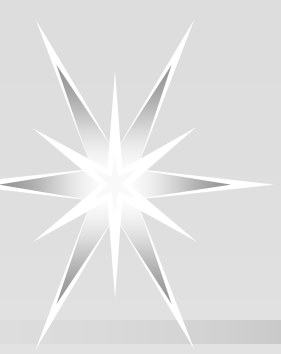


# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

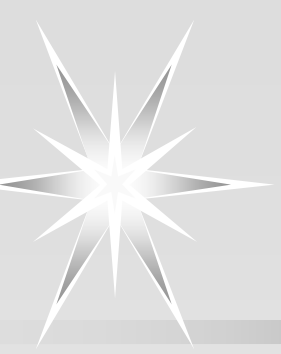


# $\beta$ /Calcium Channel Blockers Poisoning

Nastaran Eizadi-Mood

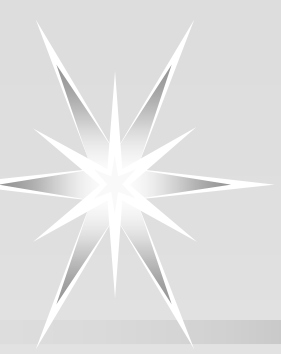
Professor, Clinical Toxicology Department,  
School of Medicine, Isfahan Clinical Toxicology Research Center  
Isfahan University of Medical Sciences,  
Isfahan, Iran

18 July 2021



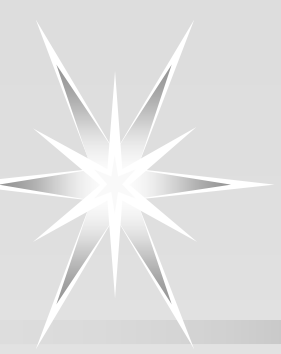
# Outlines

- **Introduction (case presentation)**
- **Clinical manifestations**
- **Diagnosis**
- **Treatment**



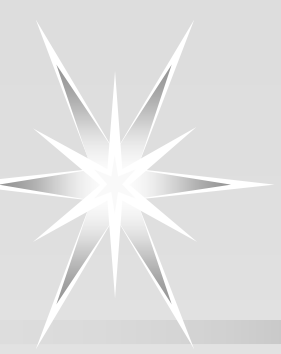
# Bata blockers poisoning

- ↗ **Hypertension and other cardiovascular disorders**
- ↗ **migraine headaches,**
- ↗ **hyperthyroidism, tremor,**
- ↗ **anxiety,**
- ↗ **panic attacks**
- ↗ **.....**



# Case 1

- ↗ A 26 yo woman
- ↗ 60 x 40mg tablets of Propranolol an hour earlier
- ↗ confused state
- ↗ GCS was 13, Blood glucose was 100.
- ↗ HR 60 bpm, BP 105/40 mmHg  
Sats 98% on 6L, RR 20,
- ↗ The ambulance have established IV access, but given nothing.
- ↗ On arrival the patient's **GCS is 9-10** and within 5 minutes of arrival the patient has a generalized **tonic clonic seizure** lasting less than 30 seconds. ECG, Normal



# Case 1

➤ The patient's hemodynamic status changes.

➤ Vitals are:

HR      45bpm

BP      80/50 mmHg.

➤ ????????

# Pharmacokinetics

	<i>Adrenergic Blocking Activity</i>	<i>Partial Agonist Activity (ISA)</i>	<i>Membrane-Stabilizing Activity</i>	<i>Vasodilating Property</i>	<i>Log D<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Protein Binding (%)</i>	<i>Oral Bioavailability (%)</i>	<i>Half-Life (h)</i>	<i>Metabolism</i>	<i>Volume of Distribution (L/kg)</i>
Acebutolol	$\beta_1$	Yes	Yes	No	0.52	25	40	2–4	Hepatic or renal	1.2
Atenolol	$\beta_1$	No	No	No	-2.03	<5	40–50	5–9	Renal	1
Betaxolol (tablets and ophthalmic)	$\beta_1$	No	Yes	Yes (calcium channel blockade)	0.56	50	80–90	14–22	Hepatic or renal	4.9–8.8
Bisoprolol	$\beta_1$	No	No	No	0.11	30	80	9–12	Hepatic or renal	3.2
Bucindolol <sup>a</sup>	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	$\beta_2$	NA	Yes ( $\beta_2$ agonism and $\alpha_1$ blockade)	NA	NA	30	8 +/- 4.5	Hepatic	NA
Carteolol (ophthalmic)	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	Yes	No	Yes ( $\beta_2$ agonism and nitric oxide mediated)	-0.42	30	85	5–6	Renal	NA
Carvedilol (long acting form available)	$\alpha_1, \beta_1, \beta_2$	No	Yes	Yes ( $\alpha_1$ blockade, calcium channel blockade)	3.16	~98	25–35	6–10	Hepatic	2
Celiprolol	$\alpha_2, \beta_1$	$\beta_2$	NA	Yes ( $\beta_2$ agonism, nitric oxide mediated)	NA	22–24	30–70	5	Hepatic	NA

