# **Hypotension**



#### History

- Blood loss vaginal or gastrointestinal bleeding, AAA, ectopic
- Fluid loss vomiting, diarrhea, fever
- Infection
- Cardiac ischemia (MI, CHF)
- Medications
- Allergic reaction
- Pregnancy
- History of poor oral intake
- SAMPLE

## Signs and Symptoms

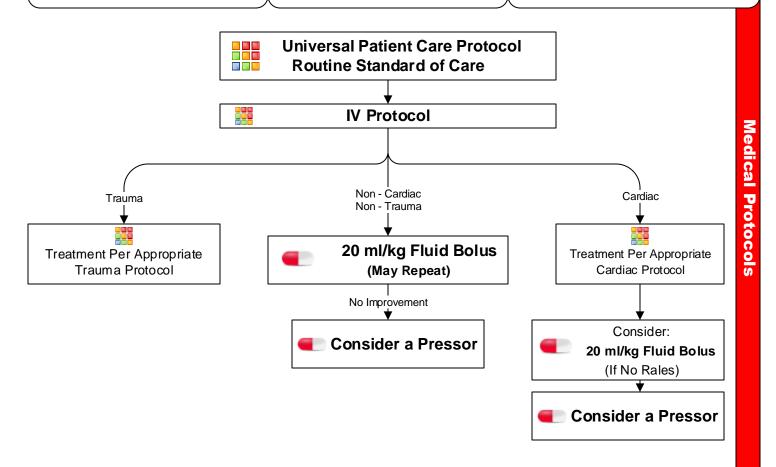
- Restlessness, confusion
- Weakness, dizziness
- Weak, rapid pulse
- Pale, cool, clammy skin
- Delayed capillary refill
- Hypotension
- Coffee-ground emesis
- Tarry stools
- Cardiac Dysrhythmias

#### **Differential**

Shock

Hypovolemic Cardiogenic Septic Neurogenic Anaphylactic

- Ectopic pregnacy
  - Dysrhythmias
- Pulmonary embolus
- Tension pneumothorax
- Medication effect / overdose
- Vasovagal
- Physiologic (pregnancy)



## **Pearls**

- Recommended Exam: Mental Status, Skin, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro
- Hypotension can be defined as a systolic blood pressure of less than 90.
- Consider performing orthostatic vital signs on patients in non-trauma situations if suspected blood or fluid loss.
- Consider all possible causes of shock and treat per appropriate protocol.
- For non-cardiac, non-trauma hypotension, Pressor agents should only be started after 20 ml/kg of Crystalloids have been given.