Chapter 2:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Discuss the most common causes of cardiac arrest in both adult and pediatric patients.
2. Define each component of the “chain of survival,” and apply this concept to a victim of cardiac arrest.
3. Discuss the importance of electrical defibrillation and its effect on survival for a patient with VF or PVT.
4. Compare and contrast the principles of cardiocerebral resuscitation with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
5. Formulate a pharmacologic treatment plan for a patient with ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia.
6. Compare and contrast the different sympathomimetic agents used to treat ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia.
7. Discuss the role of vasopressin for a patient with cardiac arrest.
8. Describe the role of antiarrhythmic agents in a patient with ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia.
9. Discuss the role of therapeutic hypothermia for a comatose patient following cardiac arrest.
10. List the common correctable causes of PEA and asystole.
11. Formulate a pharmacologic treatment plan for a patient with pulseless electrical activity or asystole.
12. Discuss the role of sodium bicarbonate for a patient with cardiac arrest.
13. Cite the doses of the drugs used to treat a cardiac arrest.
14. Discuss strategies for drug administration if IV access cannot be obtained.
15. Describe the treatment of cardiac arrest as it applies to special situations such as drowning, hypothermia, pregnancy, trauma, and electrical shock.
16. Discuss treatment strategies that pertain to postresuscitative care following a cardiac arrest.
17. Formulate a monitoring plan for the postresuscitation phase of cardiac arrest.