

Differential Diagnosis Card

Possible Causes & Actions

<p>Cardiac Arrest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypoxia • Hypovolaemia • Hypo/hyperkalaemia/metabolic disorders • Hypo/hyperthermia • Tension pneumothorax (Decompress) • Tamponade • Toxins • Thrombosis: pulmonary or coronary
<p>High Airway Pressure/ Airway Compromise</p>	<p>Dyspnoea, wheeze, stridor, difficulty inflating lungs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circuit malfunction → Check using Self Inflating Bag • Misplaced/kinked Airway device → Check with suction catheter/Consider changing device • Tension pneumothorax → Decompress • Exacerbation of Asthma → Treat as per Refractory Management • Foreign Body → Consider bronchoscopy • Acid aspiration → Consider bronchoscopy
<p>Hypotension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypovolaemia • Sepsis • Drug overdose • Vasodilation by drugs • Neuraxial blockade • Embolism: Thrombotic, Air or Amniotic • Vasovagal
<p>Skin and Mucosa Hives, flushing, erythema, urticaria, swelling head and neck or peripheries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Histamine Release • Venous obstruction • Head down position • C1-esterase deficiency (Angioedema only) • Mastocytosis • Cold induced anaphylaxis

Absence of tachycardia or cutaneous signs does not exclude anaphylaxis
Anaphylaxis is usually rapid in onset but is occasionally delayed

<p>Mild (Grade 1)</p>	<p>Generalised mucocutaneous signs: Erythema, Urticaria+/- Angioedema</p>
<p>Moderate (Grade 2)</p>	<p>Moderate – Multi-organ manifestation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotension, tachycardia • Evidence of bronchospasm, cough, difficult ventilation • Mucocutaneous signs
<p>Life Threatening (Grade 3)</p>	<p>Life Threatening and requiring immediate and specific treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe hypotension • Bradycardia or tachycardia, arrhythmias • Severe bronchospasm, and/or airway oedema • Cutaneous signs may be absent, or present only after correction of hypotension
<p>Arrest (Grade 4)</p>	<p>Cardiopulmonary Arrest</p>