

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Arrhythmia is an expression of disturbances in impulse generation and/or disturbances of impulse conduction, it is a common condition occurring in peri-operative period and it constitutes an important cause of mortality in peri-operative period (*Atlee and Bosnjak, 2001*).

Studying of cardiac arrhythmias in anesthesia & I.C.U is very important to avoid its complications and keep safety of the patient. Cardiac arrhythmias associated with cardiac pathology, accessory pathway or secondary to hypoxemia, acute blood loss, electrolyte or acid-base imbalance, extracardiac conditions as diverse as thyrotoxicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or acute conditions such as pyrexial illness, or pneumothorax (*Spach, 2003*).

The diagnosis of cardiac arrhythmias is the first step for its treatment, the diagnosis is built on clinical examination and careful examination of multiple leads of the electrocardiogram. Several types of arrhythmias may occur during the anesthesia as tachyarrhythmias, bradyarrhythmias, atrioventricular block, a systole, and pulseless electrical activity (*Kastor, 2000*).

Many antiarrhythmic drugs are now available to treat and control the different types of cardiac arrhythmias (*Spach, 2003*).