

# Rapid Response: Bradycardia

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This video serves as an asynchronous resource for students and novice providers to learn how to lead a rapid response and treat a patient with unstable bradycardia. Unstable bradycardia is an uncommon but critical emergency in the in-hospital setting (1). The American Heart Association's advanced cardiovascular life support guide provides an algorithm for the evaluation and treatment of bradycardia (2); however, given the infrequency of these events, novice providers may not have frequent clinical exposure to treating bradycardia or performing transcutaneous pacing (3, 4). Rapid responses require teamwork and leadership skill to provide timely and appropriate care. This video demonstrates a rapid response team using best communication and medical decision-making practices to treat a patient with bradycardia. Learning points within the video provide a framework for leading a rapid response, review the steps to assess

and treat a patient with bradycardia, and demonstrate the use of a defibrillator (LifePak) to perform transcutaneous pacing. To assess a patient with bradycardia, providers should first differentiate unstable from stable bradycardia using the distinctions provided in the video. If the patient is determined to have unstable bradycardia, the provider should follow the advanced cardiovascular life support algorithm and proceed to treatment with atropine 1 mg and transcutaneous pacing if required. The steps to perform transcutaneous pacing are outlined and demonstrated within the video. Last, the provider should activate the appropriate resources to evaluate the patient and provide a definitive solution as well as consider the differential for bradycardia as outlined in the video.

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The video can be viewed in the online version of this article.

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**Video 1. Rapid Response: Bradycardia.**

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