

# P 1 Air Embolism - Venous

Decreased end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub>, decreased oxygen saturation, hypotension

## START

- ① Call for help and a code cart/defibrillator
  - ▶ Ask: “Who will be the crisis manager?”
- ② Turn FiO<sub>2</sub> 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 ▷ Pedi CHKLST 4