

Section: ALS Protocols
Subject: VAGAL MANEUVERS
Section #: 345.21
Issue Date: March 21, 2011
Revision Date:
Approved By:

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1. The degree of tone in the vagus nerve determines the heart rate.
 - a. The greater the degree of vagal stimulation, the more the vagus nerve will slow the heart rate by directly inhibiting the SA node.
 - b. Vagal stimulation is a modality used in the treatment of clinically dangerous supraventricular tachycardias (SVT).
2. Carotid sinus massage is **NOT** an authorized procedure.
3. Valsalva Maneuver:
 - a. This is the least dangerous method and should be used before others are attempted.
 - b. The patient is instructed to take a deep breath and bear down, trying to turn their face red.
 - c. Alternatively, hand pressure may be exerted against the abdomen if it is not tender.
 - i. The patient is then instructed to attempt to push the hand off their abdomen by bearing down.
 - d. The breath and pressure should be held as long as possible.
 - i. The procedure may be repeated.