Protocol for tPA Use in Adult Cardiac Arrest

Adult in Cardiac Arrest

Standard ACLS Protocol

Rhythm Analysis

PEA

Pulseless rhythm other than PEA

Massive PE high on differential due to:
• Recent history of or risk factors for PE or VTE, and/or
• Bedside cardiac US w/ evidence of right heart strain

Yes

Consider tPA 50 mg IV bolus x 1
Continue ACLS for at least 15 minutes

Yes

Initiate therapeutic heparin drip

Exit to ACLS Protocol

No

ROS C within 15 min

No

Consider single repeat dose of tPA 50 mg IV bolus x 1
Continue ACLS for at least 15 minutes

Yes

ROS C within 15 min

No

Abbreviations:
ACLS – advanced cardiac life support
IV – intravenous
PE – pulmonary embolism
PEA – pulseless electrical activity
ROSC – return of spontaneous circulation
tPA - alteplase
US - ultrasound
VTE – venous thromboembolism

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