

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Cardiocerebral resuscitation improves neurologically intact survival of patients with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

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Overview: In an effort to improve neurologically normal survival of victims of cardiac arrest, a new out-of-hospital protocol was implemented by the emergency medical system medical directors in 2 south-central rural Wisconsin counties. The project was undertaken because the existing guidelines for care of such patients, despite their international scope and periodic updates, had not substantially improved survival rates for such patients during nearly 4 decades.

Conclusions: In adult patients with a witnessed cardiac arrest and an initially shockable rhythm, implementation of an out-of-hospital treatment protocol based on the principles of cardiocerebral resuscitation was associated with a dramatic improvement in neurologically intact survival.