

Refractory VF/VT

Shock #1

- Analyze Rhythm, Shock #1 as usual

HP - CPR
2 minutes of CPR

Shock #2

- If able, start the discussion to add a second set of pads, after shock #2 or #3 (before Lucas is placed)
- Consult with CACC to see if another truck is close

HP - CPR
2 minutes of CPR

Indications

Adult patient (18 & Older)
Refractory VF / VT
Medical Arrest
3 previous failed shocks

Shock #3

- Second set of pads are placed after this shock.
- Prepare to shock in DSED or VC format

HP - CPR
2 minutes of CPR

Contraindications

Non-shockable rhythms
Paediatric (Less than 18)
Trauma Arrest
Reversible Causes
Environmental

Shock #4

- All shocks from this point on will be in DSED fashion
- If no 2nd defib available, continue to shock in Vector Change format

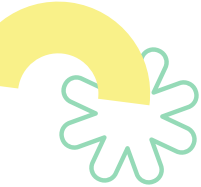
HP - CPR
2 minutes of CPR

Shocks #5 & #6 and all Remaining Shocks

- Transport after your 6th total shock
- Continue to shock in DSED or Vector Change fashion q2 mins when safe to do so

HP - CPR
Continue with CPR

The most dangerous phrase in the language is "we've always done it this way"



FAQ's



Q: Do I have to patch at all for DSED?

A: No, If your patient meets the refractory VF/VT directive, you do not have to patch

Q: Can I use another Paramedic Service's defib?

A: Yes, our neighboring services gave us permission a while ago to use their defib as our second defib if needed.

Q: Can I use a fire department AED as my second defib?

A: No, not currently

Q: What if my patient has a non-shockable rhythm and then goes back to refractory VF or VT?

A: That is ok, after 3 failed shocks and your patient is in a refractory VF/VT, do DSED or VC

Q: Can I use a Lucas on these cases?

A: Yes please! Put the second set of pads on BEFORE you attached the Lucas. Do not stop the Lucas to deliver the shocks.

Q: Does this conflict with any of my ACLS drug administration?

A: This does not change any medication administration

Q: When you say "shock when safe" does that mean I have to pull my truck over every 2 minutes while transporting to the hospital?

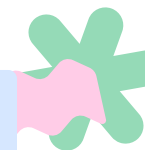
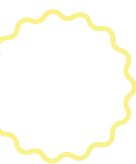
A: No. Please don't do that. Once you start driving, there may be times where it is safe to shock. You may be waiting for an elevator, or you might deliver a shock before you start driving. You may be rolling up to a stop sign, or coming up to a red light. As soon as you stop driving, and take your patient out of the truck on the way into the ED. These are all examples of times where it is safe to do so.

Q: What if the Fire Dept. has a "no shock indicated" before I arrive? What if I have a non shockable rhythm, followed by a refractory VF with multiple shocks? Can I still do DSED or do a vector change if I am the only truck around?

A: Yes, you can still do DSED or VC

Q: If the Fire Dept. has shocked a few times before I arrived, would I count that as a refractory VF?

A: Yes! If the Fire Dept. has shocked twice, you can prep for a vector change, and begin the DSED if they remain in a VF. The goal is to have that 4th shock as a DSED or Vector change, regardless of who shocked them first. (Fire, Police, AED, Other EMS)



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