

# TACHYCARDIA—WIDE COMPLEX

## History:

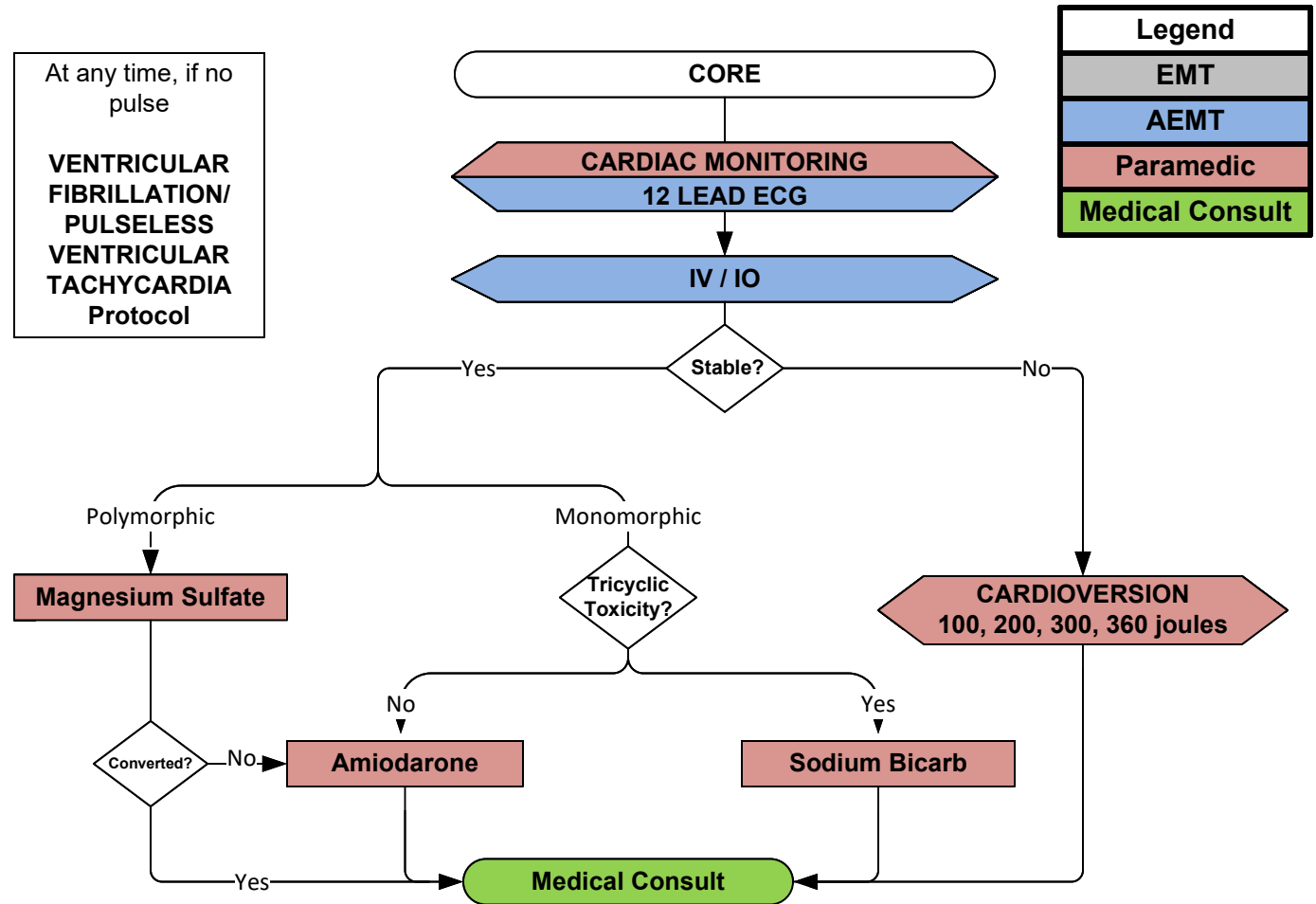
- Syncope / near syncope
- Palpitations
- Pacemaker
- Allergies: lidocaine / novacaine
- SAMPLE

## Signs and Symptoms:

- Ventricular tachycardia on ECG (Runs or sustained)
- Conscious, rapid pulse
- Chest pain, shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Rate usually 150 - 180 bpm for sustained V-Tach

## Differential:

- Artifact / Device failure
- Cardiac
- Endocrine / Metabolic
- Drugs
- Pulmonary



## Pearls:

- When uncertain about the rhythm (narrow vs. wide), treat according to this Tachycardia—Wide Complex Protocol and contact Medical Control early.
- Polymorphic V-Tach (Torsades de Pointes) may benefit from the administration of magnesium sulfate.
- Initial energy level for cardioversion of Polymorphic V-Tach is 200 J.
- Document all rhythm changes.
- In the case of an internal defibrillator discharging, treat the underlying rhythm as per protocol.