Outcomes of Patients with Cardiac Arrest and Effect of Blood Glucose Concentration

Umut Gulacti, Ugur Lok
Department of Emergency Medicine, Adiyaman University School of Medicine, Adiyaman, Turkey


Dear Editor,

We intriguingly read the article by Ece et al. (1) titled “Evaluation of Characteristics and Clinical Outcomes of Patients with Cardiac Arrest” in the June 2017 edition of Eurasian Journal of Emergency Medicine and we believe that is an important subject for emergency physicians. In this paper, the authors aimed to investigate the efficiency of updated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) methods and emergency cardiac care guidelines on CPR outcomes. We congratulate the authors for this valuable study, and we have a few comments on the same.

A study by Dane et al. (2) found that Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) courses increase the knowledge level in healthcare providers and the survival-to-discharge rate. Therefore, emergency physicians and nurses should be trained regarding updated CPR methods and emergency cardiac care guidelines including basic life support and ACLS. Although the authors aimed to investigate the efficiency of updated CPR methods and emergency cardiac care guidelines on CPR outcomes, they failed to demonstrate this in their findings as the authors did not specify the guidelines used and whether they were used.

Return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) and survival-to-discharge ratios are higher in patients with pulseless ventricular tachycardia (pVT) and ventricular fibrillation (VF), and the ROSC ratio is higher during respiratory arrest (3,4). Cardiac arrest associated with trauma is one of the special circumstances of CPR. The ROSC ratio in trauma patients is different from that in non traumatic patients (5). Authors stated that a study investigating trauma patients requiring CPR over a 5-year period found the survival rate to be 9.5%. Of all patients, 14.2% were successfully resuscitated and survived and they mentioned that “the reason for the greater survival rate in our study might be associated with the possibility of unpredictable injuries that multiple-trauma patients might have.” In their study, the number of patients with VF at the time of arrival was presented; however, the numbers of patients with pVT at the time of arrival, those with respiratory arrest, and those with trauma and the ROSC ratio of trauma patients were not presented. To evaluate the clinical outcomes of patients with cardiac arrest, presenting these data would be beneficial.

Blood glucose concentration is a factor that influences CPR outcomes including functional neurological recovery. Therefore, it is important to specify the upper normal values of blood glucose and to indicate the values of blood glucose levels in patients who died and those discharged from hospital, separately (6). However, authors did not state these parameters in their study. For identifying the association between higher glucose levels and higher mortality, upper normal values of blood glucose and values (median or mean) of blood glucose levels should be determined.

OICD IDs of the authors: U.G. 0000-0003-2151-7212; U.L. 0000-0002-6091-9401.
Glucose level in patients with arrest definitely has some effects on outcomes of CPR (3). However, we believe that comparison of all parameters or determination of all issues about CPR must not be expected from a single study. For instance, we also did not investigate the effects of hypothermia on CPR procedure (4). Our aim was to share our clinical experience and reveal the performance of our clinic.

We are looking forward to further studies on CPR investigating different aspects of the procedure.

Best regards.

References


