

An Approach to Persistent Tachycardia

by Dr. David Thompson

| <u>Possible Cause:</u> | <u>Action:</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Alcohol withdrawal | Administer a benzodiazepine |
| Anemia | Check hematocrit |
| Anxiety | Administer a benzodiazepine |
| Cardiac arrhythmia | EKG |
| Dehydration | Give IV or oral hydration |
| Electrolyte imbalance | Check basic metabolic panel, Ca, Mg |
| Fever | Check temperature |
| Hypoglycemia | Check dextrose-stick |
| Ingestion | Check EtOH level, Utox, aspirin level; review med list |
| Occult shock | Check lactate |
| Pain | Administer analgesia |
| Pulmonary embolism | Check D-Dimer |
| Respiratory distress | Perform pulmonary exam; obtain CXR |
| Thyroid disease | Check TSH |
| Trauma | Perform FAST ultrasound |

