Heart Block and Bradycardia

Diagnosis/Definition

* Symptomatic sinus bradycardia/sinus pause (syncope, fatigue, HF), Mobitz type II second degree heart block, third degree (complete) heart block, high-grade AV block
* Please refer to standard cardiology textbook for definitions and representative ECGs of the above conditions

Initial Diagnosis and Management

* Detailed symptom history, focused physical examination and directed risk-factor assessment (AV-nodal blocking medications, congenital heart disease)
* 12 lead ECG
* Initial labs: electrolyte panel, renal function, liver function, TSH
* Endeavor to obtain symptom-rhythm correlation: 24hr holter monitoring
* If due to sinus bradycardia, may consider modification of rate-affecting medications if clinically feasible
* Asymptomatic bradycardia/sinus pause, first degree AV-block or Mobitz type I second degree AV-block:
  + Generally, no treatment is required

Indication for Specialty Care Referral

* Documented Mobitz type II second degree heart block, third degree (complete) heart block, high-grade AV block
* Symptoms (syncope, fatigue, pre-syncope, HF) associated with bradycardia
* Clinical decompensation with bradycardia or heart block:
  + Please call the on-call cardiologist to assist in immediate referral
  + On-call cardiologist can be found by dialing 486-8133/8106