Amiodarone Versus Lidocaine for Refractory VF/Pulseless VT

Consensus on Science

In 2 LOE 5 prospective out-of-hospital adult trials IV amiodarone improved ROSC and survival to hospital admission but not hospital discharge when compared with placebo\textsuperscript{296} or lidocaine\textsuperscript{297} for treatment of shock–refractory VF/pulseless VT. Evidence from 2 LOE 5 case series in children\textsuperscript{298,299} supported the effectiveness of amiodarone for the treatment and acute conversion of life–threatening (nonarrest) ventricular arrhythmias. There are no pediatric data investigating the efficacy of lidocaine for shock refractory VF/ pulseless VT.

Treatment Recommendations

Amiodarone may be used for the treatment of shock–refractory or recurrent VF/pulseless VT in infants and children; if amiodarone is not available, lidocaine may be considered.