

November 19, 2013

LifePak 20 Defibrillator

How do I ensure I get ECG readings on the monitor?

Here are the key points to remember to ensure that the patient's ECG reading appears on the monitor:

- ECG leads should be placed on the patient in all situations, regardless of if the ECG reading is appearing on the monitor from the quick combo patches.
 - If the ECG reading does not show after lead placement and all connections have been checked, assess the lead settings on the defibrillator. By pressing on the **"LEAD"** button on the defibrillator you can toggle through all lead settings. This will facilitate changing of the default lead settings to another lead that will work.
 - The patient's ECG reading must appear in the top channel of the defibrillator monitor in order for the machine to appropriately provide energy. Again, adjusting the **"LEAD"** setting will move the reading to the top channel.
- For units that utilize the Spacelabs ECG connector cable (aka "synch" or "slave" cable) remember these important tips:
 - The ECG connector cable is a time saving option to transfer ECG reading from the Spacelabs monitor to the defibrillator monitor without needing to place additional leads. It will not transfer the ECG reading from the defibrillator back to the Spacelabs.
 - The Spacelabs lead setting and the defibrillator top channel lead setting must be the same. Press the **"LEAD"** button on the defibrillator and toggle through the leads until placed into the same lead setting as the spacelab monitor.
- Other tips to remember:
 - The quick combo patches (or paddles if being used) reads the ECG rhythm on the bottom channel. If for any reason you need to see this on the top channel, again use the **"LEAD"** button to change the channel setting to the "paddles" lead on the top channel.
 - In the pacer function, the patches will not monitor an ECG reading. ECG leads must be in place for this mode to function.

For questions, please contact biomed, Karen Mathias, Resuscitation Committee Co-Chair, or Janet Logid, Center for Professional Development and Practice.