

Pre-hospital Therapeutic Hypothermia

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Evidence drawn from the article suggests that pre-hospital therapeutic interventions for out of hospital cardiac arrest patients can be beneficial since it considerably reduces the patient's temperature before hospital admission; however, this has not been proven medically to enhance the survival rates and neurological outcomes for cardiac arrest patients. This article highlights that there is no necessity to perform pre-hospital therapeutic hypothermia on OHCA patients. Admittedly, the author of this article noted that other than lowering body temperatures, performing pre-hospital therapeutic hypothermia did not improve patients' survival rates with OHCA (Marshal, 2010).

For this research project, limitations to practice may be associated with the duration before performing the intervention. For this study, therapeutic hypothermia was initiated after resuscitation against the recommendations initiated immediately during CPR rather than waiting until a patient is resuscitated. It is believed that this would have produced different results, as observed in the study. Additionally, temperature readings in the field were taken by tympanic readings, which could have produced artificially lower readings due to incorrect placement of the devices. Finally, the study is limited because it was carried in a country with a considerably lower population than the USA and operated by completely different emergency medical services systems.

The main goal of this article to particularly sensitize the public and other emergency medical practitioners that inducing pre-hospital therapeutic hypothermia may be unnecessary because there are other beneficial procedures to do after resuscitation; for example, stabilizing their pressures, getting a 12-lead ECG, and ensuring that they do not arrest again.

Therefore, this article is informative material indicating that there is no harm for the emergency responders to wait until they get to the hospitals after getting the patients back. Observably, hospital cooling is just as effective as out of hospital cooling.

References

Marshal, J. (2010). Prehospital vs. In-Hospital Therapeutic Hypothermia. Retrieved:
<http://www.jems.com/articles/2010/10/prehospital-vs-hospital-therap.html>