



Title Heart Problems Dot to Dot	Date 5/19/2022
CDE Discipline Medical	CDE Credit Hours .5

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X _____

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Heart Problems



WHY HEART PROBLEMS?

Heart Problems are considered a specific diagnosis. The types of complaints can vary from a 'racing' heart which is called palpitations to an acute issue with an Automatic Implanted Cardiac Defibrillator (AICD).



LETHAL RHYTHMS

There are several lethal cardiac rhythms but a couple of the most common are ventricular fibrillation and asystole.

Ventricular fibrillation is an arrhythmia that causes the two lower chambers or ventricles of the heart to quiver. This effectively hinders the ability of the heart to pump blood throughout the body and will cause death if not reversed quickly. If this cardiac rhythm is detected, an AED or AICD will shock the patient in an attempt to reset the heart and allow it to begin functioning as normal.

Asystole is sometimes referred to as 'flat line' which essentially is indicative of the heart having no electrical activity. In this case, if the AED is placed on the patient, no shock will be advised. There is no measured benefit to restarting a heart that is not producing electricity on its own and CPR will be the best course of action.

DID YOU KNOW?

The heart has the ability to produce its own electricity. The medical term is automaticity. Your heart beats approximately 100,000 times a day!



MULL OVER

Protocol 19 shouldn't be used when Chest Pain is discovered in Case Entry. Remember that when utilizing protocol 19 you will attempt to obtain a pulse rate on the patient that could play a role in your determinant selection. Try and find your own pulse using the directions in protocol!



AICD

Automated Internal Cardiac Defibrillator or AICD is a device that is implanted inside the body and is able to perform defibrillation, much like an AED but on the inside. These devices will shock a person when a lethal cardiac rhythm is detected. The person can be conscious when the shocks are delivered and are often painful but life saving.

CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE

Congestive Heart Failure is a chronic condition in which the heart doesn't pump blood as well as it should.

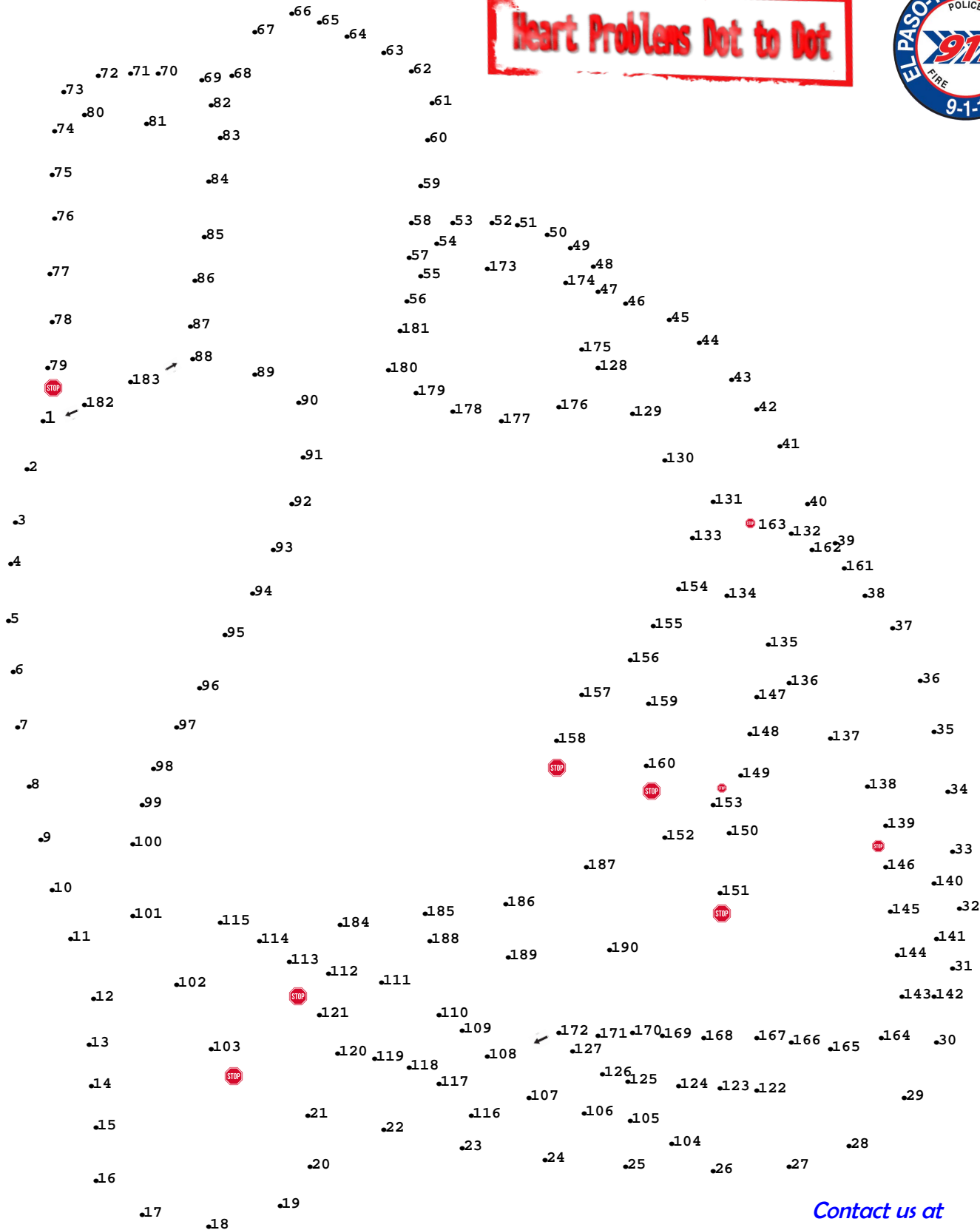
Overtime this condition worsens and can cause fluid and blood to 'back up' inside other parts of the body, most notably the lower body and lungs.

When excess fluid builds in the lungs it can cause acute shortness of breath often leading to a 911 call for help. When fluid is pushed into what is called the interstitial space in the epidermis it can present as edema or what may look like swollen lower extremities.

Since CHF is inherently a heart issue that affects the body's ability to pump blood, often times these patients present with an irregular heart beat that could be the reason they have called 911. Medications like beta-blockers and diuretics are used to treat CHF.

You've probably, maybe without realizing it, handled a shortness of breath medical call where the underlying cause was CHF.

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Contact us at
elpasoteller911.org
719-785-1900