Approach to Bradycardia
10/8/2017

The core differential diagnosis for bradycardia: **drugs, lytes, ischemia**

1) Get an ECG to look for ischemia, heart block, other
2) Check if patient is symptomatic
3) Give atropine 0.5 mg IV for symptomatic bradycardia
4) Start an epinephrine drip
5) Start pacing and consult cardiology
   - Transcutaneous with your defibrillator -> often has poor capture
   - Transvenous at right internal jugular or left subclavian -> often has better capture

**Quick Facts**

- Every patient with bradycardia needs lytes checked
- In your ED learn how to put the defibrillator in pacing mode
- Heart block types:
  o 1st degree with PR interval >200 ms
  o 2nd degree
    ▪ Type 1: sequentially elongating PR followed by dropped beat
    ▪ Type 2: Intermittent dropped beats (this is the bad one)
  o 3rd degree with asynchronous atrial and ventricular activity with an escape rhythm