

Journal Meeting

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The role of hypothermia in post-cardiac arrest patients with return of spontaneous circulation: A systematic review

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Background

- Mild hypothermia (32–34 °C for 12–24h)
- improve neurological outcome in initially comatose survivors of cardiac arrest.
- update the systematic review that provided evidence for the treatment recommendation on therapeutic hypothermia

Methods

- Follow ILCOR (International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation)
- PICO (Patient/population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome) question
- Search strategy: PubMed, EMBASE database, AHA Resuscitation End Note library, Cochrane database
- Evidence appraisal : LOE & quality
- Data presentation: Parametric data → mean (standard deviation) non-parametric → median (interquartile range)

Table 1
 ILCOR level of evidence for therapeutic interventions.

LOE 1: Randomized controlled trials (or meta-analyses of RCTs)
 LOE 2: Studies using concurrent controls without true randomization (e.g. "pseudo"-randomized) or meta-analyses of such studies)
 LOE 3: Studies using retrospective controls
 LOE 4: Studies without a control group (e.g. cases series)
 LOE 5: Studies not directly related to the specific patient/population (e.g. different patient/population, animal models, mechanical models etc.)

Table 2

Quality factors for studies of each level of evidence.

Meta-analysis (of LOE 1 or LOE 2 studies)	Randomised controlled Trials (LOE 1)	Studies using controls without randomisation (concurrent LOE 2, or retrospective LOE 3)	Studies without controls (LOE 4)	Studies not directly related to the specific patient/population (LOE5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were specific objectives of the review stated (based on specific clinical question in which patient, intervention, operative, comparator, outcome (PICO) were identified)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the assignment of patients to treatment randomised? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were comparison groups clearly defined? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were outcomes measured in an objective way? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies not related to the specific patient/population (e.g. different patient/population, animal models, mechanical models etc.) should have their methodological quality allocated to the type of study, i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCT = good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was study design defined? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the randomisation list concealed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were outcomes measured in the same (preferably blinded) objective way in both groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were known confounders identified and appropriately controlled for? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies without randomised controls = fair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were selection criteria stated for studies to be included (using appropriately crafted search strategies)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were all patients who entered the trial accounted for in its conclusions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were known confounders identified and appropriately controlled for? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was follow-up of patients sufficiently long and complete? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies without controls = poor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were characteristics and methodological quality of each trial identified? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were the patients analysed in the groups to which they were randomised? Were patients and clinicians blinded to the experimental treatment, were the groups treated equally? Were the groups similar at the start of the trial? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was follow-up of patients sufficiently long and complete? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal studies should also be designated using icons.

Good studies = have most/all of the relevant quality items. Fair studies = have some of the relevant quality items. Poor studies = have few of the relevant quality items (but sufficient value to include for further review).

Table 4
Evidence neutral to therapeutic hypothermia following cardiac arrest.

Level of evidence	1	2	3	4	5	
Good	Travers, D ¹⁹ Tatman, E ²¹ Tatman, D ^{22,23} Kortney, E ²⁴ Nelson, C ²⁵ Zeiner, E ^{26,27}	Bernard, C ²⁸ Doherty, CDE ²⁹ Hammer, CD ³⁰	Yanagawa, CDE ³¹ Odds, C ³² Wolffrum, CDE ³³ Gambli, CD ³⁴ Bro-Jeppesen, C ³⁵ Busch, D ³⁶	Damiano, CD ³⁷ Cronberg, D ³⁸		
Fair			Bernard, E ³⁹ Mitschan, C ⁴⁰ Virkkunen, E ⁴¹ Kilgus, CD ⁴² Kilgus, CD ⁴³ Haugk, E ⁴⁴ Pichon, CD ⁴⁵ Kim, E ⁴⁶ Kim, C ⁴⁷ Saw, CD ⁴⁸ Skubic, CD ⁴⁹ Jinnin, E ⁵⁰ Heard, E ⁵¹ Larsson, E ⁵² Jankhøjgaard, E ⁵³ Spjel, E ⁵⁴ Gul, CD ⁵⁵ Kammarainen, CDE ⁵⁶ Dumas, CDE ⁵⁷ Al-Sinani, CD ⁵⁸ Fellberg, CD ⁵⁹ Nagao, 200 CD ⁶⁰ Soface, CD ⁶¹ Zeiner, 200 CD ⁶² Scott, CD ⁶³ Henderson-Baker, E ⁶⁴ Flint, E ⁶⁵ Hay, CD ⁶⁶ Kammarainen, CD ⁶⁷ Kammarainen, CD ⁶⁸ Mikansson, E ⁶⁹			
Poor	Hachimi-Adibi, CD ⁷⁰	Brown, CD ⁷¹ Derwall, E ⁷² Fries, CD ⁷³	Wong, CD ⁷⁴ Boegge, CD ⁷⁵ Castrojo, C ⁷⁶			

