VF termination rate of 67.8% at a selected energy setting of 120 J and an 86.4% termination rate for persistent VF. Recurrence of VF did not affect ultimate shock success, ROSC, or discharge survival.92015 Recommendations—UpdatedIt is reasonable that selection of fixed versus escalating energy for subsequent shocks be based on the specific manufacturer's instructions (Class IIa, LOE C-LD).If using a manual defibrillator capable of escalating energies, higher energy for second and subsequent shocks may be considered (Class IIb, LOE C-LD).Defibrillation Strategies for Ventricular Fibrillation or Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia: Single Shocks Versus Stacked ShocksThe 2010 Guidelines recommended a 2-minute period of CPR after each shock instead of immediate successive shocks for persistent VF. The rationale for this is at least 3-fold: First, VF is terminated with a very high rate of success with biphasic waveforms. Second, when VF is terminated, a brief period of asystole or pulseless electrical activity (PEA) typically ensues and a perfusing rhythm is unlikely to be present immediately. Third, this provides for a period of uninterrupted CPR following a shock before repeat rhythm analysis. The evidence for single versus stacked shocks was reviewed again in 2015.2015 Evidence SummaryOne RCT that comprised 845 OHCA patients found no difference in 1-year survival when a single shock protocol with 2 minutes of CPR between successive shocks was compared against a previous resuscitation protocol employing 3 initial stacked shocks with 1 minute of CPR between subsequent shocks (odds ratio, 1.64; 95% confidence interval, 0.53-5.06).95 An RCT published in 2010 showed no difference in frequency of VF recurrence when comparing the 2 treatment protocols.96 In that study, increased time in recurrent VF was associated with decreased favorable neurologic survival under either protocol. There is evidence that resumption of chest compressions immediately after a shock can induce recurrent VF, but the benefit of CPR in providing myocardial blood flow is thought to outweigh the benefit of immediate defibrillation for the VF.97 Another study of patients presenting in VF after a witnessed arrest concluded that recurrence of VF within 30 seconds of a shock was not affected by the timing of resumption of chest compressions.98 Thus, the effect of chest compressions on recurrent VF is not clear. It is likely that in the future, algorithms that recognize recurrent VF during chest compressions with high sensitivity and specificity will allow us to deliver a shock earlier in the CPR cycle, thereby reducing the length of time the myocardium is fibrillating and the duration of postshock CPR.992015 Recommendation—UpdatedA single-shock strategy (as opposed to stacked shocks) is reasonable for defibrillation (Class IIa, LOE B-NR).Antiarrhythmic Drugs During and Immediately After Cardiac ArrestThe 2015 ILCOR systematic review addressed whether the administration of antiarrhythmic drugs for cardiac arrest due to refractory VF or pVT results in better outcome.Antiarrhythmic Drugs During and Immediately After Cardiac Arrest: Antiarrhythmic Therapy for Refractory VF/pVT ArrestRefers to VF or pVT that persists or recurs after 1 or more shocks. It is unlikely that an antiarrhythmic drug will itself pharmacologically convert VF/pVT to an organized perfusing rhythm. Rather, the principal objective of antiarrhythmic drug therapy in shock-refractory VF/pVT is to facilitate the restoration and maintenance of a spontaneous perfusing rhythm in concert with the shock termination of VF. Some antiarrhythmic drugs have been associated with increased rates of ROSC and hospital admission, but none have yet been proven to increase long-term survival or survival with good neurologic outcome. Thus, establishing vascular access to enable drug administration should not compromise the quality of CPR or timely defibrillation, which are known to improve survival. The optimal sequence of ACLS interventions, including administration of antiarrhythmic drugs during resuscitation and the preferred manner and timing of drug administration in relation to shock delivery, is not known. Previous ACLS guidelines addressed the use of magnesium in cardiac arrest with polymorphic β -adrenergic blocking drugs (ie, torsades de pointes) or suspected hypomagnesemia, and this has not been reevaluated in this 2015 Guidelines Update. These previous guidelines recommended defibrillation or termination of polymorphic VT (ie, torsades de pointes), followed by consideration of intravenous magnesium sulfate as secondary to a long QT interval. The 2015 ILCOR systematic review did not specifically address the selection or use of second-line antiarrhythmic medications in patients who are unresponsive to a maximum therapeutic dose of the first administered drug, and there are limited data available to direct such treatment.2015 Evidence SummaryAmiodaroneIntravenous amiodarone is available in 2 approved formulations in the United States, one containing polysorbate 80, a vasoactive solvent that can provoke hypotension, and one containing capitol, which has no vasoactive effects. In blinded RCTs in adults with refractory VF/pVT in the out-of-hospital setting, paramedic administration of amiodarone in polysorbate (300 mg or 5 mg/kg) after at least 3 failed shocks and administration of epinephrine improved hospital admission rates when compared to placebo with polysorbate 100 or 1.5 mg/kg lidocaine with polysorbate.101 Survival to hospital discharge and survival with favorable neurologic outcome, however, was not improved by amiodarone compared with placebo or amiodarone compared with lidocaine, although these studies were not powered for survival or favorable neurologic outcome.LidocaineIntravenous lidocaine is an alternative antiarrhythmic drug of long-standing and widespread familiarity. Compared with no