Preapply Defib Pads to STEMI Patients

Patients suffering from STEMI are at high risk of going into ventricular fibrillation. We apply pads to all of our ED STEMI knowing the risk of cardiac arrest. There are many cases where the pads applied early saved critical time when the patient arrested. Please pre-apply pads so that if the patient arrests you can defibrillate quickly. For a patient that arrests while you are pulling into the ED, it is better to defibrillate in the ambulance than wait until you get the patient into the ED. Recently, we have had several EMS STEMI patients go into arrest while en route to JDH. Those patients that had pads already applied were quickly shocked back into perfusing rhythms. It is vitally important than any patient who goes into v-fib receive immediate defibrillation.

Avon STEMI Cardiac Arrest Save

American Medical Response paramedic Michael Palmieri and his partner John Williams responded for a patient with crushing chest pain and shortness of breath. A 12-lead ECG showed anterior/septal ST elevation. Palmieri called in a STEMI Alert to UConn John Dempsey Hospital. Moments later still in the ambulance, the patient went into cardiac arrest and received one defibrillation which restored pulses. In the cardiac cath lab, the cardiology team found the patient had an occluded Left Anterior Descending Artery (LAD), which they successfully cleared and stented, restoring perfusion. The patient also received an intra-aortic balloon pump to support his circulation. He did well post procedure and was discharged home four days later. Great job all!

COVID-19-Keep Protecting Yourself

Connecticut’s battle against COVID continues. While the number of hospitalizations is slowly declining, the threat remains high, particularly with the concern of new variants arriving in the state. The chart below shows UConn Health COVID-19 hospitalizations from last March to February 1, 2021.

This chart shows EMS transports to UConn JDH ED since December 1, 2020 (includes those admitted and those discharged from the ED).

Keep wearing your PPE! Get vaccinated! Be safe!
Quality Assurance Corner
One of the most important things for EMS providers to do is to keep up with guideline changes. The following are several once common practices that we no longer follow.
1. Pace cardiac arrests.
2. Administer Solumedrol for anaphylaxis.
3. Transport noncardiac arrest patients on backboards.
4. Withhold pain management from patients with abdominal pain.
5. Routinely stop CPR to intubate.
6. Repeatedly attempt intubation despite failure of initial attempts.
7. Routinely give Nitro to patients with inferior myocardial infarctions.
8. Avoid the rapid use of tourniquets in uncontrolled bleeding.
9. Use Naloxone for coma of unknown etiology, give Naloxone 2 mg IV in a single dose when able to effectively ventilate patient with ambu-bag.
10. Fail to consider sedation in patients fighting against physical restraints.
11. Fail to do a 12-lead ECG on all syncope patients.
12. Transport medical cardiac arrests without taking the time to effectively work them on scene.

Connecticut SWORD
Since June 1, 2019, EMS providers in Hartford county have reported 2,643 suspected opioid overdoses to the Connecticut Poison Control Center as part of the SWORD directive. The data is shared with state and local public health officials to track and respond to the evolving opioid epidemic. Here is a heat map of the county. Those with access to the data, can zoom the maps down to the block level, enabling targeting of outreach and training efforts.

UConn Health JDH EMS Website
For news, educational information, CME schedule and past copies of our newsletter Partners, check out our website at: health.uconn.edu/ems

UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION 2021

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8:30-11:30 A.M. (Wednesdays)
All CMEs until further notice will be virtual CMES.

3 Hours CME
ALL EMS RESPONDERS WELCOME

Use this link:
https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m916b5a3cf93a7d9c98d2570e49cbb29f

Refresh2021- Free ON Demand CAPCE Approved NREMT Refresher for All EMS Levels
Over 12,000 EMS professionals nationwide have already signed up for this online on demand refresher being offered free to EMS by some of the nation’s top EMS educators in thanks for EMS service during this difficult year of COVID.

Sign up at:
https://www.prodigyems.com/refresh2021

Highly recommended. Available only until March 31, 2021.

CONTACT US:
Any questions or suggestions about EMS? Looking for patient follow-up?
Contact EMS Coordinator Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu or call (860) 679-3485.