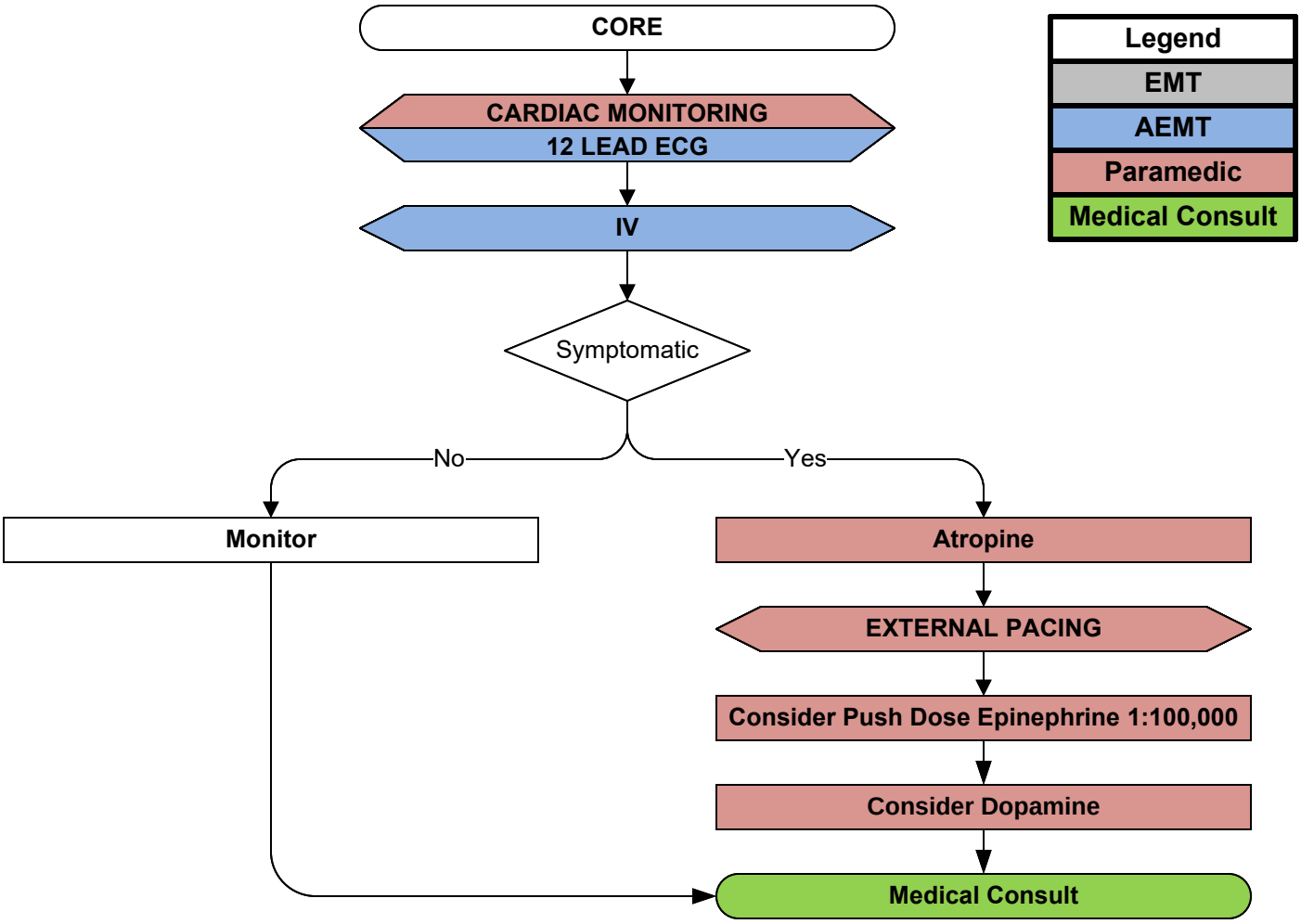
BRADYCARDIA

History:
- Medications
- Beta-Blockers
- Calcium channel blockers
- Clonidine
- Digitalis
- Pacemaker
- SAMPLE
- Thyroid problem
- Cardiac history

Signs and Symptoms:
- HR < 60/min
- Diaphoresis
- Chest pain
- Respiratory distress
- Hypotension/orthostasis
- Altered mental status
- Syncope

Differential:
- Acute myocardial infarction
- Hypoxia
- Hypothermia
- Sinus bradycardia
- Medication side effect
- Hypothyroidism
- History of athletic lifestyle
- Spinal cord lesion
- Sick sinus syndrome
- AV blocks (1°, 2°, or 3°)
- Head injury (elevated ICP) or Stroke



Pearls:
- Symptomatic bradycardia is defined as a pulse rate of < 60 bpm with a SBP < 90 mmHg, shortness of breath, altered mental status, and /or other signs of hypoperfusion.
- Treatment of choice for 2° type II and 3° AV heart blocks with serious signs/symptoms is external pacing. Consult medical control if serious signs/symptoms do not exist.
- Transplanted hearts will not respond to Atropine: external pacing is the treatment of choice.
- If hypotension exists, treat bradycardia first. If hypotension persists once HR is normalized, treat hypotension.
- A 12 lead ECG is essential in assessing for cardiac ischemia.
- The use of Lidocaine or Amiodarone is contraindicated in patients with heart block or bradycardiac with PVCs.