



APRIL 15–20, 2024
Indianapolis, Indiana



ANDREW BOWMAN

BOONE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICINE

**REFRACTORY VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION:
OLD AND NOVEL THERAPIES**

Refractory VF:

Beyond ACLS: Old & Novel Therapies for Successful Management

Andrew J. Bowman

**MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, ACNPC, etc., etc.,
CVRN-I-BC, NRP,
FACCN, FAEN**

Refractory Ventricular Fibrillation



ACLS

Defib Vector Change and DSD

Pharmacology Old & New


Stellate Ganglion Block

ECMO

Case Study

EMT – 1982
Paramedic - 1984
ED RN - 1991
ED NP – 2007
FACCN - 2006
FAEN - 2016
Indiana State EMS Commissioner 2016-Present
National ENA EMS Advisory Council Past Chair
National ENA Representative NEMSQA
Indiana State Representative AAENP
NAEMSP Indiana Chapter Secretary
NAEMSP EMS APP Task Force & Airway Task Force
Author – Chapters on Cardiac Arrest ED/ED NP
Textbooks





**THERE ARE STORIES OF OLD EMS.
PAPER RUN SHEETS, DEFIB PADDLES, MANUAL STRETCHERS,
LIDOCAINE IN CODES, COMBITUBES, NASAL
INTUBATION, MAST TROUSERS, MAP BOOKS...ARE THEY TRUE?**

IT'S TRUE, ALL OF IT







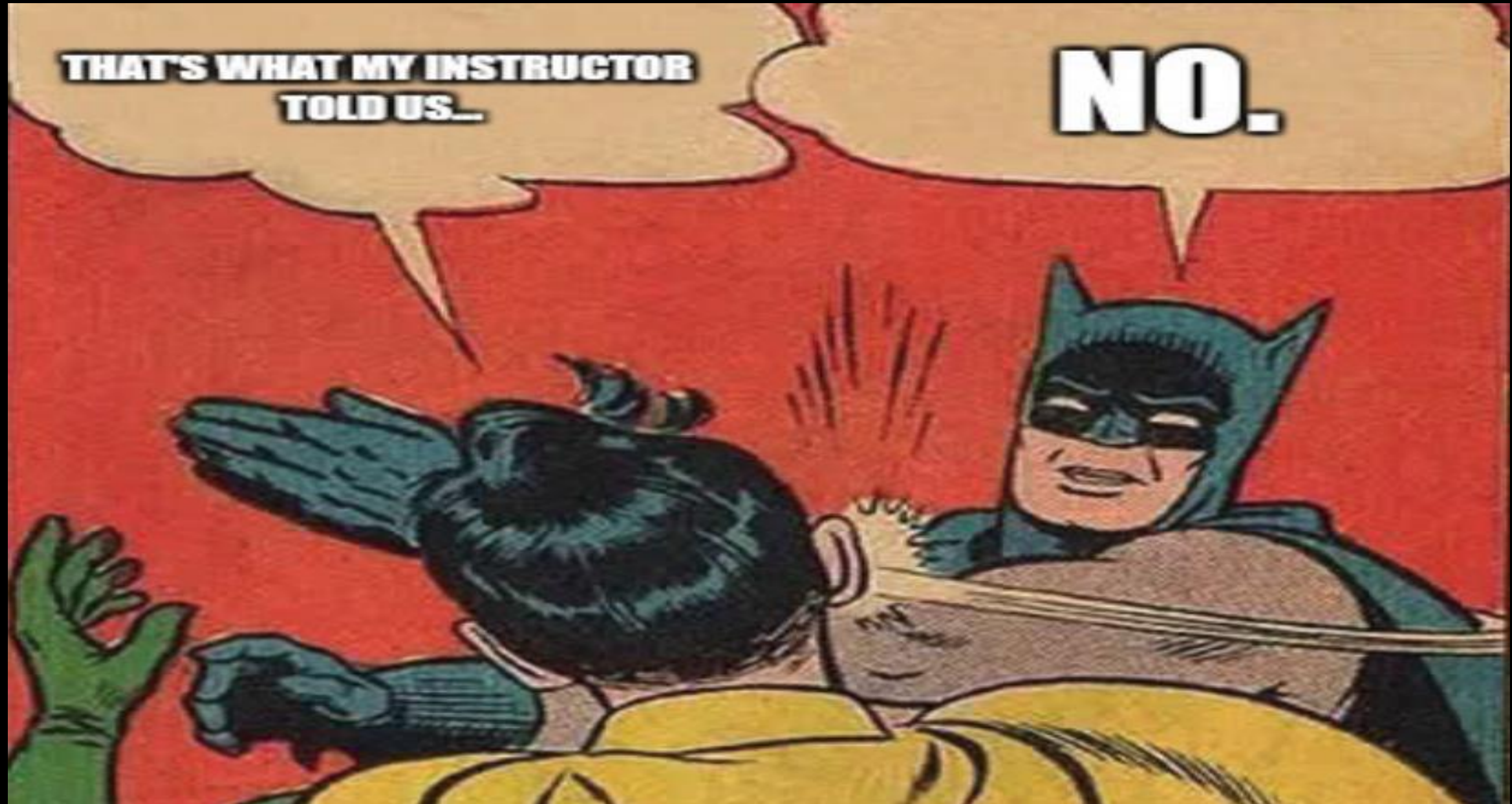
John Hinds

1980 - 2015

Are your intentions
honorable?

**THAT'S WHAT MY INSTRUCTOR
TOLD US...**

NO.

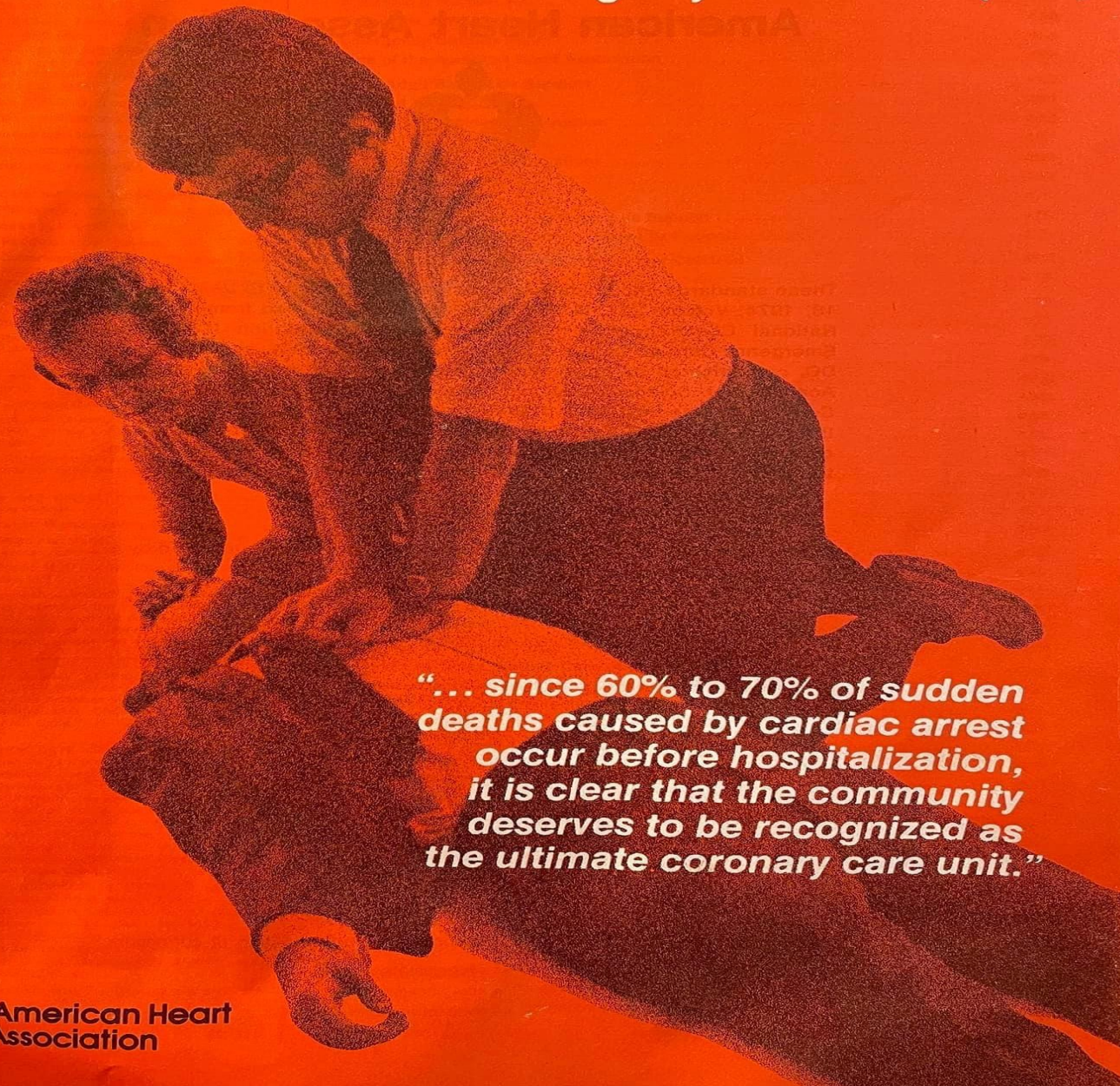


JAMA

THE JOURNAL of the American Medical Association

Reprinted from *The Journal of the American Medical Association*,
August 1, 1980, Volume 244, Number 5, Pages 453-509.
Copyright 1980, American Medical Association.

Standards and Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC)

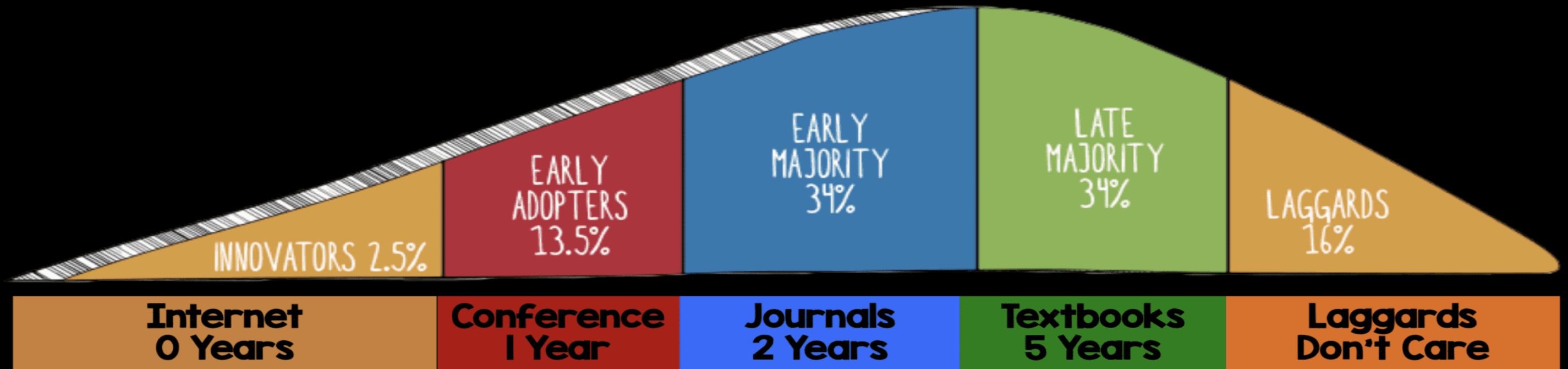


"... since 60% to 70% of sudden deaths caused by cardiac arrest occur before hospitalization, it is clear that the community deserves to be recognized as the ultimate coronary care unit."