# Pharmacokinetics

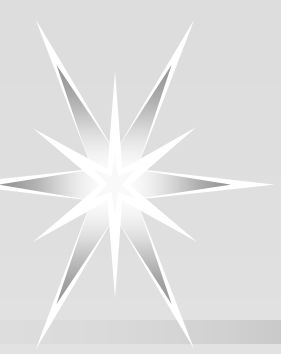
Esmolol	$\beta_1$	No	No	No	-0.22	50	NA	~8 min	RBC esterases	2
Labetalol	$\alpha_1, \beta_1, \beta_2$	$\beta_2$	Low	Yes ( $\alpha_1$ blockade, $\beta_2$ agonism)	0.99	50	20–33	4–8	Hepatic	9
Levobunolol (ophthalmic)	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	No	No	No	0.56	NA	NA	6	NA	NA
Metipranolol (ophthalmic)	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	No	No	No	0.53	NA	NA	3–4	NA	NA
Metoprolol (long-acting form available)	$\beta_1$	No	Low	No	-0.34	10	40–50	3–4	Hepatic	4
Nadolol	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	No	No	No	-0.84	20–30	30–35	10–24	Renal	2
Nebivolol	$\beta_1$	No	NA	Yes (nitric oxide mediated)	NA	98	12–96	8–32	Hepatic	10–40
Oxprenolol	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	Yes	Yes	No	NA	80	20%–70%	1–3	Hepatic	1.3
Penbutolol	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	Yes	No	No	2.05	90	~100	5	Hepatic or renal	NA
Pindolol	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	Yes	Low	No	-0.19	50	75–90	3–4	Hepatic or renal	2
Propranolol (long-acting form available)	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	No	Yes	No	0.99	90	30–70	3–5	hepatic	4
Sotalol	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	No	No	No	-1.82	0	90	9–12	Renal	2
Timolol (tablets and ophthalmic)	$\beta_1, \beta_2$	No	No	No	-1.99	60	75	3–5	Hepatic or renal	2

<sup>a</sup>Xenobiotics in italics are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. <sup>b</sup>Log D is the octanol/water partition coefficient at a pH of 7.

ISA = intrinsic sympathomimetic activity; NA = information not available; RBC = red blood cell; NA = not available.

Information from references 75, 77, 96, 169, 172, 175, 191, 251, and 268.

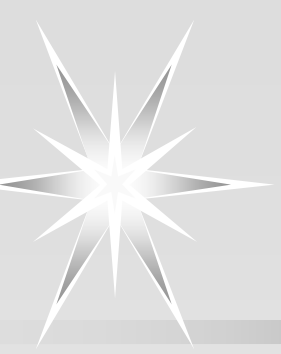




- **Toxicokinetic**
- **Toxic Dose**
- **One Pill can kill**

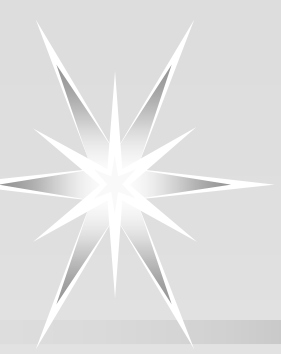
# Clinical Manifestations

<i>System</i>	<i>Manifestations</i>
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	Bradycardia, Hypotension, Conduction delays, Na blocking effect (propranolol) Prolonged QRS(propranolol) – QT (sotalol) Acebutolol → torsade de pointe,
<b>Central Nervous System</b>	Altered mental status, Coma, seizures
<b>Pulmonary</b>	Bronchospasm(unusual)
<b>Metabolic</b>	Acidosis, hypoglycemia(rare), Hyperkalemia



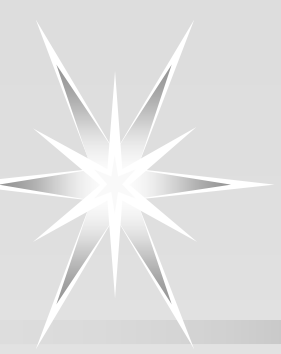
# Diagnosis

- ↗ **History, Clinical evaluation**
- ↗ **Laboratory testing:**
  - ↗ **monitoring serum glucose and potassium levels.**
  - ↗ **VBG/ABG**
  - ↗ **Urine toxicology (Co-ingestion)**
  - ↗ **CBC, BUN/Cr, ALT, AST, PT, PTT, INR, Na, Ca, P, Alb, Mg, .....**
  - ↗ **ECG**
  - ↗ **Echocardiogram**



# Management

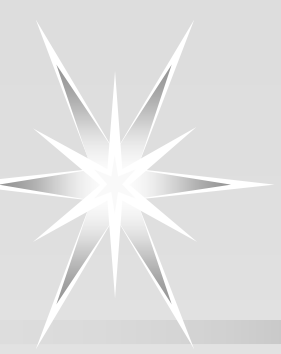
- ↗ **ABCD (laryngoscopy)(BS)**
- ↗ **Bradycardia:**
- ↗ Atropine
- ↗ Glucagon



# Atropine

- **1 mg IV** (5-min intervals) until desired response
- Maximal dose: **3 mg IV** is fully vagolytic





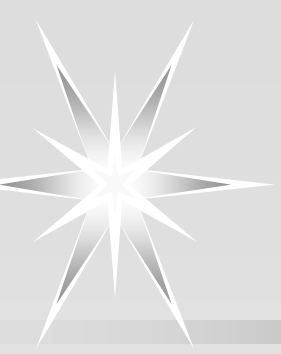
# Glucagon

- 3-5 mg (1-2 min) .....> 10 mg IV bolus
- Glucagon infusion at the “response dose” per hour.

## ➤ Precautions:

- vomiting with risk of aspiration,
- Hyperglycemia
- mild hypocalcemia

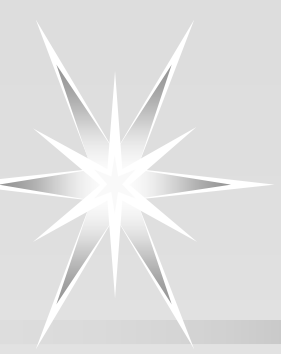




# Management

## Hypotension

- **Isotonic IV fluid (20 cc/kg) (Range: 10-40 cc/kg), CVC (CVP)**
- **Glucagon (Antidote)**



# Glucagon

- 3-5 mg (1-2 min) .....> 10 mg IV bolus
- Glucagon infusion at the “response dose” per hour.
  
