Cardiac Arrest and Monitoring

Lancashire & South Cumbria Cardiac Network
Aims

• Be able to recognise dangerous arrhythmias on the ECG

• To familiarise the group with the monitoring available during a potential cardiac arrest or other monitoring requirement
Dangerous arrhythmias

- Asystole
- Ventricular Tachycardia
- Ventricular Fibrillation
There is one other condition that can be present in a cardiac arrest which cannot be seen from the ECG

What is it?
Asystole

- Absence of systole
- Ventricular standstill
- P waves may or may not be present
Ventricular Tachycardia

- Run 3 or more VE’s
- No preceeding P wave
- Broad complex Tachycardia
- Pulse may or may not be present
Ventricular Fibrillation

- chaotic ventricular activity
- No cardiac output
- DC Shock - treatment
Monitoring the cardiac arrest patient
Preparation

- Establish position of monitor
- Check daily basis
- Check auxiliary equipment
- Familiarise staff in its use
- Practise set up and connection protocol
- Preparation aids performance - real life arrest
Position of monitor

- Where are defibrillator monitors found in our clinical workplace/department?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
Daily checks

• Who holds the responsibility for checking the defibrillator monitors daily?

• 1.
• 2.
• 3.
• 4.
• 5.
Auxillary equipment

• Apart from the actual defibrillator, what other extra pieces of equipment are needed?

• 1.
• 2.
• 3.
Practical use

• Our role - use the defibrillator monitor for monitoring purposes only, during a near or actual cardiac arrest. For short term monitoring only
• We need to be familiar with various aspects of the defibrillator and its use
• Shock facility - health & safety issues
Practical use

• Following a simple protocol we will demonstrate and practise connection to the defibrillator monitor

• Be able to demonstrate this technique on a regular basis
Summary

• Dangerous arrhythmias - ECG

• Remember Basic Life Support

• Practical Connection - monitor