### Purpose:
To deliver an electrical charge to the myocardium, synchronized to the depolarization of the ventricle.

### Indications:
Patient presents in: ventricular tachycardia with pulses or unstable supraventricular tachycardia that has not responded to antiarrhythmics.

### Advantages:
Provides rapid conversion of dysrhythmia.

### Disadvantages:
Painful if administered without sedation.

### Complications:
May result in ventricular fibrillation.

### Contraindications:
Patients taking digitalis preparations.

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**Procedure:**

1. **Place electrodes in 4-lead configuration:**
   - White electrode on right shoulder, black on left shoulder, green on lower right abdomen or right leg, red on left lower abdomen or left leg.

2. **Monitor and record patient's rhythm.**
3. **If possible, administer sedative.**
4. **Attach patient therapy cable, connecting defibrillator to pads.**
5. **Place defibrillation pads on right upper chest under clavicle and left chest over 5th intercostal space between midclavicular and anterior axillary line.**
6. **Turn energy selection dial to appropriate setting.**
7. **Press “Sync” soft key.**
8. **Check oscilloscope for sensing mark for each QRS, adjusting gain as needed.**
9. **Clear all personnel of patient contact.**
10. **Press "shock" soft key.**
11. **Monitor patient's rhythm and vital signs.**