- **Precautions:**
- vomiting with risk of aspiration,
- Hyperglycemia
- mild hypocalcemia



# Calcium



- Calcium gluconate; 3 g;
- Calcium chloride: 1g slow IV push of 10% solution
- Persistent hypotension: same dose every 10 to 20 minutes up to a total of 9 g.

## ➤ Precautions

Administer **slowly** (not to exceed 0.5-1 mL/min) to avoid extravasation





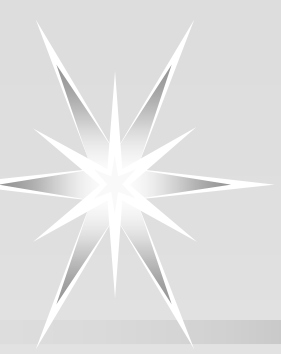
# Calcium

- It is important to monitor  $[Ca^{2+}]$  every 30 to 60 minutes
- The main limitation of using  $CaCl_2$ , however, is that it has significant potential for causing tissue injury if extravasated we recommend administration through a **central venous line**, **intraosseous line** or peripheral line if no other route is accessible.
- Adverse effects: **nausea, vomiting, flushing, constipation, confusion, hypercalcemia, and hypophosphatemia.**

# Insulin



- **1 unit/kg** of regular insulin + with **0.5 gm/kg** of dextrose
- If BS > 300 mg/dL: No bolus (dextrose)
- Infusion of regular insulin: **1 unit/kg/h**
- Infusion dextrose: **0.5 gm/kg/h**
- Blood Glucose: **100-250 mg/dL**
- Complications of HDI: **hypoglycemia and hypokalemia**
- Glucose should be monitored every **15 to 30 minutes** until stable and then every **1 to 2 hours**
- BP: reassessed every **10 to 15 minutes**, and if it remains depressed, the insulin infusion should be increased up to **10 units/kg/h** as required (rarely higher).
- Concentrating the **insulin infusion to 10 units/mL** prevents fluid overload from large doses of insulin



# Insulin

- Response: 15 to 60 minutes,
- Monitoring glucose and electrolytes for several hours after insulin is discontinued
- Start catecholamine infusion before the full effects of insulin are apparent.

# Epinephrine (adrenaline)

- ↗ **1 mcg/min** IV; titrate to effect
- ↗ **Precautions**
- ↗ Heart failure;
- ↗ Organic disease of the AV node and its branches
- ↗ Coronary artery disease, coronary insufficiency, diabetes, or hyperthyroidism and sensitivity to sympathomimetic amines;
- ↗ **Heart rate >110 BPM:** decrease infusion rate or temporarily discontinue infusion





# Epinephrine (adrenaline)

- **Echocardiographic** monitoring
- Direct invasive measures of determining cardiac performance
- The infusion should be stopped immediately if the patient becomes **more hypotensive** or develops **congestive heart failure**.

# Phosphodiesterase inhibitors

## Amrinone, Milrinone

- ↗ Limited Experience
- ↗ limited by hypotension secondary to peripheral vasodilation.
- ↗ Difficult to titrate: long half-lives
- ↗ (30–60 minutes for milrinone,
- ↗ 2–4 hours for amrinone,
- ↗ ~2 hours for enoximone).
- ↗ .....> not routinely recommended, especially in patients without arterial and pulmonary artery pressure monitoring.



# Amrinone



- 0.75 mg/kg IV
- 5-10 mcg/kg/min maintenance infusion;
- 0.75 mg/kg may be given 30 min after therapy begins
- not to exceed 10 mg/kg/d



# Mechanical Life Support

- Venoarterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VA-ECMO), IABP
- In one report, a neonate was supported with VA-ECMO for 5 days and survived neurologically intact.
- In another series, a total of 13 of the 17 patients had long-term survival.
- for patients with cardiac arrest or refractory shock unresponsive to standard therapy.
- Given the high risk of complications, including severe bleeding, stroke, and intracranial hemorrhage, should be reserved for severely poisoned patients who are failing medical therapy.



# Lipid Emulsion

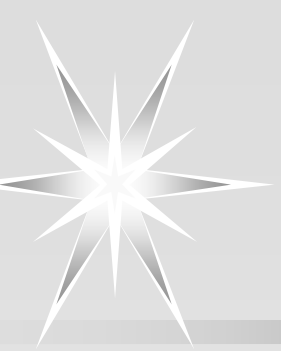
- **Cardiac arrest** or **circulatory failure** that does not respond to usual therapy, especially if mechanical life support is not promptly available

The optimal dose: unknown.