 American Heart
Association

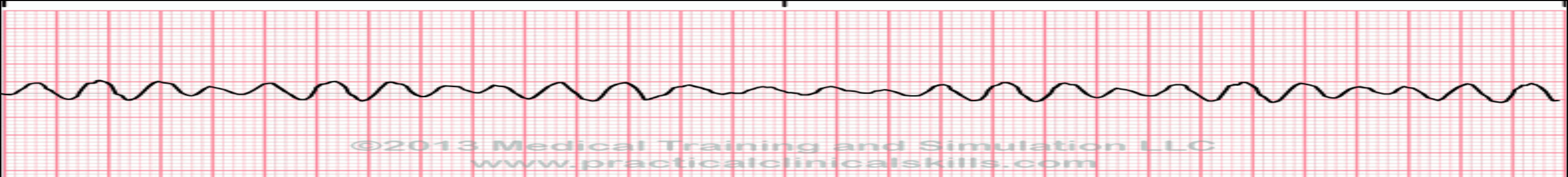
ACLS isn't for

resuscitationists



#FOAMed Thanks to Dr. Joe Lex

Refractory V-Fib (rVF)



AHA STATISTICAL UPDATE

2024 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics: A Report of US and Global Data From the American Heart Association

Seth S. Martin, MD, MHS, FAHA, Chair; Aaron W. Aday, MD, MSc, FAHA; Zaid I. Almarzooq, MBBCh, MPH; Cheryl A.M. Anderson, PhD, MPH, FAHA; Pankaj Arora, MD, FAHA; Christy L. Avery, PhD, MPH, FAHA; Carissa M. Baker-Smith, MD, MPH, FAHA; Bethany Barone Gibbs, PhD, MSc, FAHA; Andrea Z. Beaton, MD, MS, FAHA; Amelia K. Boehme, PhD, MSPH; Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, PhD, MHS, RN, FAHA; Maria E. Currie, MD, PhD; Mitchell S.V. Elkind, MD, MS, FAHA; Kelly R. Evenson, PhD, MS, FAHA; Giuliano Generoso, MD, PhD; Debra G. Heard, PhD; Swapnil Hiremath, MD, MPH, FAHA; Michelle C. Johansen, MD, PhD; Rizwan Kalani, MD; Dhruv S. Kazi, MD, MSc, MS, FAHA; Darae Ko, MD, MSc; Junxiu Liu, PhD; Jared W. Magnani, MD, MS, FAHA; Erin D. Michos, MD, MHSc, FAHA; Michael E. Mussolino, PhD, FAHA; Sankar D. Navaneethan, MD, MS, MPH; Nisha I. Parikh, MD, MPH; Sarah M. Perman, MD, MSCE, MS, FAHA; Remy Poudel, MS, MPH, CPH; Mary Rezk-Hanna, PhD, FAHA; Gregory A. Roth, MD, MPH, FAHA; Nilay S. Shah, MD, MPH, FAHA; Marie-Pierre St-Onge, PhD, FAHA; Evan L. Thacker, PhD; Connie W. Tsao, MD, MPH, FAHA; Sarah M. Urbut, MD, PhD; Harriette G.C. Van Spall, MD, MPH; Jenifer H. Voeks, PhD, FAHA; Nae-Yuh Wang, PhD, MS, FAHA; Nathan D. Wong, PhD, MPH, FAHA; Sally S. Wong, PhD, RD, CDN, FAHA; Kristine Yaffe, MD; Latha P. Palaniappan, MD, MS, FAHA, Vice Chair; on behalf of the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology and Prevention Statistics Committee and Stroke Statistics Subcommittee



BACKGROUND: The American Heart Association (AHA), in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health, annually reports the most up-to-date statistics related to heart disease, stroke, and cardiovascular risk factors, including core health behaviors (smoking, physical activity, nutrition, sleep, and obesity) and health factors (cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose control, and metabolic syndrome) that contribute to cardiovascular health. The AHA Heart Disease and Stroke Statistical Update presents the latest data on a range of major clinical heart and circulatory disease conditions (including stroke, brain health, complications of pregnancy, kidney disease, congenital heart disease, rhythm disorders, sudden cardiac arrest, subclinical atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease, cardiomyopathy, heart failure, valvular disease, venous thromboembolism, and peripheral artery disease) and the associated outcomes (including quality of care, procedures, and economic costs).

AHA Stats

- **Since 1950**
 - **Death rates CVD ↓ 60%**
 - **Recently trending back upward**

AHA Stats

- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest (OOHCA)**
 - **Survival to hospital DC 9.3% (2022 CARES)**
 - **72.1% in the home**

AHA Stats

- **Awareness & Treatment**
 - **40% OOHCA had layperson CPR (CARES 2022)**

AHA Stats

- **Mortality OOHCA (CARES 2022)**
 - **Hospital admission survival 24.9%**
 - **Hospital DC survival 9.3%**
 - **Good functional DC 7.5%**

Jude, Kouwenhoven, & Knickerbocker



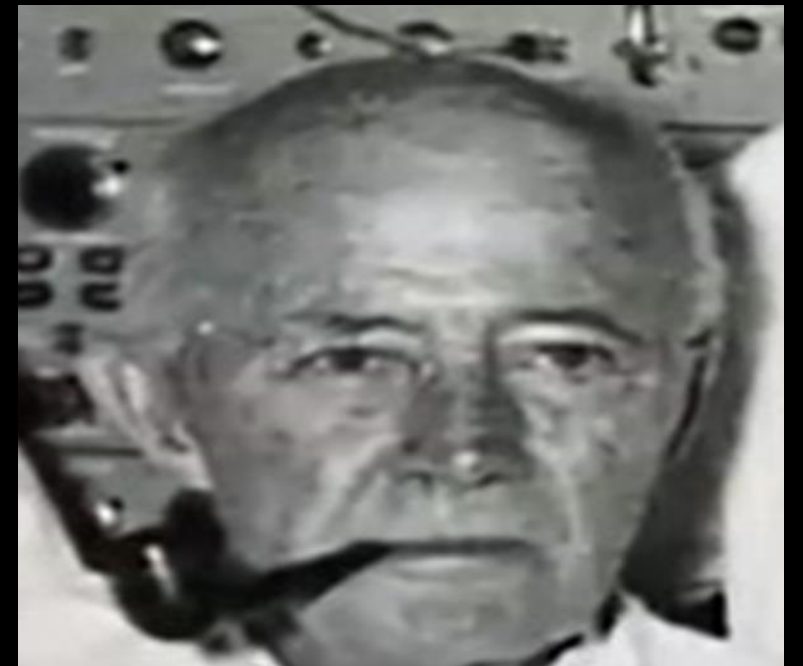
Dr. Jude

- **Manual pressure to chest could restore cardiac output**



Dr. Kuonhoven

- **1928 – ConEd Study**
- **1933 – Discovered defibrillation (dog)**
- **1933-1947 – Defib open chest**
- **1951 – Closed chest defib**



1957 – 200# prototype

**March 17 – First
human defibrillation
closed chest**

**1959-1960 – 20
patients resuscitated
with closed chest CPR**



Dr. Knickerbocker

- 1954 – Joins Dr. Kuonhoven



Safar “Father of Modern CPR” & Hinds “Are My Intentions Honorable”



Achieving VF Success

- High Quality CPR
- Optimize defibrillation
- ? Redirect Defibrillation Wave
- Stabilize the Myocardium



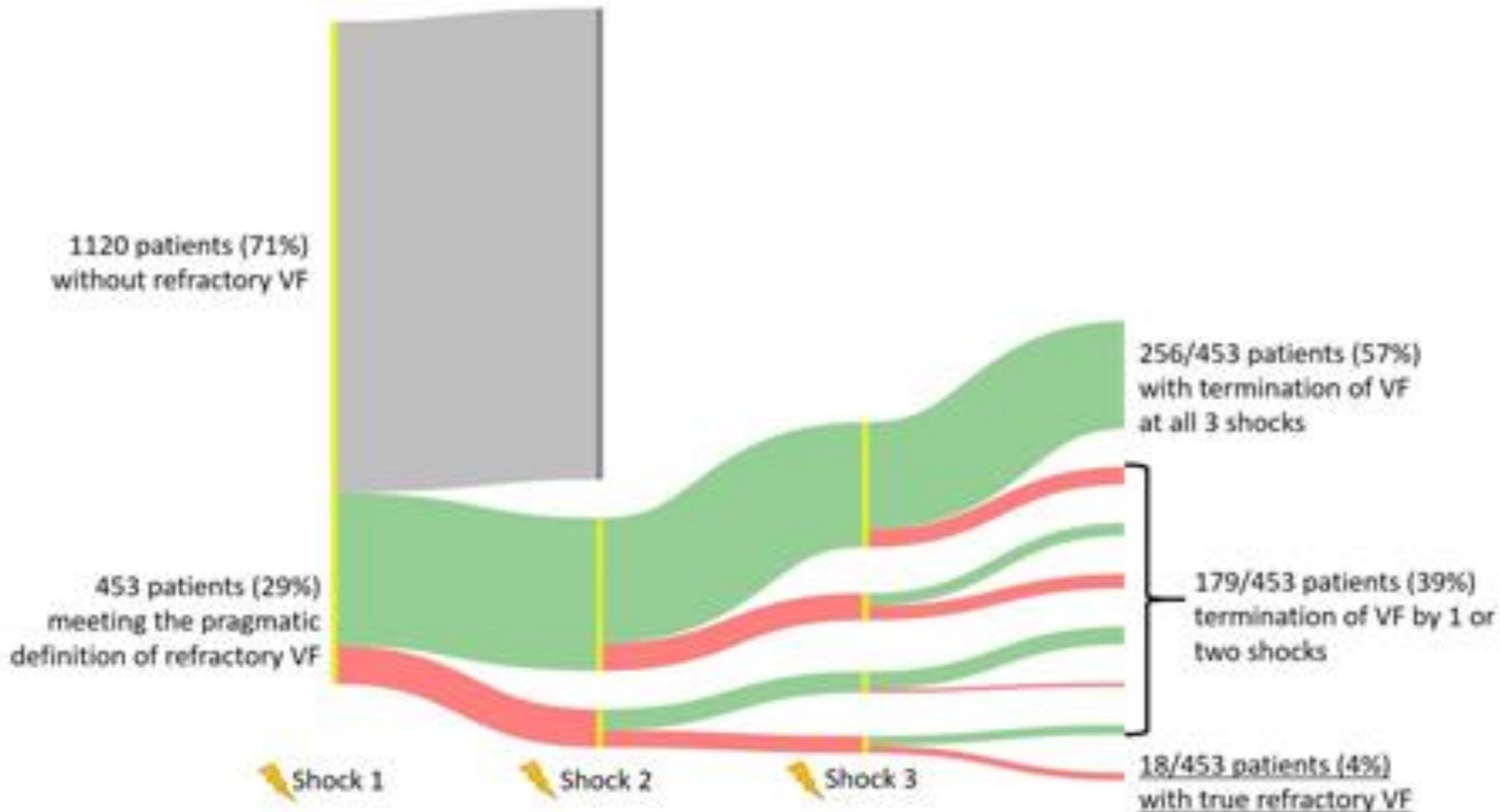
Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest

