An elderly man collapses and is unresponsive at a shopping centre. What are the 4 elements in the chain of survival that improve the probability of survival? (2 marks)

Early access to emergency medical services, BLS, defibrillation and advanced care (0.5 mark for each, accept ambulance/EMS as alternatives to emergency medical services)

From Cameron, Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine, 2009, p5

He receives prompt BLS from bystanders, then defibrillation from an AED prior to the arrival of the ambulance 10 minutes post-arrest. He is found to be in VF and does not revert with defibrillation by the ambulance crew. He is transported to ED, where he is still pulseless and the monitor shows this rhythm.



What are your immediate actions? (8 marks)

Assume leadership, delegate roles

Ensure continuous BLS provided throughout

Manual biphasic shock 200J

Continue CPR 2 minutes

During CPR:

Check electrode position

Secure IV access

Adrenaline 1mg and repeat after second shock and every second loop

Correct reversible causes (4Hs,4Ts)

Advanced airway

Amiodarone 300mg after 3rd shock

Post-resuscitation care/12-lead ECG/reperfusion

From ARC Resuscitation guideline, online, accessed 5/8/2014