CARDIAC RHYTHMS: THE BASICS

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the basic knowledge of dysrhythmia detection and appropriate nursing interventions.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Define the basic electrophysiology of the heart.
2. State what the P wave, QRS complex, and T wave represent on the EKG.
3. Identify criteria for normal sinus rhythm.
4. Calculate rates on EKG strips.
5. Identify ventricular dysrhythmias, lethal ventricular dysrhythmias, list priority treatment and nursing interventions..
6. Identify supraventricular dysrhythmias and list appropriate treatment and nursing actions.
7. Identify junctional dysrhythmias and list treatment and nursing interventions.
8. Differentiate between first, second, (both types), and third degree atrio-ventricular blocks.
9. Discuss appropriate pharmacological interventions for lethal dysrhythmias or life-threatening dysrhythmias.
10. Identify those dysrhythmias for which artificial pacemakers may be used as a treatment modality.
11. State the purpose of an artificial cardiac pacemaker.
12. Identify, on a given rhythm strip, if a pacemaker is in or out of capture.
13. Identify, on a given rhythm strip, if a pacemaker is sensing.

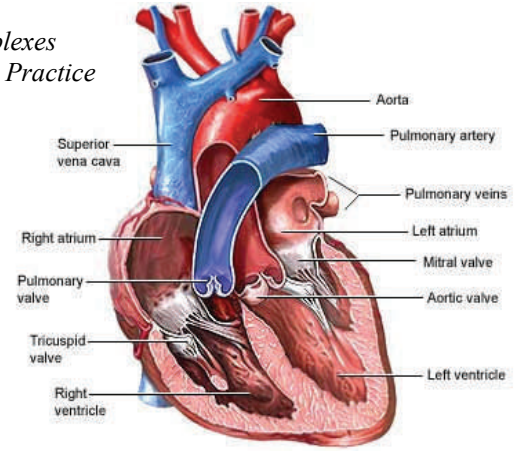
OUTLINE

I. Basic Electrophysiology
- *A. Review Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart*
- *B. Electrophysiology*
- *C. Component of the EKG*
- *D. Lead Concept*
- *E. Calculating rates and Intervals*
- *F. Rhythm Strip Practice*

II, Sinus Rhythms
- *A. Normal Sinus Rhythm*
- *B. Sinus Bradycardia*
- *C. Sinus Tachycardia*
- *D. Sinus Dysrhythmia*
- *E. Sinus Arrest*
- *F. Rhythm Strip Practice*

III. Ventricular Dysrhythmias
- *A. Premature Ventricular Contractions*
- *B. Idioventricular and Accelerated Idioventricular Rhythms*
- *C. Ventricular tachycardia*
- *D. Ventricular Fibrillation*
- *E. Asystole*
- *F. Rhythm Strip Practice*

IV. Supraventricular Dysrythmias
- *A. Premature Atrial Complexes*
- *B. Atrial tachycardia*
- *C. Atrial Flutter*
- *D. Atrial Fibrillation*
- *E. Premature Junctional Complexes*
- *F. Junctional Rhythms Rhythm Practice*
- *G. Rhythm Practice*



THE HEART

The function of the heart is as a pump. The heart is divided into a right side and a left side. Each has a slightly different function.