UNIT 7  Cardiovascular Problems

Cardiovascular Problems

A pacemaker should malfunction, the patient usually experiences the recurrence of symptoms. However, the nurse must also be able to diagnose the following ECG indicators of pacemaker malfunction: loss of sensing, loss of capture, and failure to pace. Table 29-11 describes common pacemaker problems and interventions to troubleshoot them. A Nursing Care Plan for a patient undergoing pacemaker insertion is on p. XXX.

Temporary pacemakers are indicated for the short-term management of dysrhythmias until the patient’s rhythm stabilizes or a permanent pacemaker can be inserted. The pacer wire is advanced transvenously to the right ventricle, and the leads are attached to an external pulse generator box (Figure 29-47). Transvenous pacemakers can include devices that combine pulmonary artery catheters with the pacemaker. The environment must be kept free from electrical hazards that could trigger dysrhythmias. Temporary epicardial pacing is used after cardiac surgery. The epicardial wires are lightly sutured to the right atrium and right ventricle during the surgical procedure, and are brought out through the chest wall and sutured to the skin. When both atrial and ventricular wires are...