- **1.5 mL/kg of 20%** lipid emulsion
- Infusion: **0.25 mL/kg/min**
- The bolus can be repeated in 3 to 5 minutes if necessary.
- Total dose: **< 8 mL/kg**

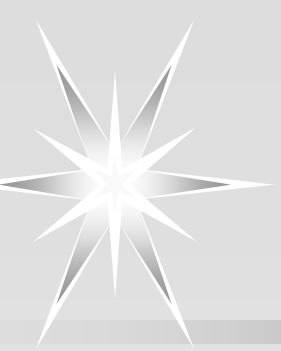






# Lipid Emulsion

- However, there is a report of **two cases of asystole** developing immediately after IV lipid emulsion in two cases of  $\beta$ -adrenergic antagonist overdose.
- The authors postulate that asystole in these cases may have been caused by interaction of lipid emulsion with other resuscitation medications or “brief lack of oxygen in lipid-laden blood.”
- Because there is evidence that lipid emulsion can cause mechanical problems with **VA-ECMO circuits**, that lipid emulsion be withheld and the patient supported with cardiopulmonary resuscitation if ECLS can be initiated promptly



# Lipid Emulsion

- This has been reported in vitro and clinically when lipid emulsion was used as parenteral nutrition for patients on ECMO but has not been reported in the overdose setting.
- Given these concerns and limited evidence supporting its efficacy in  $\beta$ -adrenergic antagonist overdose, **lipid emulsion should not be used routinely in patients poisoned with  $\beta$ -adrenergic antagonists.**
- It is reasonable to administer lipid emulsion in patients poisoned with a lipid-soluble  $\beta$ -adrenergic antagonist who have **cardiac arrest** or **circulatory failure** that does not respond to usual therapy especially if mechanical life support is not promptly available

# Vasopressin

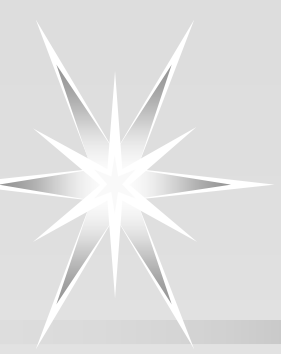


- Vasopressors
- Shock states
- Cardiopulmonary arrest
- Vasopressin was used without effect in a patient in cardiac arrest after metoprolol poisoning who subsequently survived after initiation of mechanical life support.
- The American Heart Association has removed vasopressin from its most recent Adult Cardiac Arrest Algorithm.

# Methylene blue

- Vasoconstrictor
- Refractory vasodilatory shock
- Atenolol and amlodipine.
- Dose: **1 mg/kg/ over 10 minutes**  
(improvement in blood pressure 20 minutes after)
- The routine use of either vasopressin or methylene blue is not recommended in patients with  $\beta$ -adrenergic antagonist poisoning





# Ventricular Pacing

- Pacing increases the heart rate with no increase in cardiac output or blood pressure.
- Decreases blood pressure perhaps secondary to loss of organized atrial contraction or because of impaired ventricular relaxation
- **Unresponsive to pharmacologic therapy**
- **Torsade de pointes** unresponsive to magnesium
- **Ventricular pacing** is not recommended except for heart rate control in patients with an **IABP**.



# Magnesium sulfate

- 2 g IV over 1-2 min; a second 2 g bolus;
- infusion of 3-20 mg/min
- Patients not responding to the initial bolus
- Recurrence of arrhythmias
- **Precautions:**
- heart block in digitalized patients;
- Monitor respiratory rate, deep tendon reflex,
- Renal function when electrolyte is administered parentally;
- In overdose, calcium gluconate, 10-20 mL IV of 10% solution, can be given as antidote for clinically significant hypermagnesemia





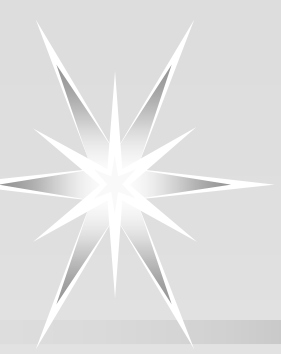
# Special Circumstances

- **Sotalol:**
- correction of hypokalemia and hypomagnesemia,
- Overdrive pacing and magnesium infusions for prevention of recurrent episodes of Torsade
- Lidocaine, nicorandil?
- **Peripheral vasodilation** (Carvedilol, Labetalol, ..):
- Norepinephrine or phenylephrine,
- glucagon



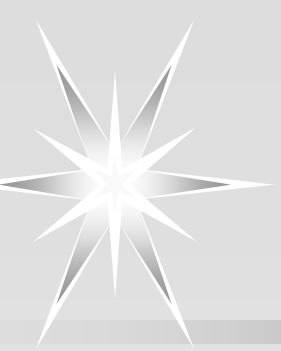
# Special Circumstances

- **Membrane-Stabilizing Effects (Acebutolol, Betaxolol, Carvedilol, Oxprenolol, and Propranolol): sodium bicarbonate**
- Wide QRS, ventricular dysrhythmias, or severe hypotension
- Sodium bicarbonate would not be expected to be beneficial in sotalol-induced ventricular dysrhythmias and, by causing hypokalemia, may actually increase the risk of torsade de pointes
- **1 to 2 mEq/kg** given as an IV bolus. This should either be followed by an infusion or by repeated boluses as needed.



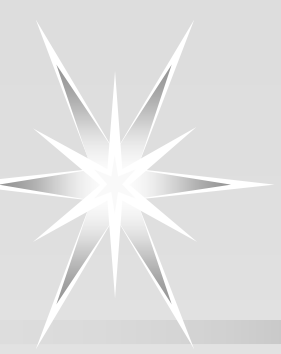
# Hypotension

- ↗ **Isotonic IV fluid (20 cc/kg)**
- ↗ **Glucagon**
- ↗ **Calcium (chloride or gluconate)**
- ↗ **Insulin/Glucose**
- ↗ **Epinephrine, Norepinephrine, Dopamine, Isopretrenol, ....**
- ↗ **Amrinone, Milrinone**
- ↗ **IABP, ECMO**
- ↗ **Lipid emulsion**



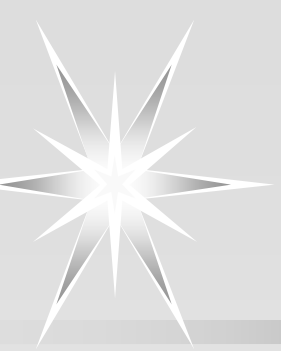
# Hypotension

- In critically ill patients, there may not be enough time for this stepwise approach, and multiple treatments may be started **simultaneously**.
- **Advanced hemodynamic monitoring**, when available, is advisable to guide therapy for all patients receiving catecholamine pressors or phosphodiesterase inhibitors.



