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