



Pediatric Cardiology Center of Oregon

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

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

If the 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 the heart rate is still above 200 beats per minute, then place ice and water in a 1-gallon Ziplock bag and place over the 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 the 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 the heart rate is still above 200 beats per minute, call the pediatric cardiology office at 503-280-3418, option 3. (If after hours, option 9 for the answering service to page the cardiologist on call.) Let them know 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.