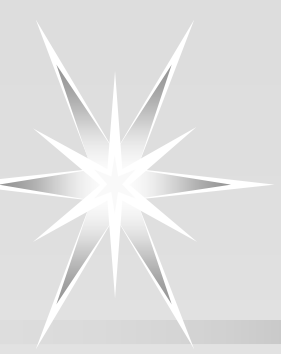
# Management

- **Seizure:** Benzodiazepines
- **Hemodialysis** (Atenolol, Nadolol, sotalol, and Acebutolol)
- Technically difficult because of hypotension and bradycardia
- Reasonable in certain circumstances such as patients with **severe toxicity** from a **water-soluble**  $\beta$ -adrenergic antagonist whose **blood pressure is maintained with mechanical life support.**
- **Consider hemodialysis *only when treatment with glucagon and other pharmacotherapy fails.***



# Management

- ↗ **Gastric lavage** : within 1-2 hours of ingestion (toxic dose).
- ↗ **WBI**: sustained release; (1–2 L in adults)
- ↗ **Activated charcoal**: within 4 h of ingestion (1 g/kg PO)
- ↗ MDAC: (0.5 g/kg every 4–6 hours), sustained-released agents
- ↗ Do not mix with milk, or ice cream (decreases absorptive properties)
- ↗ MDAC should not be administered to a patient with inadequate GI function (eg, hypotension, diminished peristalsis sounds)
  
- ↗ **Precautions: charcoal ileus**



➤ The patient's hemodynamic status changes.

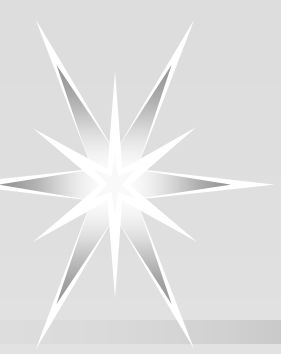
➤ Vitals are:

HR      45bpm

BP      80/50 mmHg.

➤ ????????





# SUMMARY

- ↗ Supportive and symptomatic care,
- ↗ Atropine
- ↗ Glucagon, calcium salts
- ↗ HDI/Glucose
- ↗ Catecholamine infusions (Adrenaline,.....)
- ↗ Phosphodiesterase inhibitors (Amrinone,..)
- ↗ IV lipid emulsion
- ↗ Mechanical support of circulation (ECMO, IABP, ...)
- ↗ Pacing

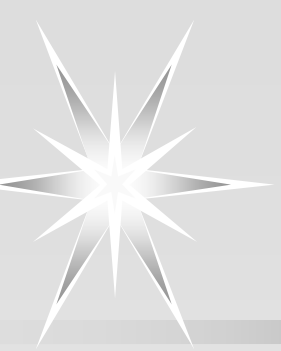


# Disposition

Regular: **6 hours**

Sotalol: **12h** (ventricular dysrhythmias 9 hours after ingestion).

Extended-release: **24-hour observation.**



# SUMMARY

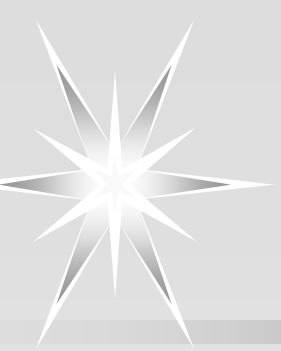
- In addition to supportive and symptomatic care,
- The most important initial therapies: **glucagon and calcium salts**
- **HDI together with glucose** is recommended early in the course of treatment if the response to the initial therapy is not rapid and complete.
- **Catecholamine infusions** should be closely monitored and **large doses** are typically required.
- Patients who fail treatment with glucagon, insulin, and catecholamines are critically ill and may respond to **IV lipid emulsion therapy, phosphodiesterase inhibitors, or mechanical support of circulation.**
- Fortunately, this aggressive therapy is rarely required.

# CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS

**TABLE 60-2** Classification of Calcium Channel Blockers Available in the United States

<i>Class</i>	<i>Specific Compounds</i>	<i>Volume of Distribution (L/kg)</i>	<i>Time to Peak* Concentrations (h)</i>
Phenylalkylamine	Verapamil	3-5	1-2
Benzothiazepine	Diltiazem	5.3	2-4
Dihydropyridines	Amlodipine	21	6-12
	Clevidipine	0.17	<1
	Felodipine	10	2.5-5
	Isradipine	3	1-2
	Nicardipine	8.3	1-4
	Nifedipine	0.75	2.5-5
	Nimodipine	2	1-2
	Nisoldipine	1.6	>6