- **> 350,000/year OOHCA**
- **~80,000/year due to VF/VT**
- **VF/VT “shock refractory”**
 - **Recurrent (post shock) or incessant (not terminated by shock)**
- **Shock refractory associated with decreased survival**


Recurrent vs Refractory VF

- **Recurrent**
 - Defibrillation terminates VF
 - VF returns
 - Not a defibrillation issue
- **Refractory**
 - Defibrillation does not terminate VF
 - VF persists
 - Defibrillation issue

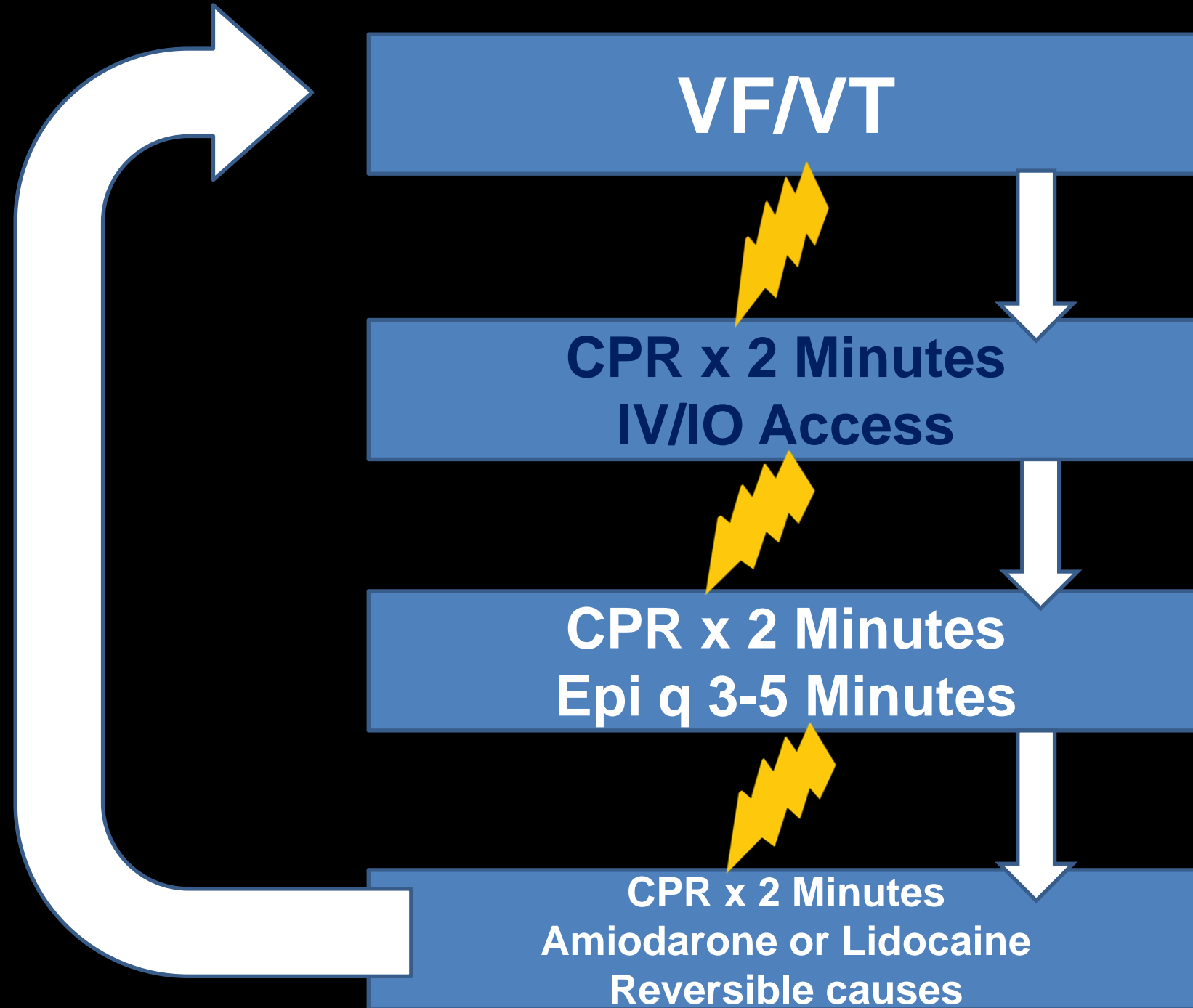






ADVANCED CARDIOVASCULAR LIFE SUPPORT		ADVANCED CARDIOVASCULAR LIFE SUPPORT	
<h1>ACLS Provider</h1>	 American Heart Association®	Training Center Name	TC ID #
		TC Info	City, State ZIP TC Phone
This card certifies that the above individual has successfully completed the cognitive and skills evaluations in accordance with the curriculum of the American Heart Association Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Program.		Course Location	
		Instructor Name	Inst. ID #
		Holder's Signature	
Issue Date	Recommended Renewal Date	© 2011 American Heart Association Tampering with this card will alter its appearance. 90-1806	

ACLS





Strategies for rVF

Strategies

High performance CPR

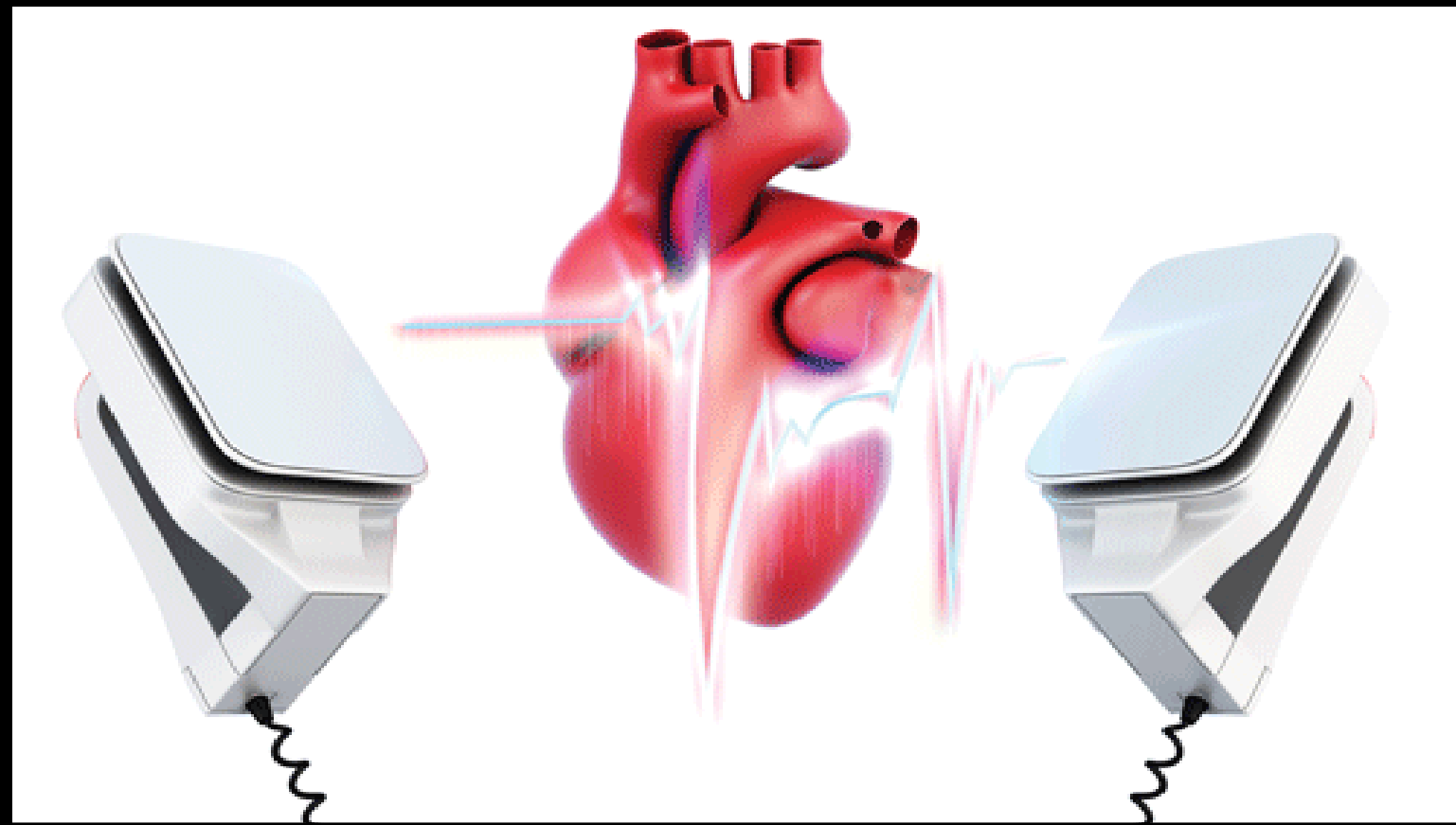
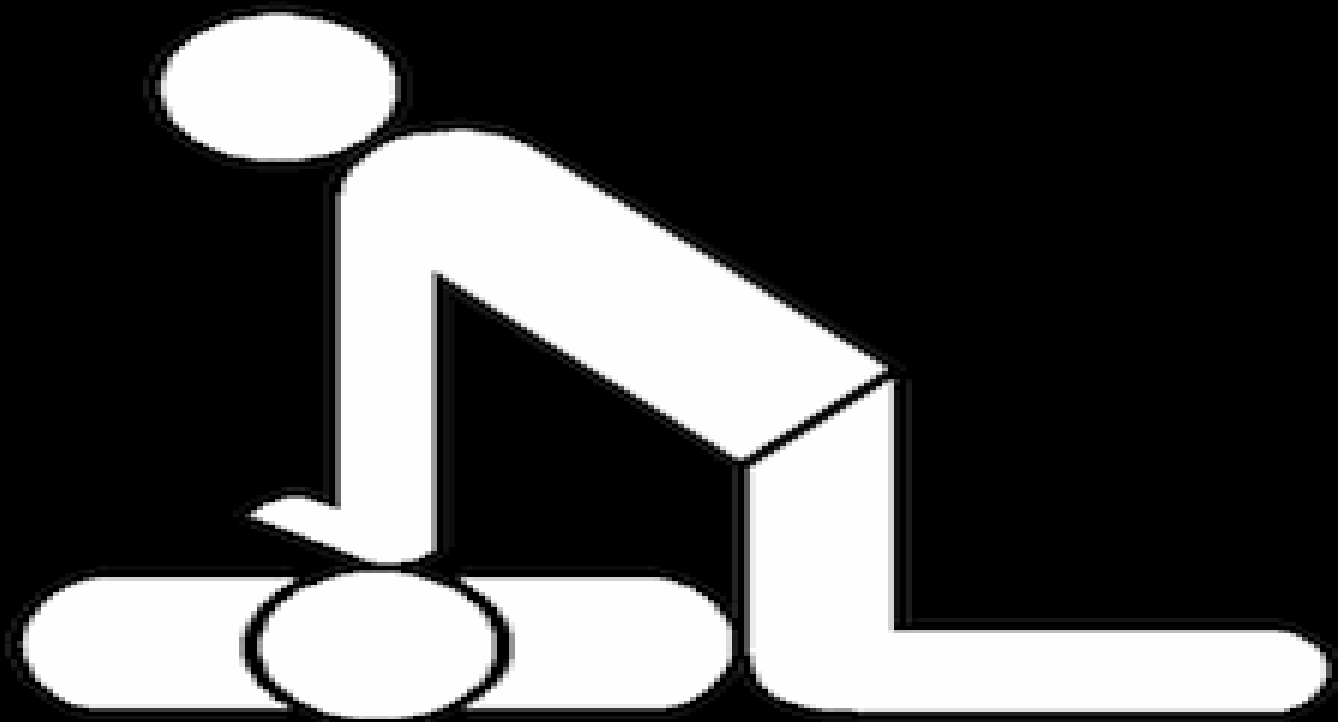
Defibrillation