A = Return of spontaneous circulation; B = survival of event; C = Survival to hospital discharge; D = In-hospital neurological survival; E = Other endpoint; F = pediatric patients.
* Overlapping patients.

Results

- 4 LOE1 (meta-analyses)
- 7 LOE1 (R C T), but 6 from the same group
- 9 LOE2 (non-randomized, concurrent controls)
- 15 LOE3 (retrospective controls)
- 40 LOE4 (no controls)
- 1 LOE5 (extrapolated from non-cardiac arrest group)

Results

- Who to cool?

1. Witnessed cardiac arrest, VF or non perfusing VT & presumed cardiac origin of the arrest. (more complications in the hypothermia group. Ex: sepsis, bleeding, pneumonia)
2. ROSC following a VF cardiac arrest.
3. STEMI following ROSC after a VF cardiac arrest who underwent PCI
4. Comatose survivors of VF cardiac arrest.

- Neurological outcome improved
- Mortality improved

Table 6
Who to cool

Study	Study design	Number	Cooling mechanism	Arrhythmias included	Survival ^a (hypothermia vs control)	Neurological outcome ^b (hypothermia vs control)
HACA Study Group ¹⁸	Randomized, controlled	275	CAM	VF/VT	59% vs 45% (6 months) p=0.02	CPC score 1-2 53% vs 39% (6 months), p=0.009 CPC score 1-2 49% vs 26% p=0.046
Bernard ²⁸	Pseudo-randomized controlled	77	IP, initiated in ambulance	VF	49% vs 32% p=0.145	CPC score 1-2 53% vs 16% p=0.001 GOS score 5 72% vs 40% p=0.02
Knaflitz ³²	Historical control	72	CSI plus IP	VF with STEMI	75% vs 14% p<0.0014	CPC score 1-2 48% vs 18% p=0.029
Bellard ³³	Historical control	68	IP and WC	VF	56% vs 36% p=0.04	CPC score 1-2 50% vs 14% p=0.029
Castrojo ⁴¹	Historical control	69	IP, CSI and CB	VF/VT	58% vs 39% p=0.17	CPC score 1-2 50% vs 14% p=0.029
Bernard ⁴⁹	Historical control	44	IP	All (77% VF)	53% vs 23% p=0.06 ^c	CPC score 1-2 50% vs 14% p=0.029
Odds ³²	Historical control	109	IP and CB	All (79% VF)	VF 60% vs 44% p=0.28	CPC score 1-2 50% vs 26% p=0.004
Busch ³⁶	Historical control	61	IP and WB	All (60% VF)	Other: 17% vs 9% 59% vs 32% p=0.05	Other 17% vs 9% CPC score 1-2 41% vs 20% p=0.21
Sunde ³⁷	Historical control	119	EC a IP and CSI or CB, IP + WB	All (87% VF)	56% vs 31% p=0.007	CPC score 1-2 54% vs 20% p=0.001
Storm ³⁸	Historical control	126	CSI and CB	All (61% VF)	71% vs 58% p=0.19	CPC score 1-2 62% vs 23% p=0.001
Dion ³⁹	Historical control	491	IP, CB or CP	All (35% VF)	VF/VT 54% vs 39% p=0.04 Other 21% vs 19% p=0.65	CPC score 1 VF 35% vs 15% p=0.01 Other 12% vs 9% p=0.48
Bro-Jeppesen ³⁵	Historical control	156	IP, CSI and CB	All (66% VF)	VF/VT 65% vs 68% p=0.79 Other 20% vs 24% p=0.87	CPC score 1-2 VF 97% vs 71% (of survivors) p=0.003

