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Protocol for heart rate checks and SVT (vagal maneuvers) - INFANTS

Check heart rate two times daily or if your child is showing signs of possible SVT.

If heart rate is approximately 200 beats per minute or above, follow procedure below:

1. Calm child (feed, diaper change, etc.)
2. Recheck heart rate in 5 minutes.
3. If heart rate is still elevated, it is probably SVT; use a rectal thermometer rotating thermometer gently in the rectum in a circular motion for 20 seconds.
4. Calm child and recheck heart rate in 5 minutes
5. If still in SVT gently turn child upside down for 30 seconds (caution with newborns to support head and neck)
6. If heart rate is still above 200 beats per minute, then place ice and water in a 1-gallon zip lock bag and place over child's entire face and hold there for 20 seconds smothering - use only for infants, not older children.
7. Calm child and recheck heart rate in 5 minutes.
8. If heart rate is above 200 beats per minute, then place ice water bag over child's entire face and hold there for 30 seconds smothering - use only for infants, not older children.
9. Calm child and recheck heart rate in 5 minutes.
10. If heart rate is still above 200 beats per minute call the on-call pediatric cardiologist, at 503-280-3418, option 9 to connect to the answering service. Let cardiologist on-call know who the child's cardiologist is, if your child is on medications for SVT, the dose and when the last medication was given. We will provide advice on how to stop the SVT or give a recommendation to go to the ER.

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