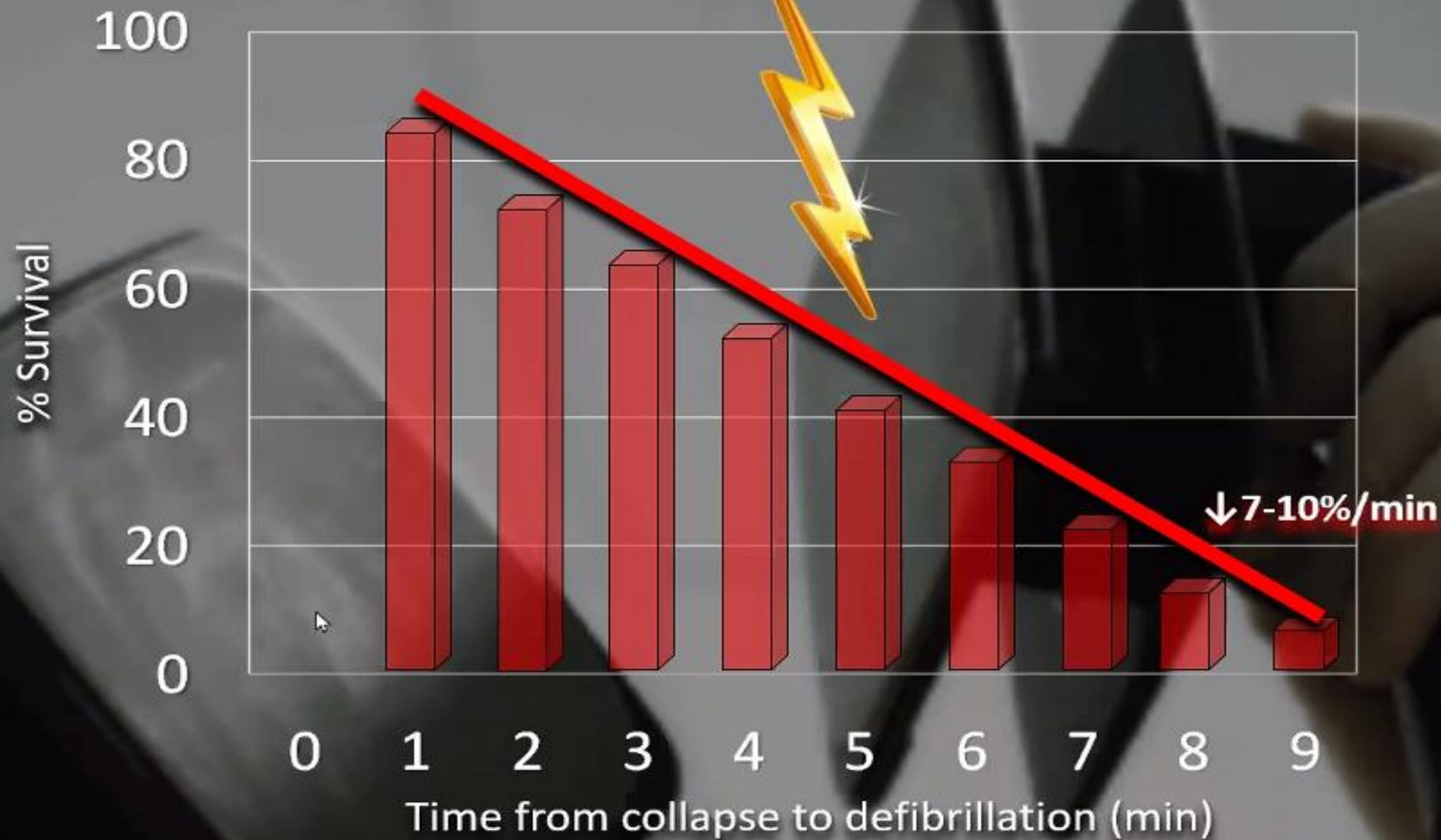


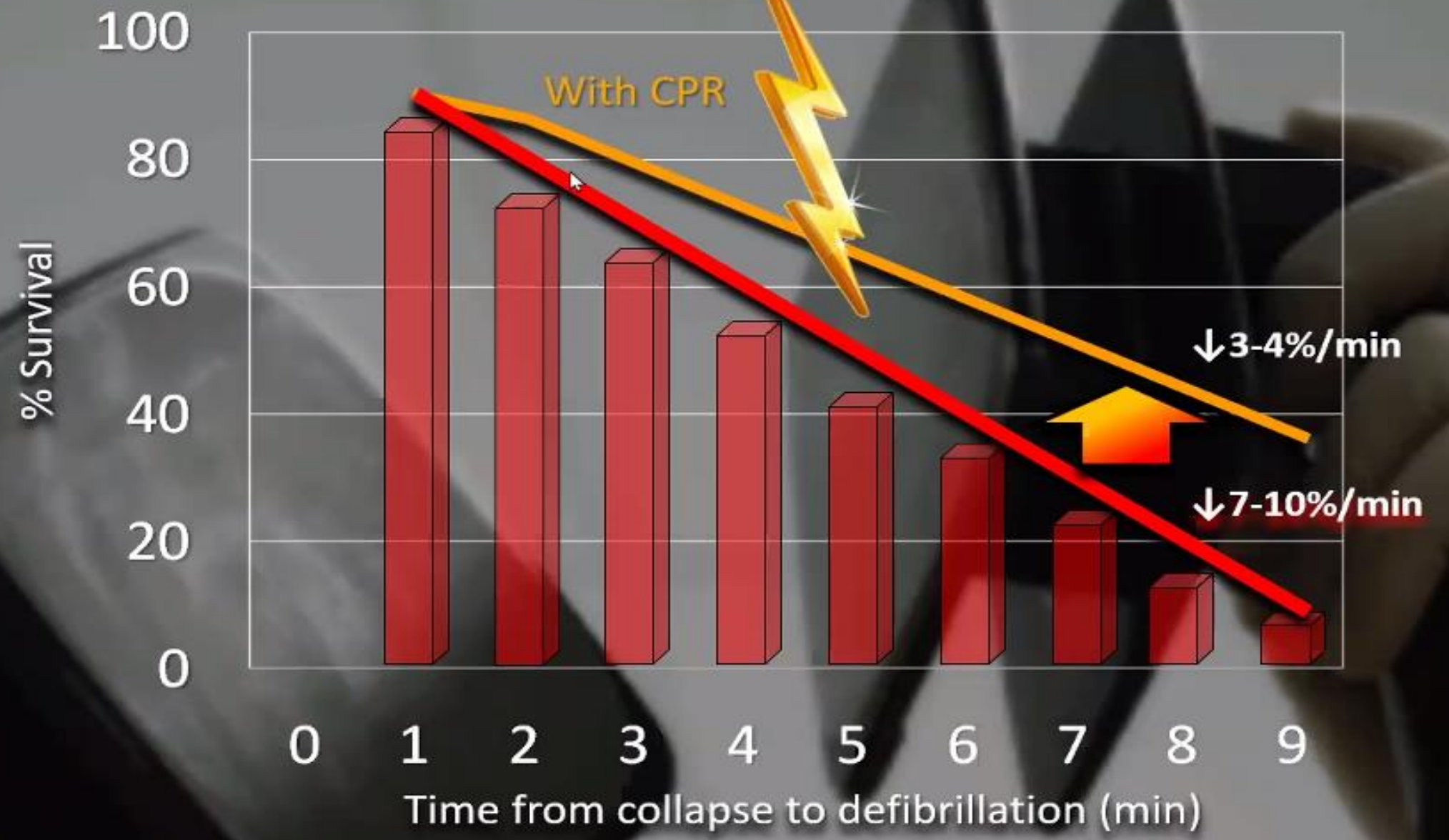
Effect

Optimize blood flow

Terminate VF





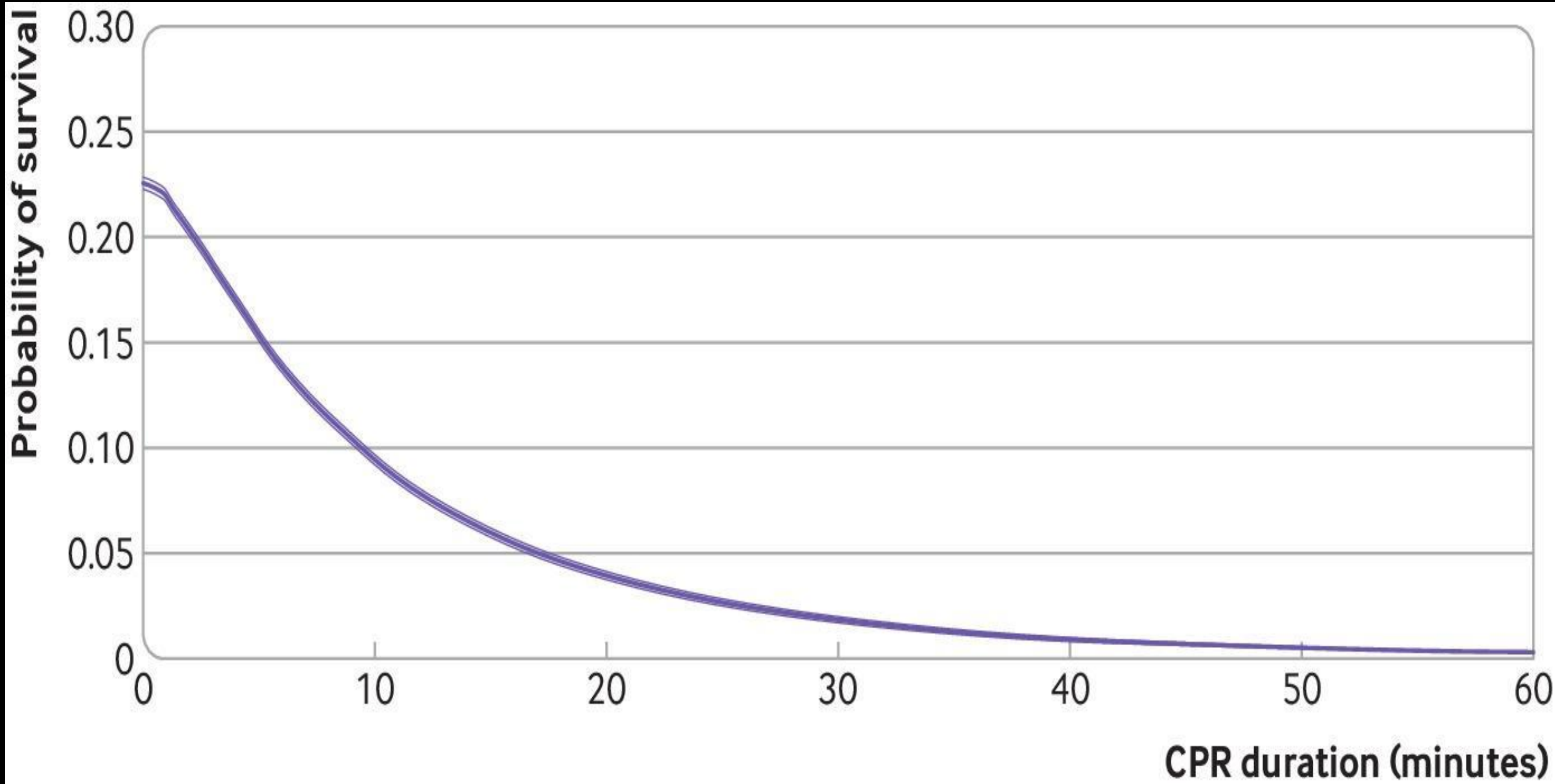


More Recent CPR Data

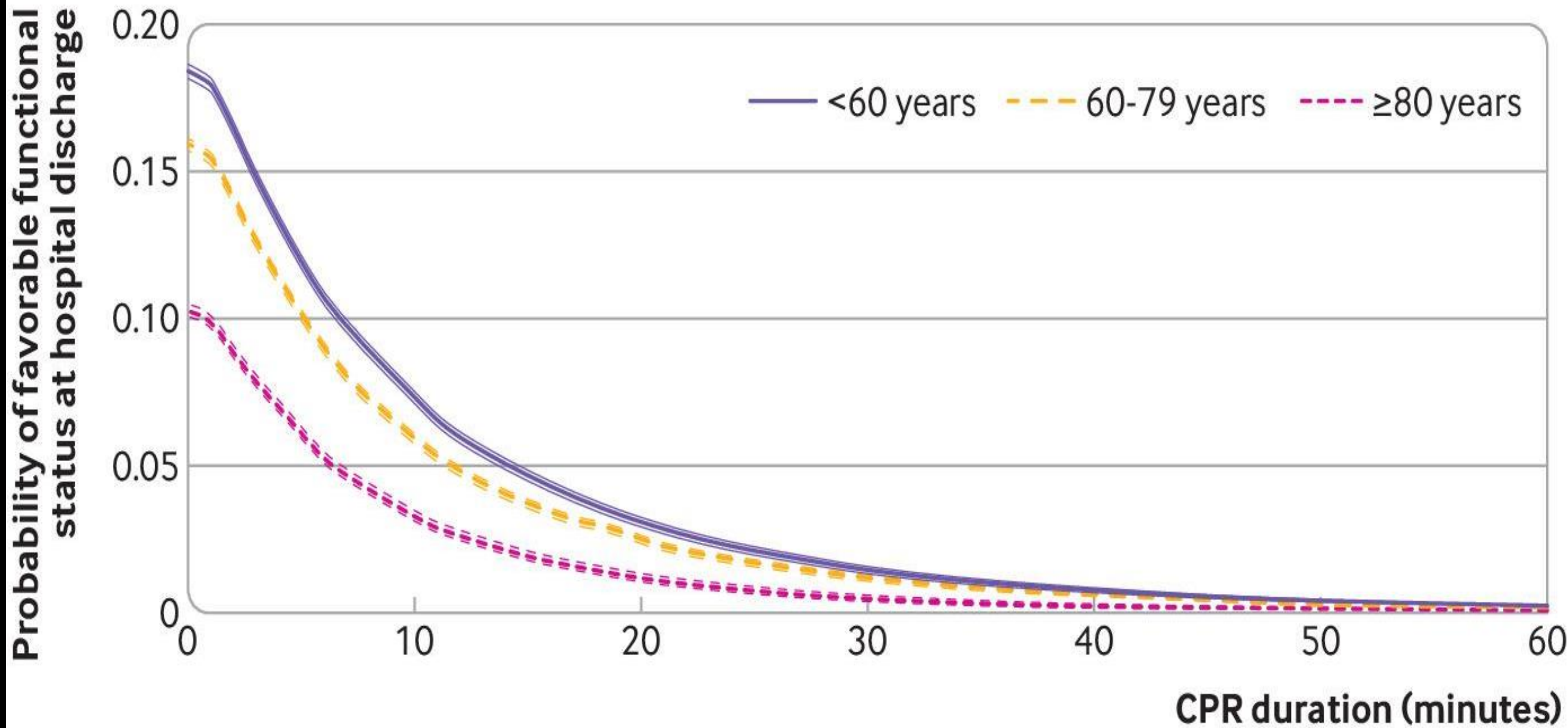
- CPR's ability to resuscitate diminishes quickly
- Odds of surviving despite CPR decline from 22% after one minute to less than 1% after 39 minutes
- About two-thirds of patients responded to CPR within an average seven minutes

SOURCE: Duration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and outcomes for adults with in-hospital cardiac arrest: retrospective cohort study.