antiarrhythmic drug treatment, lidocaine did not consistently increase ROSC and was not associated with improvement in survival to hospital discharge in observational studies.102,103 In a prospective, blinded, randomized clinical trial, lidocaine was less effective than amiodarone in improving hospital admission rates after OHCA due to shock-refractory VF/pVT, but there were no differences between the 2 drugs in survival to hospital discharge.101ProcainamideProcainamide is available only as a parenteral formulation in the United States. In conscious patients, procainamide can be given only as a controlled infusion (20 mg/min) because of its hypotensive effects and risk of QT prolongation, making it difficult to use during cardiac arrest. Procainamide was recently studied as a second-line antiarrhythmic agent in patients with OHCA due to VF/pVT who was refractory to lidocaine and epinephrine. In this study, the drug was given as a rapid infusion of 500 mg (repeated as needed up to 17 mg/kg) during ongoing CPR. An unadjusted analysis showed lower rates of hospital admission and survival among the 176 procainamide recipients as compared with 489 nonrecipients. After adjustment, patients' clinical and resuscitation characteristics, no association was found between use of the drug and hospital admission or survival to hospital discharge, although a modest survival benefit from the drug could not be excluded.104MagnesiumMagnesium acts as a vasodilator and is an important cofactor in regulating sodium, potassium, and calcium flow across cell membranes. In 3 randomized clinical trials, magnesium was not found to increase rates of ROSC for cardiac arrest due to any presenting rhythm,105 including VF/pVT.106,107 In these RCTs and in 1 additional randomized clinical trial, the use of magnesium in cardiac arrest for any rhythm presentation of cardiac arrest105,108 or strictly for VF arrest106,107 did not improve survival to hospital discharge or neurologic outcome.1082015 Recommendations—UpdatedAmiodarone may be considered for VF/pVT that is unresponsive to CPR, defibrillation, and a vasopressor therapy (Class IIb, LOE B-R).Lidocaine may be considered as an alternative to amiodarone for VF/pVT that is unresponsive to CPR, defibrillation, and vasopressor therapy (Class IIb, LOE C-LD).The routine use of magnesium for VF/pVT is not recommended in adult patients (Class III: No Benefit, LOE B-N).No antiarrhythmic drug has yet been shown to increase survival or neurologic outcome after cardiac arrest due to VF/pVT. Accordingly, recommendations for the use of antiarrhythmic medications in cardiac arrest are based primarily on the potential for benefit on short-term outcome until more definitive studies are performed to address their effect on survival and neurologic outcome.Antiarrhythmic Drugs During and Immediately After Cardiac Arrest: Antiarrhythmic Drugs After ResuscitationALS 493The 2015 ILCOR systematic review addressed whether, after successful termination of VF or pVT cardiac arrest, the prophylactic administration of antiarrhythmic drugs for cardiac arrest results in better outcome. The only medications studied in this context are β -adrenergic blocking drugs and lidocaine, and the evidence for their use is limited.2015 Evidence Summary β -Adrenergic Blocking Drugs β -Adrenergic blocking drugs blunt heightened catecholamine activity that can precipitate cardiac arrhythmias. The drugs can reduce ischemic injury and may have membrane-stabilizing effects. In 1 observational study of oral or intravenous metoprolol or bisoprolol during hospitalization after cardiac arrest due to VF/pVT, recipients had a significantly higher adjusted survival rate than nonrecipients at 72 hours after ROSC, and at 6 months.109 Conversely, β -blockers can cause or worsen hemodynamic instability, exacerbate heart failure, and cause bradyarrhythmias, making their routine administration after cardiac arrest potentially hazardous. There is no evidence addressing the use of β -blockers after cardiac arrest precipitated by rhythms other than VF/pVT.LidocaineEarly studies in patients with acute myocardial infarction found that lidocaine suppressed premature ventricular complexes and nonstained VT, rhythms that were believed to presage VF/pVT. Later studies noted a disconcerting association between lidocaine and higher mortality after acute myocardial infarction, possibly due to a higher incidence of asystole and bradyarrhythmias; the routine practice of administering prophylactic lidocaine during acute myocardial infarction was abandoned.110,111 The use of lidocaine was explored in a multivariate and propensity score-adjusted analysis of patients resuscitated from out-of-hospital VF/pVT arrest. In this observational study of 1721 patients, multivariate analysis found the prophylactic administration of lidocaine before hospitalization was associated with a significantly lower rate of recurrent VF/pVT and higher rates of hospital admission and survival to hospital discharge. However, in a propensity score-adjusted analysis, rates of hospital admission and survival to hospital discharge did not differ between recipients of prophylactic lidocaine as compared with nonrecipients, although lidocaine was associated with less recurrent VF/pVT and there was no evidence supporting a role for prophylactic lidocaine after VF/pVT arrest is weak at best, and nonexistent for cardiac arrest initiated by other rhythms.2015 Recommendations—NewThere is inadequate evidence to support the routine use of lidocaine after cardiac arrest. β -Adrenergic blocking drugs and lidocaine, and the evidence for their use is limited.2015 Evidence Summary β -Adrenergic Blocking Drugs β -Adrenergic blocking drugs blunt heightened catecholamine activity that can precipitate cardiac arrhythmias. The drugs can reduce ischemic injury and may have membrane-stabilizing effects. 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