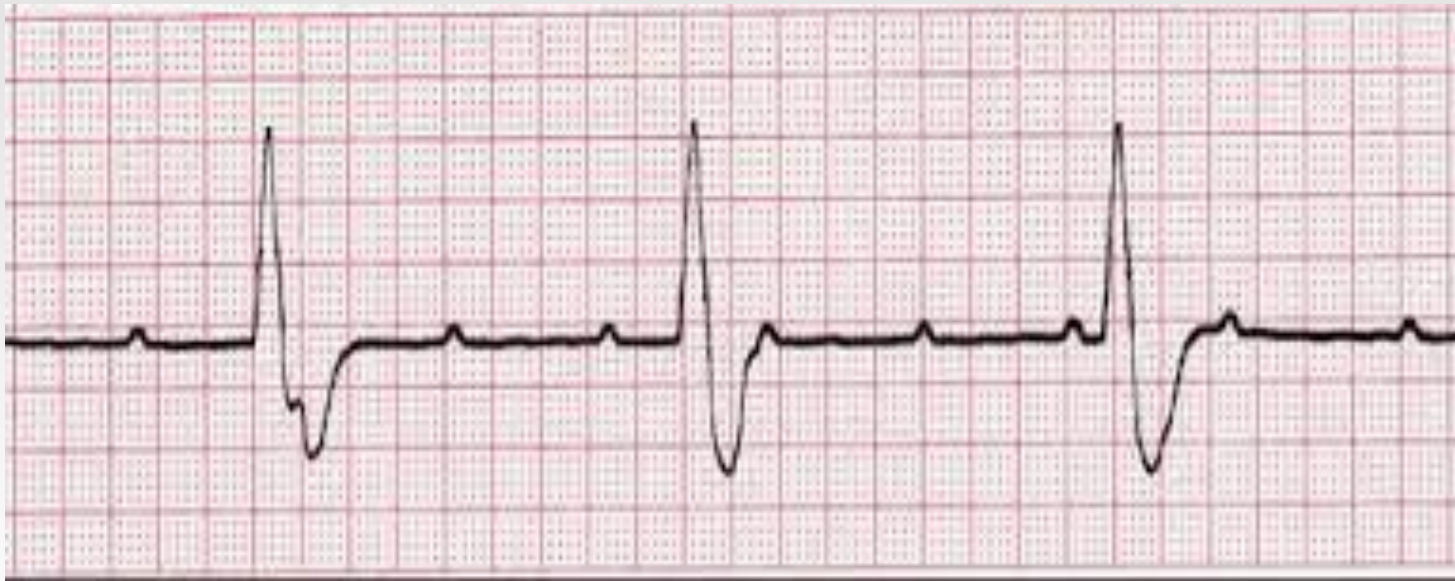
\*All are oral ingestion of an immediate release formulation: at therapeutic doses.



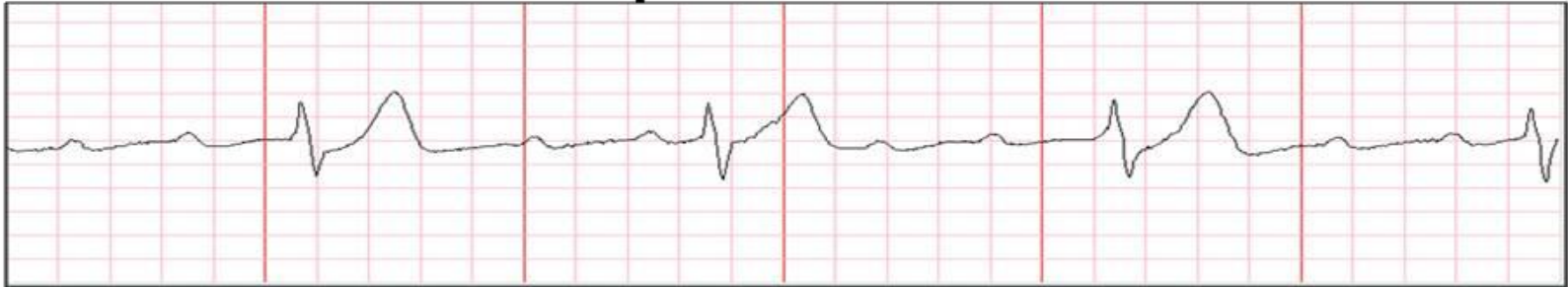
# Clinical manifestations

- ↗ Nausea and vomiting: not a typical feature
- ↗ Fatigue, dizziness, and lightheadedness.
- ↗ Hypotension and bradycardia, **Reflex tachycardia** (Mild, Mod. dihydropyridine)
- ↗ Syncope, altered mental status, coma, and sudden death
- ↗ **Idioventricular rhythms, and complete heart block,** (nondihydropyridine)
- ↗ **Junctional escape rhythms**
- ↗ ARDS
- ↗ Hyperglycemia

# Complete Heart Block or Third-Degree Atrioventricular (AV) Block



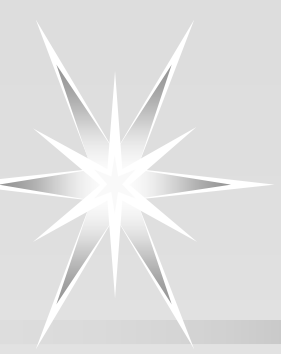
# Third Degree AV Block aka Complete Heart Block



## ECG Recognition:

- In sinus rhythm with complete AV block, the PP and RR intervals are regular but the P wave has no relationship with the R wave.
- The PR interval varies because there is really no P and QRS relationship.
- The ventricular rate is usually 40-60 bpm and narrow when it is driven by a junctional pacemaker (AV node).
- The QRS is wide and less the 40 bpm when an infra-Hisian pacemaker takes over.