BMJ 2024; 384 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2023-076019> (Published 07 February 2024)



Survival to hospital discharge/receiving CPR (%)



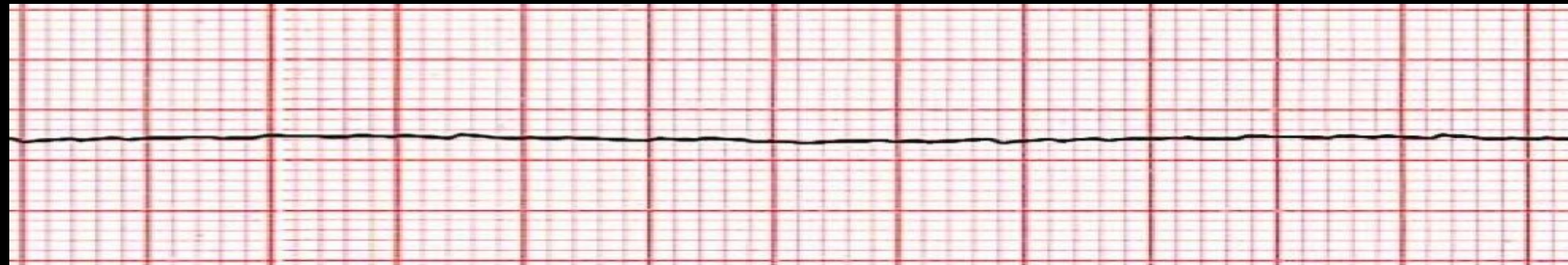
Favorable functional status at hospital discharge/receiving CPR (%)

Time to Stop

- **Shockable**
 - 30 minutes



- **Non-Shockable**
 - 15minutes



- **Unless**
 - Refractory shockable AND destination care



I can't keep doing this forever.



It's been 20 seconds.

Call it.

