

- a. Complications after cardiac catheterization can include acute hemorrhage from the catheterization entry site, low-grade fever, nausea and vomiting, loss of pulses in the catheterized extremity, and transient dysrhythmias.
  - b. Nausea and vomiting can occur after heart catheterization but are not directly related to acute blood loss. However, if the child had significant vomiting immediately after the procedure and was not able to keep his leg straight, the vomiting might have increased the chance of bleeding at the catheterization entry site.
  - c. Significant blood loss can occur in a short time after the use of an artery for cardiac catheterization.
3. The first priority is to prevent bleeding. Pressure is applied above the visible catheterization site where the vessel was accessed. Place the child flat in bed to decrease the effect of gravity on the rate of bleeding. Notify the practitioner immediately. Replacement fluids may need to be administered, and pharmacologic control of emesis is important.
4. This may be an arterial bleed, and Tommy is at risk for losing a large amount of blood in a short time. Your first priority should be to control the bleeding. Appropriate measures are to treat the patient like a shock patient by immediately laying the child flat to help control bleeding.

## **Supraventricular Tachycardia**

1. Evidence: Yes. The infant has a history of poor feeding and irritability and has an abnormally fast heart rate that is nonvariable consistent with supraventricular tachycardia.