@ecgrhythms



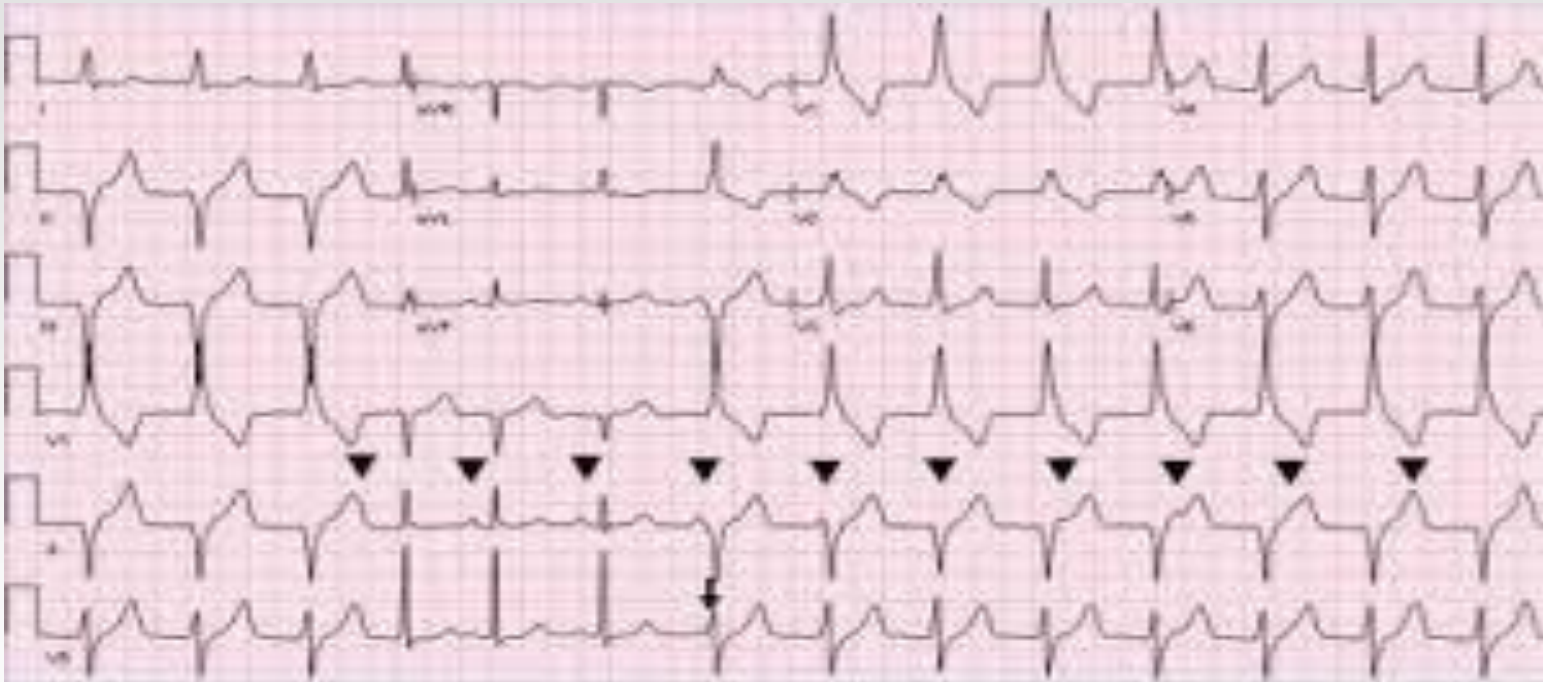
## Idioventricular Rhythm



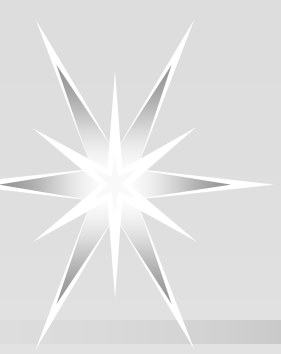
- ✱ Originates in ventricles
- ✱ QRS is wide, bizarre; no p waves
- ✱ Rhythm is ~ regular
- ✱ Rate: 20-40 bpm
- ✱ Causes
  - ✱ end-stage cardiac disease



# Accelerated Idioventricular Rhythm



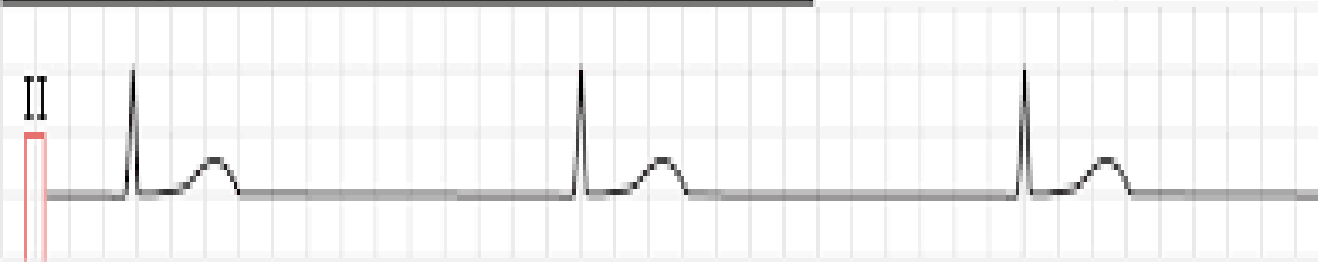
AIVR is a wide QRS ventricular rhythm with rate of 40-120 bpm.



