

1. Prevent and be prepared

- Ensure adequate training of the staff in technical skills and ALS
- Ensure availability and well-functioning of emergency equipment
- Use safety checklists

2. Detect cardiac arrest and activate cardiac arrest protocol

- Identify and manage deterioration in the post-operative cardiac patient
 - Consider echocardiography
- Confirm cardiac arrest by clinical signs and pulseless waveforms
 - Shout for help and activate cardiac arrest protocol

3. Resuscitate and treat possible causes

VF/pVT

Asystole / extreme
bradycardia

PEA

Defibrillate
(apply up to 3
consecutive shocks)

Apply early pacing

Correct potentially
reversible causes
Turn off pacing to
exclude VF

No ROSC

- Initiate compressions and ventilation
- Perform early **resteronotomy** (<5 min)
- Consider circulatory support devices and extracorporeal-CPR