

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

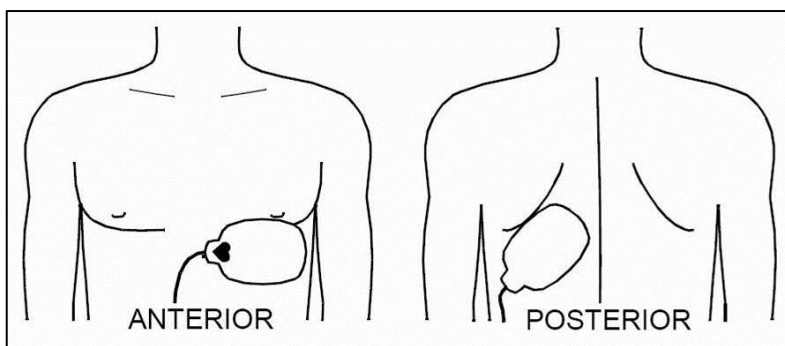
7I TRANSCUTANEOUS PACING

PATIENT CARE GOALS

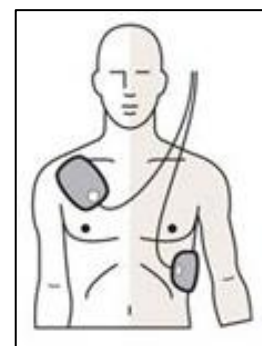
- Increase heart rate and perfusion in the profoundly bradycardic patient when **dopamine (Intropin)** is not effective or not indicated¹.

PARAMEDIC

1. Consider sedation for the conscious patient as per **1D Anxiety and Sedation Management**.
2. Place pads on patient's chest in one of the following configurations²:
 - Anterior-Posterior: anterior pad is placed over the apex of the heart on the left side of the chest, the posterior pad is placed beneath the left scapula lateral to the spine.
 - Anterior-Lateral: anterior pad is placed in the right sub clavicular area lateral to the sternum, the lateral pad is placed over the apex of the heart on the left side of the chest.



Anterior-posterior pad placement



Anterior-lateral pad placement

3. Press the "PACER" button on Life-Pak 15.
4. Set initial pacing rate at 70 pulses per minute using the "RATE" button or speed dial. Set initial amperage at 10 mA using the "CURRENT" button or speed dial.
5. Increase the milliamps (mA) until electrical capture is noted (wide QRS type complex following a pacer spike). In conscious patients, amperage will need to be increased slowly. Most patients will show signs of electrical capture between 50 and 90 mA.
6. Once electrical capture is noted, check patient's pulse for mechanical capture. If perfusion status has not improved, continue to increase mA.
7. Transport patient and continuously monitor their perfusion status and for any loss of electrical or mechanical capture.

DOCUMENTATION KEY POINTS

- Indication for and response to transcutaneous pacing
- Rate and amperage required for mechanical capture

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

NOTES

¹Transcutaneous pacing is not indicated in cardiac arrest. Instead, start CPR and administer vasopressors such as epinephrine.

² Remove excess hair and ensure skin is dry prior to application of pads. Do not place pads over medication patches, implanted pacer/defibrillator or monitoring electrodes.