

ACLS Megacode Case B: Tachycardia (VT) – Drug Therapy (Tachycardia→VF/Pulseless VT→PEA)

In-Hospital Scenario

In the ED you are evaluating a 65-year-old man complaining of palpitations. He is in no distress. He has a history of coronary artery disease and had a stent in the past. Otherwise he is healthy with no other medical problems. His vital signs are: HR 170, BP 110/70, RR 16.

Initial Assessment	This man has mild symptoms and is hemodynamically stable. The case focus, however, is initially a tachycardia. The student should begin to take a history, start oxygen and an IV, and place a monitor. Nitroglycerin at this point would be inappropriate because of the rapid tachycardia. Aspirin may be given.
Tachycardia Algorithm <i>Rhythm: Regular Narrow-Complex Stable Tachycardia (SVT)</i>	The student is presented with tachycardia and needs to follow the Tachycardia Algorithm. A critical action is noting that <i>the patient is asymptomatic except for palpitations</i> and is hemodynamically stable. He does not require immediate cardioversion. Note or show that he has a regular narrow-complex tachycardia. The team leader should follow the algorithm and indicate vagal maneuvers and initial therapy with adenosine.
Pulseless Arrest Algorithm (VF/VT)	During this treatment the patient suddenly develops VF. The student will follow the VF/VT pathway of Pulseless Arrest Algorithm. Now the student team leader will assign team functions and monitor for high-quality CPR. The case should continue through safe defibrillation, administration of a vasopressor, and consideration of an antiarrhythmic drug.
Pulseless Arrest Algorithm (PEA)	After a shock the patient is now in PEA. The student continues to monitor high-quality CPR and follow the PEA pathway of the Pulseless Arrest Algorithm. Although the patient is likely in cardiogenic shock, the student should verbalize a differential diagnosis of PEA. You can end the case and discuss indications to call a code.

Name: _____ Date of Test: _____

Megacode Testing Checklist 4 Tachycardia→VF/Pulseless VT→PEA

Critical Performance Steps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if done correctly
Team Leader	
Ensures high-quality CPR at all times	
Assigns team member roles	
Tachycardia Algorithm	
Starts oxygen, places monitor, starts IV	
Places monitor leads in proper position	
Recognizes tachycardia (specific diagnosis)	
Recognizes no symptoms due to tachycardia	
Attempts vagal maneuvers	
Gives appropriate initial drug therapy	
VF/Pulseless VT Management	
Recognizes VF	
Clears before ANALYZE and SHOCK	
Immediately resumes CPR after shocks	
Appropriate airway management	
Appropriate cycles Drug–Rhythm Check/Shock–CPR	
Administers appropriate drug(s) and doses	
PEA Algorithm	
Recognizes PEA	
Verbalizes potential reversible causes of PEA/asystole (H's and T's)	
Administers appropriate drug(s) and doses	
Immediately resumes CPR after rhythm and pulse checks	
Stop the Test	

Test Results	Indicate Pass or Needs Remediation:	P	NR
Instructor signature affirms that skills tests were done according to AHA guidelines. <i>Save this sheet with course record.</i>	Instructor Signature: _____ Print Instr Name: _____ Date: _____		