2022 AHA Guidelines

- Deliver resuscitation **AT SCENE** rather than transport **unless**

– ECMO

– Cath Lab





MIKEY JOHN @ NOT
ALL SUPERHEROES
WEAR CAPES

**WHEN YOU ARE WAITING FOR THAT CARDIAC
ARREST PRENOTIFICATION TO ARRIVE TO YOUR ER**

SGEM Transport vs Scene

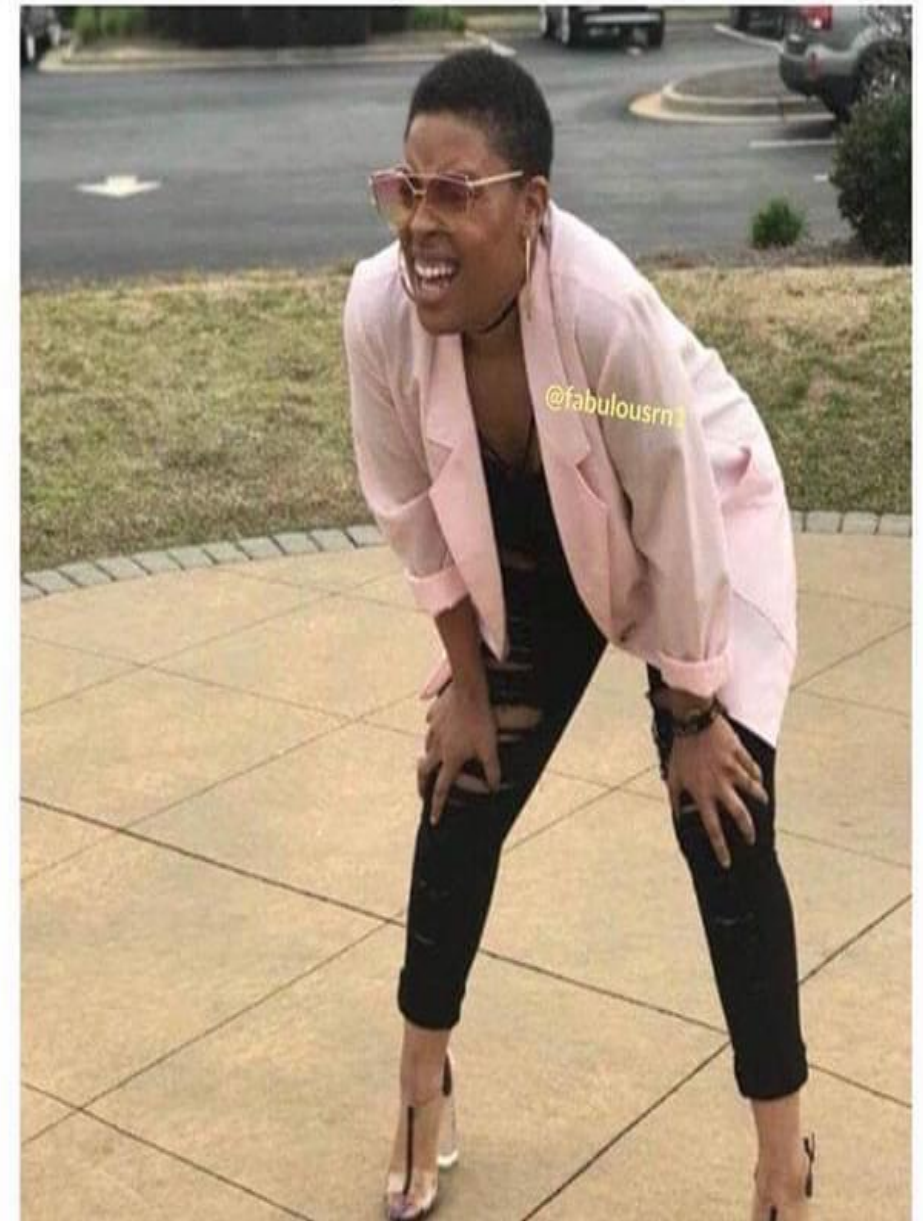
	Transport	On Scene
ROSC	15.8%	48.3%
DC Alive	3.8%	12.6%
DC Good Neuro (mRS <3)	2.6%	10.2%

What Works?

High Quality CPR

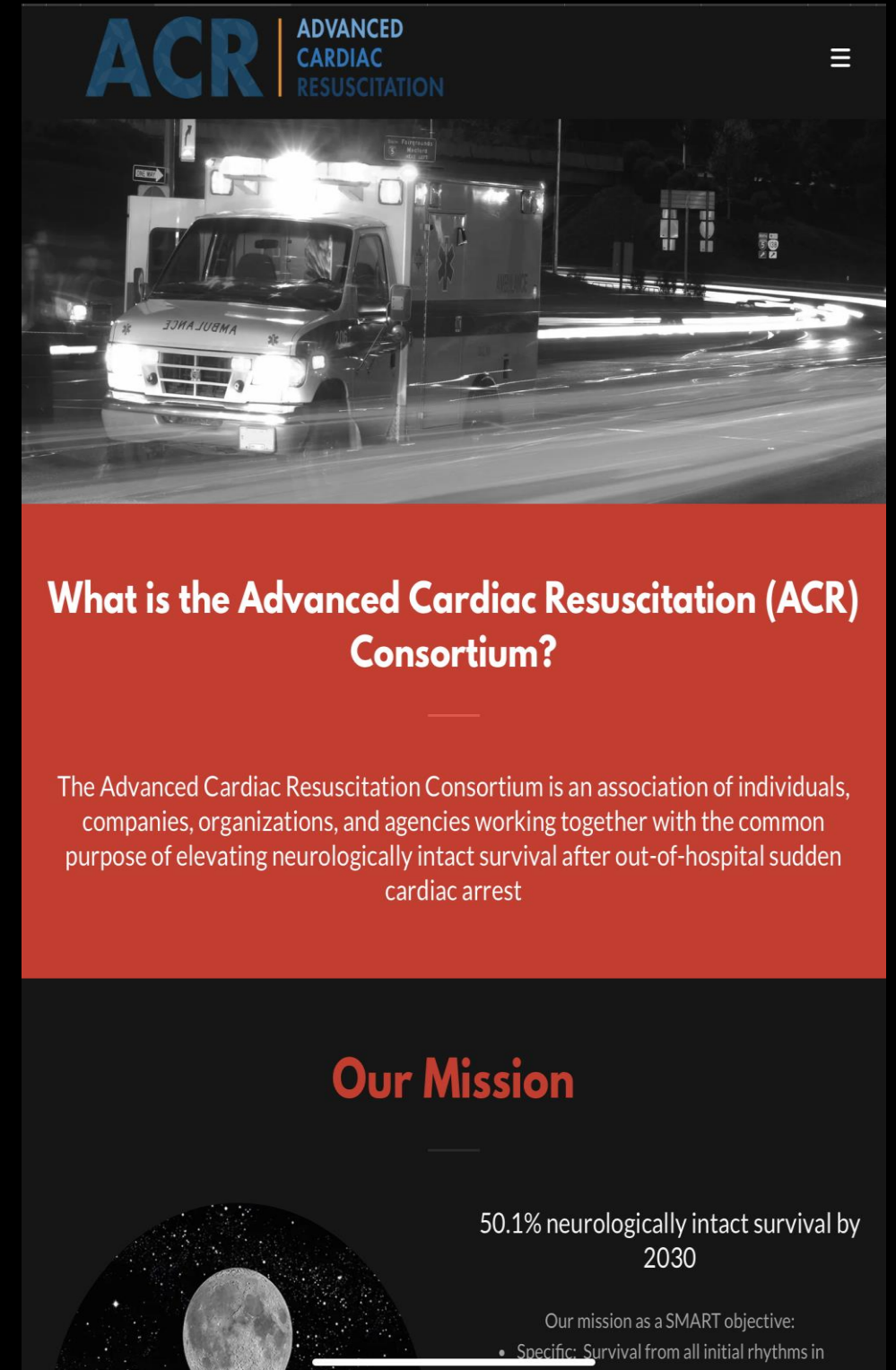
- Push Hard
- Push Fast – 100 to 120 compressions/minute
- Allow for full chest recoil
- Limit interruptions/pauses

When you've done two minutes of CPR and you're trying to control your breathing so it doesn't look like you have to be coded yourself



2022 AHA Guidelines

- CPR fraction > 60%
– (ACR 95%!!)
- Minimize peri-shock pauses



ACR | ADVANCED
CARDIAC
RESUSCITATION

What is the Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation (ACR) Consortium?

The Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation Consortium is an association of individuals, companies, organizations, and agencies working together with the common purpose of elevating neurologically intact survival after out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest

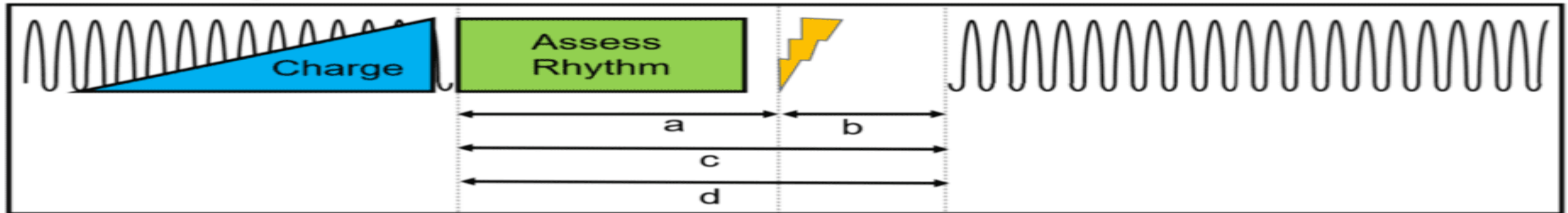
Our Mission

50.1% neurologically intact survival by 2030

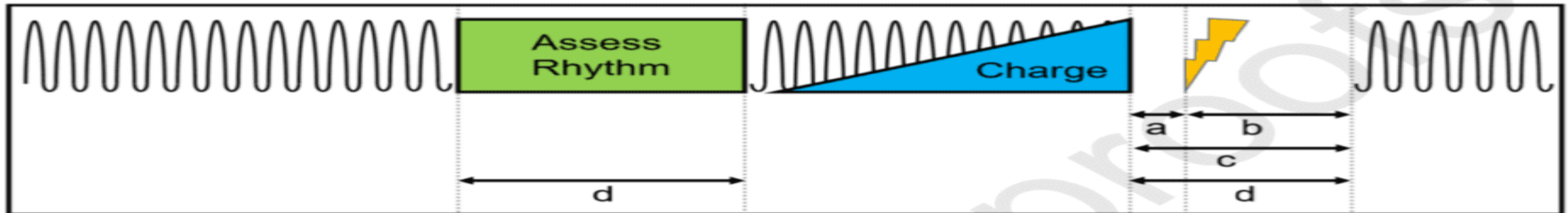
Our mission as a SMART objective:

- Specific: Survival from all initial rhythms in

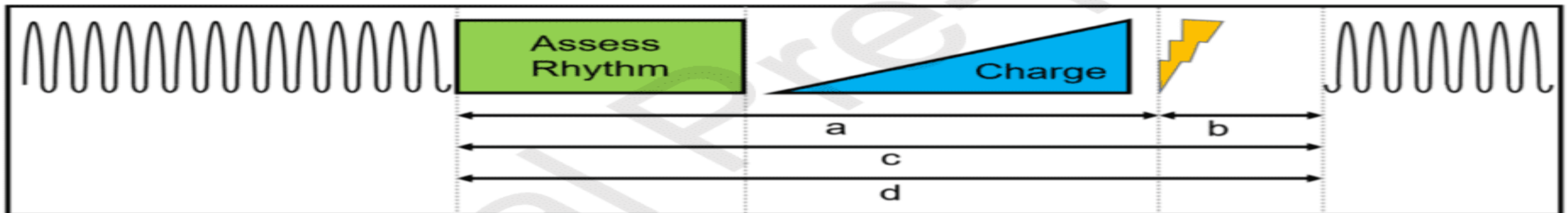
A: Precharge



B: Standard



C: Old



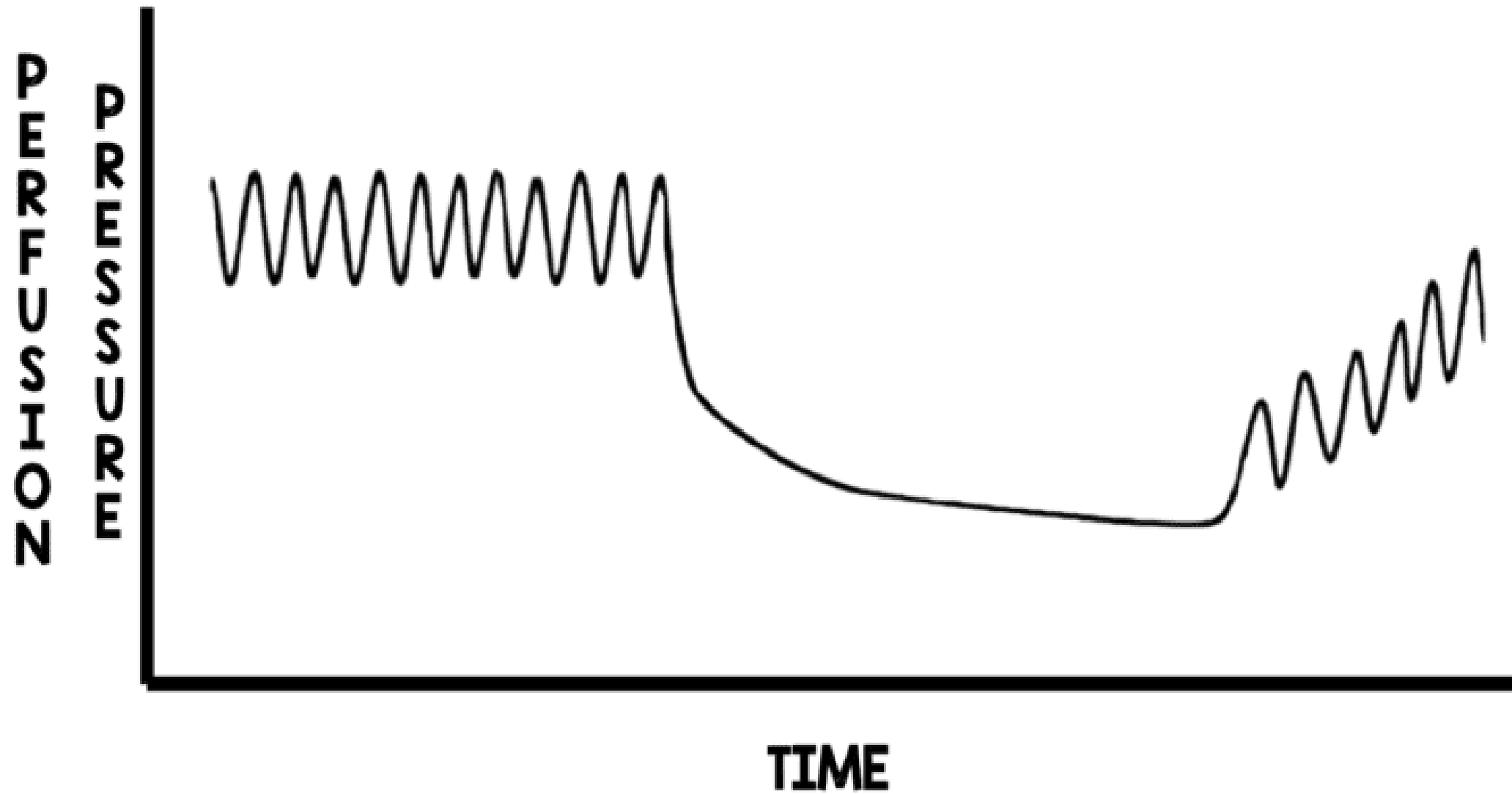
Legend



Chest compressions



Defibrillation shock



PAUSE = Decreased Perfusion

CPR Depth and Pre-Shock Pause

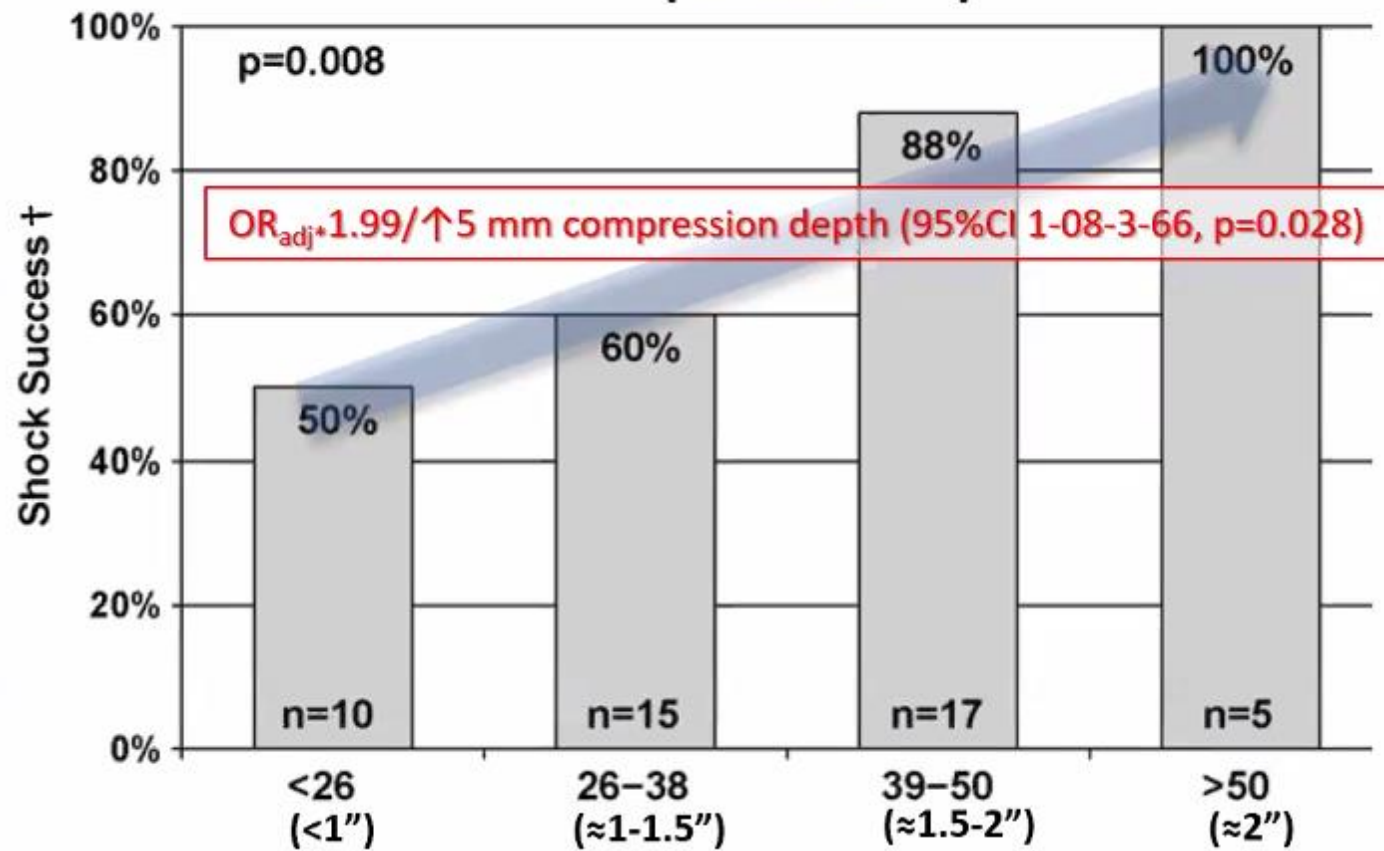


Compression Depth

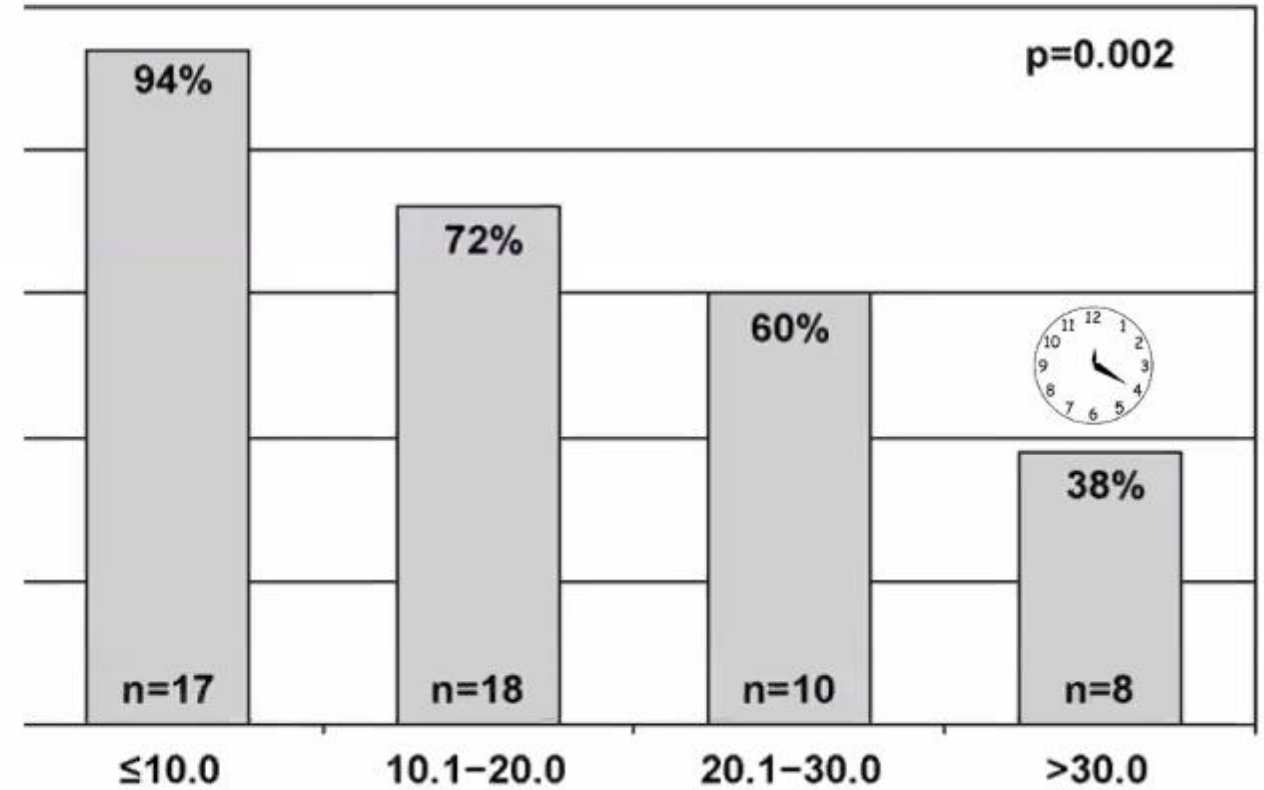
n= 60 adults VF/1st shock @ $\bar{3.7}$ min



