Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

Indications

Patients in cardiac arrest: will only shock VF/VT.

Precautions

1. Do not delay CPR waiting for defibrillator.
2. Dispatch ALS if not already enroute.

Technique

1. Activate the EMS system (call 911) if not already activated.
2. Establish unresponsiveness by initiating chest compressions.
3. Place defibrillation pads (Note if the patient has an implanted pacemaker, place the pads several inches from the pacing generator.) Do not interrupt chest compressions to place the pads.
4. Follow the prompts given by the AED. Only stop CPR when advised and are ready to shock. Depending on its programming, it may deliver stacks of 3 shocks every minute, or 1 shock every 2 minutes. Resume CPR immediately after shock
5. Do not stop compressions unless the patient shows signs of responsiveness.

Notes

1. Monitor patient carefully if pulses obtained after shocks. Patients frequently re-arrest.
2. Following the use of the AED, contact Heart Safe La Plata to pick up the AED so that the recorded information can be down loaded for local and state mandated records.