A Clinical Guideline for the Management of Patients Diagnosed with Pulmonary Embolism


- Does the patient have a pulse?
  - Yes
    - Is the patient’s SBP >90mmHg?
      - No
        - CARDIAC ARREST
          - Alteplase 50mg IV bolus
            - Is there ROSC after 15min?
              - Yes
                - Continue Management
              - No
                - Repeat Alteplase 50mg IV bolus
      - Yes
        - MASSIVE PE
          - Contraindications to Fibrinolysis?
            - No
              - Alteplase 10mg IV bolus and then 90mg IV over 2hrs
            - Yes
              - Clinical Decompensation?
                - No
                  - Repeat Alteplase 50mg IV bolus
                - Yes
                  - Improvement in clinical status after 2 hours?
                    - No
                      - Continue Management
                    - Yes
                      - Consult Interventional Radiology for Percutaneous Catheter Thrombectomy
          - UNCOMPPLICATED PE
            - Anticoagulation Only
    - No
      - Is BNP or Troponin elevated?
        - Yes
          - Perform ECHO
        - No
          - Signs of RV dysfunction on ECHO?
            - Yes
              - Alteplase 10mg IV bolus and then 90mg IV over 2hrs
            - No
              - Anticoagulation Only

#This is a guideline only and is meant to be utilized as an educational tool for clinicians managing patients diagnosed with PE. It is not comprehensive. Clinical circumstances may exist which would require deviation from this guideline per individual physician judgment.

*Management of hemodynamically stable patients with PE is an area of clinical controversy. The area highlighted represents a deviation from the traditional approach to the management of this group of patients. Either approach is considered acceptable and should be left to individual physician preference.