**Poster Title**
Beyond pacing: Utility of temporary epicardial atrial pacing wires for diagnostic purposes in cardiac surgery patients.

**Learner Outcome 1**
Learner will be able to list two arrhythmias that can be identified through the use of temporary epicardial atrial pacing wires.

**Learner Outcome 2**
Learner will be able to identify amplified atrial activity on a sample atrial electrocardiogram.

**Learner Outcome 3**
Learner will be able to describe how to obtain an atrial electrocardiogram.

**Abstract (600 Words or Less)**
Problem: Postoperative atrial arrhythmias are very common after cardiac surgery. Surface electrocardiograms do not always reveal atrial activity. When P waves are not prominent, the rhythm can appear to be junctional (Figure 1); also, 2:1 atrial flutter can often resemble sinus tachycardia (Figure 2). An atrial electrocardiogram can aid in determining the presence or absence of atrial activity. However, nursing staff and medical residents are often unfamiliar with how to use the atrial pacing wires to obtain an atrial electrocardiogram. Strategy: Atrial pacing wires were routinely placed intraoperatively in the cardiac surgery patients. Cables with alligator clips on each end were made readily available to the ICU and cardiothoracic surgery staff for use in obtaining an atrial electrocardiogram. Nursing staff and medical residents, in select cases, were instructed on how to link the cable from the atrial pacing wires to a precordial lead on the electrocardiogram monitor. Amplification of the atrial activity through the atrial pacing wires was then recorded directly on a tracing for...

**Reference 1**

**Reference 3**

**Financial Relationships:**
No, I DO NOT have an actual or potential conflict of interest relative to my presentation(s).

**For whom do you provide Consulting Services?**

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**What product do you plan on providing off-label usage details for?**

**Additional authors**
Susan Thorson
documentation of the rhythm when the usual 12 lead surface electrocardiogram was indeterminate. Practice Change: When the presence of organized atrial activity was indeterminate on a surface electrocardiogram, the atrial pacing wires were routinely utilized to obtain an atrial electrocardiogram. Results: Arrhythmias occurring in the post cardiac surgery patient can be correctly identified and treated appropriately with temporary epicardial atrial pacing wires that are placed intraoperatively. Timeliness in documenting an arrhythmia may result in reduced length of stay due to early adjustment of medications and possible overdrive pacing and/or cardioversion of atrial flutter.

Reference 2

Please upload any supporting documents.

Your Financial Relationships (Select all that apply.)
Who provides funding for your research?
No.
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No, I DO NOT plan to include off-label uses of products in the educational activity.

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