

2024 Cardioplegia

Permission to print:	Yes
Category	cardioplegia
Severity	Good Catch No Harm Incident
Description:	<p>On commencing administration of antegrade Del Nido (1:4) blood cardioplegia (CSC14 CP heat exchanger with single pump 1:4 tubing - mitral repair) there was brief asystole then VF. The root pressure was low and the cross clamp was reapplied (at the perfusionist's suggestion). Cardioplegia was recommenced with asystole however despite appropriate delivery flow and pressure, it was noticed the Del Nido solution was not depleting - the bag remained full. The surgeon was advised and the occlusion was checked as OK, the flow through the cardioplegia filter confirmed (by disconnecting it) and while clear fluid (Del Nido) appeared at the 1:4 tubing connection it was not apparent that this was getting through to the cardioplegia delivery line. A blockage to the tubing was suspected and the perfusion coordinator was called to assist with changing out the cardioplegia circuit. The heart was still asystolic so some cardioplegia had got to the heart. The tubing setting was confirmed as 1:4 blood to CP in a photo of the suspected connection. The cardioplegia circuit was clamped out, the water lines disconnected, the circuit removed by the two of us and the new circuit connected expeditiously, recirculated to be air free and cardioplegia successfully administered. Subsequent inspection of the original CP circuit revealed no obstruction and so the delivery failure remains unclear.</p>
GOOD CATCH - what went well	<p>Early recognition of the Del Nido solution bag not depleting and the availability of the N+1 perfusionist to facilitate a timely and safe changeout (2nd pair of eyes).</p>
What could we do better	<p>Not sure. We covered off potential causes. It was possible the Del Nido tubing was crimped in the retaining cuff but this was not obvious.</p>
Preventive actions	<p>Discussed with team the good catch of early observation of no change in the cardioplegia bag volume.</p>
Type of incident:	unsure
Duration of incident:	minutes
Hospital incident filed	No
Ext Authority Advised	No
Discussed with team:	Yes
Patient outcome vari	Nil