Anaesthetic Emergency Protocol - Bradycardia
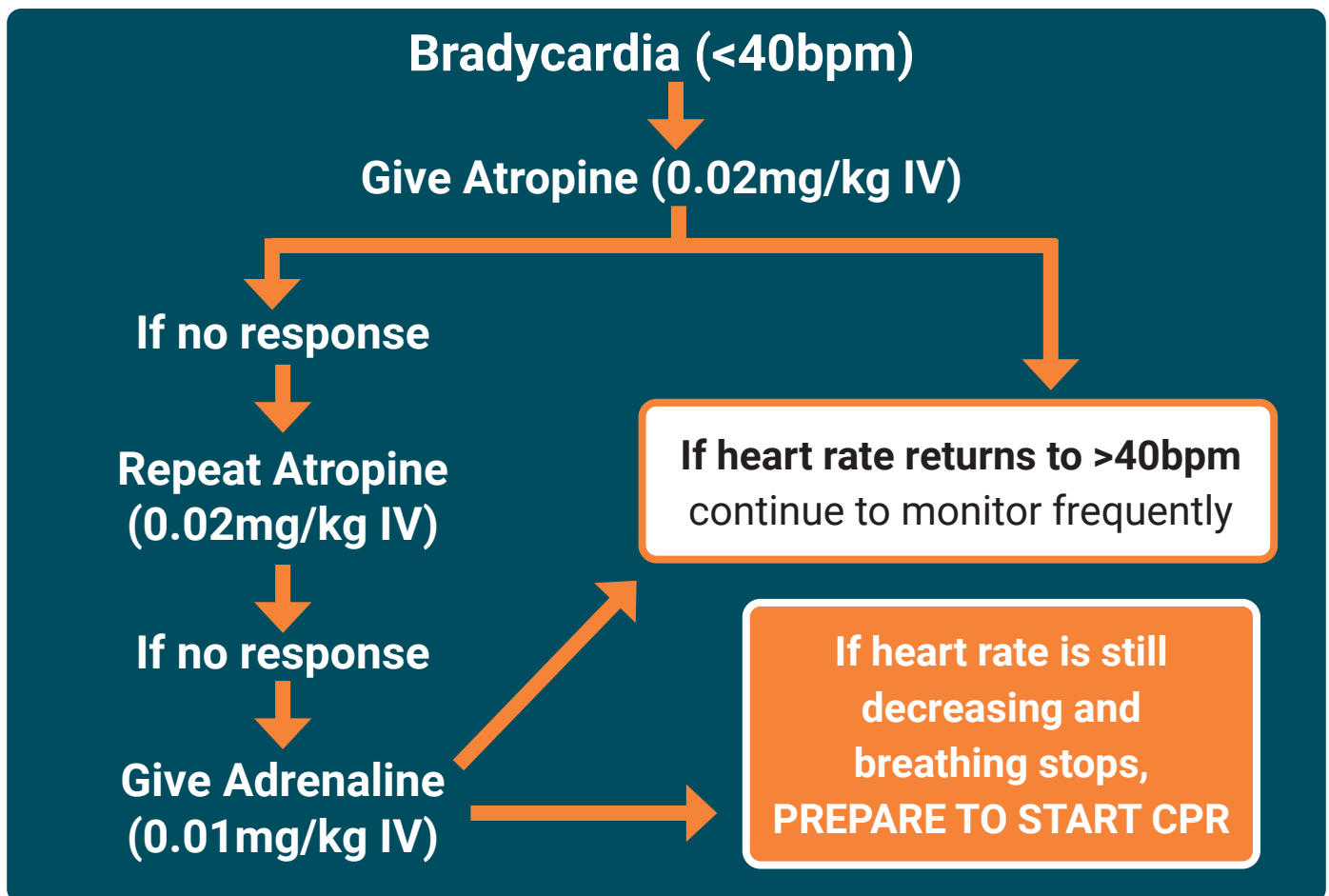
Essential monitoring

- Heart rate
- Breathing rate
- Peripheral pulse
- Gum colour
- Capillary refill time

Atropine

- Anticholinergic
- Increases heart rate
- Treats bradycardia (low HR) caused by high vagal tone such as an anaesthetic overdose

Adrenaline

- Catecholamine
- Increases heart rate
- Increases peripheral vasoconstriction
- Increases arterial blood pressure

Bradycardia (<40bpm)

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Give Atropine (0.02mg/kg IV)

If no response

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Repeat Atropine (0.02mg/kg IV)

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If no response

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Give Adrenaline (0.01mg/kg IV)

If heart rate returns to >40bpm continue to monitor frequently

If heart rate is still decreasing and breathing stops, PREPARE TO START CPR

ALWAYS ASK THE VET BEFORE GIVING ANY EMERGENCY TREATMENT