Junctional rhythm with P-waves hidden in the QRS complex

50 mm/s

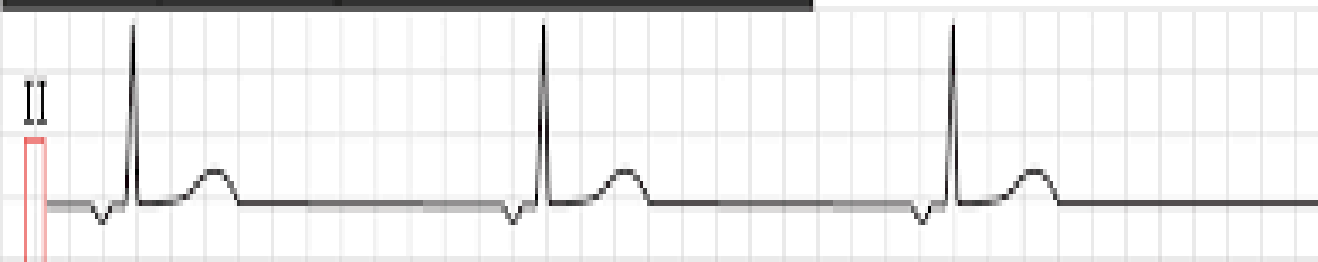
46 beats per minute

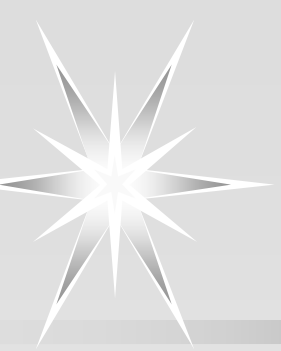


Junctional rhythm with retrograde P-waves

50 mm/s

50 beats per minute





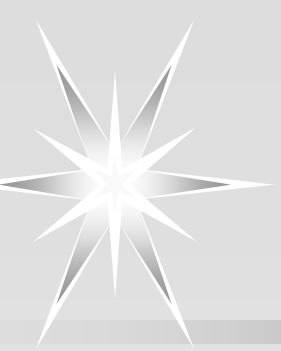
# Treatment (Hypotension)

- Fluid bolus of 10 to 20 mL/kg of crystalloid.
- Atropine,
- Calcium,
- Insulin,
- Glucagon,
- Isoproterenol, dopamine, epinephrine, norepinephrine,
- Phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors (amrinone)
- **Aggressive fluid resuscitation** should not be given to patients with congestive heart failure, evidence of ARDS
- The **long-term use of vasopressors** such as norepinephrine or dopamine can result in tissue ischemia and should be avoided, when possible, in favor of HDI therapy.
- Critically ill patients: **multiple therapies simultaneously.**

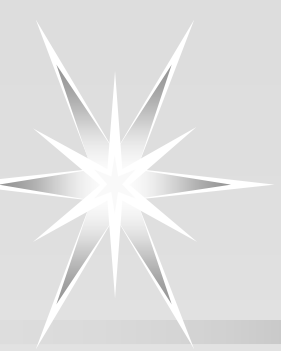


# Molecular adsorbents recirculating system (MARS)

- A specific extracorporeal albumin dialysis
- Molecular adsorbents recirculating system therapy has the unique ability to selectively remove from circulation **protein-bound xenobiotics** that are not cleared by conventional hemodialysis.
- The use of MARS therapy was successfully used in three patients with severe nondihydropyridine CCB poisoning.
- Despite potential application, we recommend the use of VA-ECMO



➤ Molecular adsorbents recirculating system (MARS) therapy is a **blood detoxification** system based on **albumin dialysis** that is able to remove **albumin-bound** and **water-soluble** substances selectively.



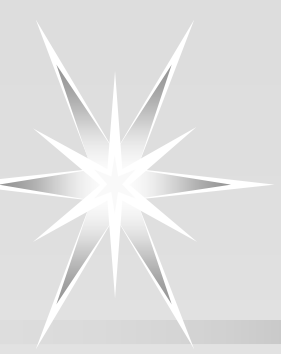
# DISPOSITION

- Signs or symptoms of toxicity: **ICU**
- Criteria for safe discharge:
- **“Immediate-release”** : GI decontamination, serial ECGs over 6 to 8 hours, asymptomatic.
- **“Sustained-release”**: **24 hours monitoring** even if they are asymptomatic.
- This precautionary approach is particularly important for **toddlers and small children** in whom even **one or a few tablets** may produce significant toxicity.



# Summary


- **Aggressive decontamination** of patients with exposures to sustained-release products should begin as soon as possible and should not be delayed while awaiting signs of toxicity.
- **HDI therapy** early in the clinical course
- Fail to respond to all pharmaceutical interventions (Atropine, Calcium, Glucagon, HDI, Catecholamines): **lipid emulsion**, adjunctive hemodynamic support, such as **VAECMO, IABP, Pacing**



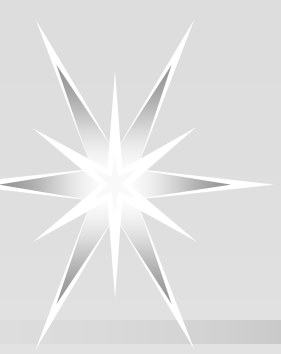
# منابع

- **–Goldfrank’s Toxicologic Emergencies 9th Edition , 2019**
- **www.emedicine / Emergency Medicine / Toxicology**



An aerial photograph of the Vajigah Dam in Isfahan, Iran. The dam is a long, multi-arched structure made of reddish-brown brick, stretching across a wide river. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of trees with green and yellow foliage. A small yellow boat is visible on the water to the left. The title 'باتشکر و سپاس' is written in yellow Persian script in the center of the image.

## باتشکر و سپاس



## ➤ Questions?