

PART 1 MEDICAL-SURGICAL CASES

4. Although he has been taking sublingual nitroglycerin (SL NTG) for a long time, you want to be certain he is using it correctly. Which actions are correct when taking SL NTG for chest pain? (Select all that apply.)
- Stop the activity and lie or sit down.
 - Call 911 immediately.
 - Call 911 if the pain is not relieved after taking one SL tablet.
 - Call 911 if the pain is not relieved after taking three SL tablets, 5 minutes apart.
 - Chew the tablet slowly then swallow.
 - Place the NTG tablet under the tongue.
5. You review the use and storage of SL NTG with G.P. Which statement by G.P. indicates a need for further education? Explain your answer.
- "I will discard any open bottle of nitroglycerin after a year."
 - "I will not store other pills in the nitroglycerin bottle."
 - "I carry the tablets with me at all times."
 - "I will keep the pills in their original brown bottle."

CASE STUDY PROGRESS

When you first admit G.P., you place him on telemetry and observe his cardiac rhythm.

6. Identify the rhythm:



7. Explain the primary complication that could occur if this heart rhythm were not treated.
8. Review G.P.'s history. What conditions may have contributed to the development of this dysrhythmia?
9. You review G.P.'s laboratory test results and note that all of them are within normal range, including troponin and creatinine phosphokinase (CPK) levels. His potassium level is 4.7 mEq/L. Given this and his current dysrhythmia, what is the likely cause of the symptoms he has been experiencing this past week?

CASE STUDY PROGRESS

Within the hour, G.P. converts with intravenous diltiazem (Cardizem) to sick sinus syndrome with long sinus pauses that cause lightheadedness and hypotension.

10. What risks does the new rhythm pose for G.P.? Explain the reasons for your answers.

CASE STUDY PROGRESS

Because G.P.'s dysrhythmia is causing unacceptable symptoms, he is taken to surgery and a permanent DDDR pacemaker is placed and set at a rate of 70 beats/min.

11. What does the code *DDDR* mean?
12.  The pacemaker insertion surgery places G.P. at risk for several serious complications. List three potential problems that you will monitor for as you care for him.

 13. G.P. will need some education regarding his new pacemaker. What information will you give him before he leaves the hospital?

14. G.P.'s wife approaches you and anxiously inquires, "My neighbor saw this science fiction movie about this guy who got a pacemaker and then he couldn't die. Is that for real?" How are you going to respond to her?

 15. G.P. and his wife tell you they have heard that people with pacemakers can have their hearts stop because of microwave ovens and cell phones. Where can you help them find more information?

CASE STUDY PROGRESS

After discharge, G.P. is referred to a cardiac rehabilitation center to start an exercise program. He will be exercise tested, and an individualized exercise prescription will be developed for him, based on the results of the exercise test.

16. What information will be obtained from a graded exercise (stress) test, and what is included in an exercise prescription?