CAM, cold air mattress; IP, ice packs; CSI, cold saline infusion; WC, wet cloth; CB, cooling blankets; EC, endovascular cooling; CP, cooling pads; VF, ventricular fibrillation; VT, ventricular tachycardia; STEMI, ST-elevation myocardial infarction; GOS, Glasgow outcome score; CPC, cerebral performance categories.
^a At hospital discharge unless otherwise stated.
^b p-Values recalculated using Chi-squared analysis.

Results

- How to cool?

1. IV of ice-cold fluids (30ml/kg of 4 °C N/S or Ringer's) → ↑ MAP, ↑ PH, renal function improve.
2. Ice packs over groins, arm pits and around the head and neck.
3. Combine internal and surface cooling device (air or water circulating, gel-coated, intravascular.....)

- Typical external cooling devices: cooling blankets or pads with water filled circulating systems.

Results

- How to cool?

- Overcooling: ice bag > IV
- IV is more reliable: IV was out of range for 3.2±4.8%; others out of range 40~80% (p < 0.05).
- Transnasal delivery of perflurocarbon nebulised with oxygen was excluded due to started during cardiac arrest.
- Optimal rate of warming : not known ; currently about 0.25-0.5 °C/hr

Results

- **When to cool?**
- ROSC after VF; 2L of ice-cold Ringer pre-hospital V.S. on arrival neurological outcome: no difference

Limit : initial BT differ on arrival
after 30min → similar

Results

- **When to cool?**
- In one case series, IV cooling p't → **time to coldest BT** is a predictor of good neurological outcome.
- In one registry-based case series → time to initiate cooling (median:90min, interquartile:60~165min), not associated with good neurological outcome

Results

- **Safe with PCI?**
- 3 historical controls & 3 case series → feasible in cardiac arrest by AMI

Results

- **Harm from cooling?**
- Large prospective, observational, registry based study of OHCA p't showed increased complication, but...
Associated with increased mortality:
 1. Sustained hyperglycemia
 2. Seizures treated with anticonvulsant

Results

- **Harm from cooling?**
- PN, bleeding, e- & metabolic disorder, sepsis ↑ in all IV device (IABP, cooling...) group.
- IL-6, PN, catecholamine use, bacteria colonization, DVT, arrhythmia: ↑
- Shivering: ↑ metabolic rate, O2 demand, and MI.
- Insulin sensitivity & secretion: ↓

Discussion

- Therapeutic hypothermia following cardiac arrest in comatose patients with ROSC improves mortality and neurological outcome.
- Just one LOE I study, others use the same data from the study.
- Have benefit even if delayed.
- 32~34C for 24 hr, optimal strategy: unknown
- Time to initiate cooling.
- Length, speed, technique of cooling & Rate of re-warming

Authors conclusion and recommendation

- VF/VT out-of-hospital cardiac arrest : effective ! reasonable evidence
- Cardiac arrest from non-shockable rhythms or in-hospital arrest: only observational data
- Can do T.H. in pre- and in-hospital setting.
- Can be done in conjunction with other interventions such as PCI.
- Whilst devices with temperature feedback appear to provide BT control.

My conclusion

- T.H. is useful especially in shockable p't
- Initiate T.H. ASAP
- More complications but improved outcome
- Need more evidence

- Thank you for your attention!