

1 Air Embolism - Venous

Decreased end-tidal CO₂, decreased oxygen saturation, hypotension

START

- ① Call for help and a code cart/defibrillator
 - ▶ Ask: “Who will be the crisis manager?”
- ② Turn FiO₂ to 100%
- ③ Turn off nitrous oxide
- ④ Stop source of air entry
 - ▶ Fill wound with irrigation
 - ▶ Lower surgical site below level of heart, if possible
 - ▶ Search for entry point (including open venous lines)
 - ▶ Discontinue use of pressurized gases (laparoscopy, endoscopy)
- ⑤ Consider...
 - ▶ Positioning patient with left side down
 - Continue appropriate monitoring while repositioning
 - ▶ Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) if diagnosis unclear
 - ▶ Supporting BP as necessary with IV fluids and vasoactive medications

Critical CHANGES

If PEA develops, Go to ▷ CHKLST 4