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Pro: Dexmedetomidine Sedation should be used Routinely for all Post-Cardiac Surgical Patients in the Intensive Care Unit

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Title Page**Pro: Dexmedetomidine sedation should be used routinely for all post-cardiac surgical patients in the intensive care unit**

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Perioperative care of cardiac surgery patients requires comprehensive multidisciplinary teamwork in order to ensure optimal patient outcomes. The majority of post cardiac surgery patients are on a “fast track” pathway and timely progression through the intensive care unit (ICU) is important for optimal patient outcomes and judicious use of hospital resources. The economic impact of management decisions is also becoming an important metric for consideration. This patient population is predisposed to potentially modifiable adverse events and therefore choice of sedation for the postoperative period should proceed with care. Sedation goals should ensure patient comfort while avoiding physiological stress and cardiac instability. Likewise, sedative agents should facilitate weaning from mechanical ventilation with rapid offset once extubation criteria are met.¹ Sedative options have implications for duration of mechanical ventilation, development of delirium, withdrawal from other drugs/medications, ICU and hospital length of stay, as well as time to targeted sedation score. In fact, the most

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