

# ACLS Megacode Case B: Tachycardia (VT) – Cardioversion (Tachycardia→VF/Pulseless VT→PEA)

## Out-of-Hospital Scenario

You are a paramedic and arrive on-scene to find a 65-year-old man complaining of palpitations and chest discomfort. He is cold, clammy, and diaphoretic. He states that he feels as if he is about to faint. EMS responders have placed oxygen and obtained vital signs: HR 160, BP 70/P, RR 16.

<b>Initial Assessment</b>	This man may have an acute coronary syndrome. The case focus, however, is initially a tachycardia. The student should begin to take a history, start oxygen and an IV, and attach monitor electrodes or pads to the patient. Nitroglycerin at this point would be inappropriate and contraindicated because of hypotension. Aspirin may be given.
<b>Tachycardia Algorithm</b>  <i>Rhythm: Regular Wide-Complex Tachycardia (VT)</i>	The student is presented with tachycardia and needs to follow the Tachycardia Algorithm. A critical action is noting that <i>symptoms are due to tachycardia requiring management</i> . The monitor shows a wide-complex tachycardia: VT. The student should recognize that the patient is symptomatic and prepare for immediate cardioversion. Consideration of drug therapy should not delay cardioversion.
<b>Pulseless Arrest Algorithm (VF/VT)</b>	The patient should suddenly develop VF. The student will follow the VF/VT pathway of the 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.
<b>Pulseless Arrest Algorithm (PEA)</b>	The patient is now in PEA. The student continues to monitor high-quality CPR and follows the PEA pathway of the Pulseless Arrest Algorithm. Although the patient is likely in cardiogenic shock, the student should say a differential diagnosis of PEA. You can end the case and discuss indications to call a code.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Test: \_\_\_\_\_

## Megacode Testing Checklist 3 Tachycardia→VF/Pulseless VT→PEA

Critical Performance Steps	<input type="checkbox"/> if done correctly
<b>Team Leader</b>	
Ensures high-quality CPR at all times	
Assigns team member roles	
<b>Tachycardia Algorithm</b>	
Starts oxygen, places monitor, starts IV	
Places monitor leads in proper position	
Recognizes unstable tachycardia	
Recognizes symptoms due to tachycardia	
Performs immediate synchronized cardioversion	
<b>VF/Pulseless VT Management</b>	
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	
<b>PEA Algorithm</b>	
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	
<b>Stop the Test</b>	

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: _____		