Hands-off Time



Compression Depth (mm) @30'' before 1st shock



Preshock Pause (sec)

- With ventilation rate standardized, chest compression (CC) depth explains variations in ETCO₂ better than chest compression rate.
- Don't forget that **higher CPR ETCO₂ predicts ROSC!!**

Defibrillation

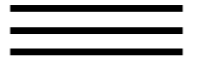
Defibrillation

Humane Society 1774

**“The Institute for Affording Immediate Relief for
Persons Apparently Dead from Drowning”
(TIFAIRFPADFD)**

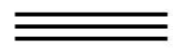
- www.trauma.org





The first defibrillator? The work of James Curry

“A 3 year-old girl, Sophie Greenhill, was pronounced dead after a fall. Mr. Squires tried the effects of electricity. Delivered shocks to various parts of the body, upon transmitting shocks through the thorax, he perceived a small pulsation, in a few minutes the child began to breathe.”



A Tennessee husband and father died on Thanksgiving after flames burst over his body when hospital staff used defibrillator paddles

Katie Balevic Dec 3, 2022, 11:43 AM



[Download the app](#)



Defibrillator. Getty Images

- **A Tennessee man died after he caught on fire while hospital staff used a defibrillator on him.**
- **The man's wife was in the room when her husband caught ablaze, telling [WKRN](#) that "it just blew up."**

EMERGENCY CASE REPORT

Accidental "Cranial" Defibrillation

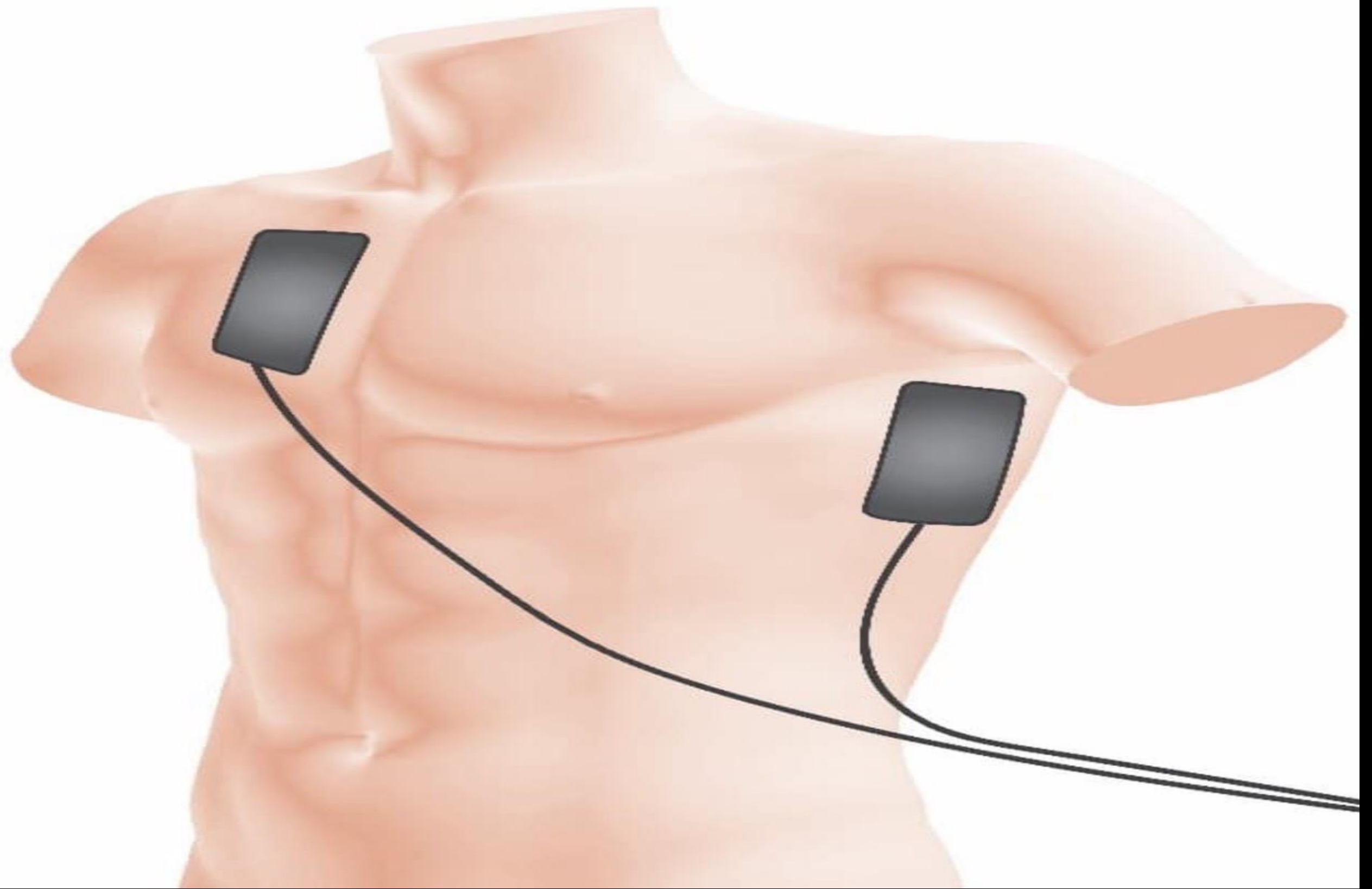
*Kenneth V. Iserson, MD
William George Barsan, MD
Cincinnati, Ohio*

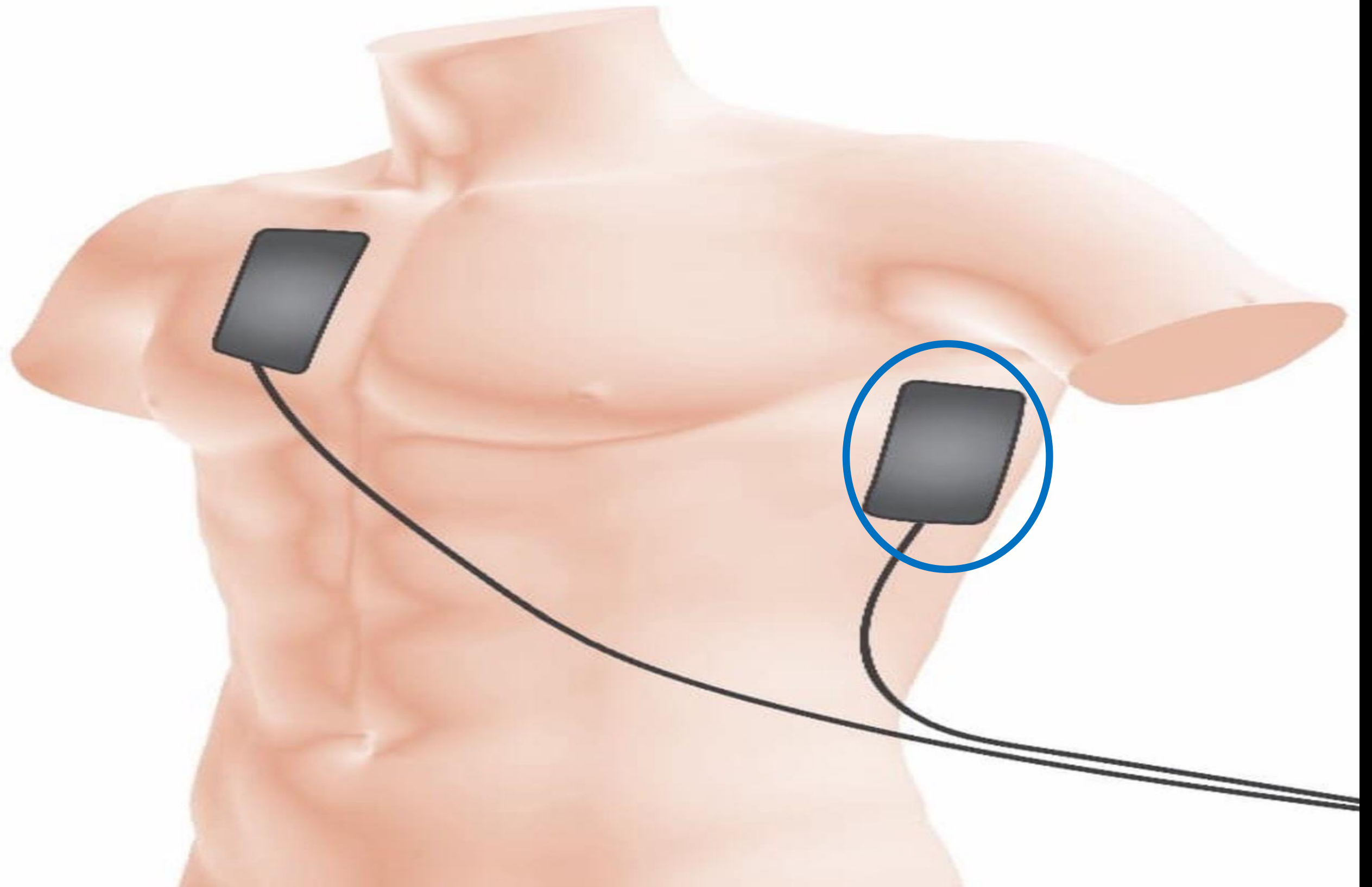
A case of accidental shock to the head, caused by a cardiac defibrillator, is presented. The shock resulted in minor burns and symptoms similar to those of postelectro-convulsive shock therapy (ECT). A physician participating in an advanced life support course, and familiar with the equipment, was the victim. An assumption that the demonstration equipment was not real seems to have been the cause of the accident. Suggestions for prevention of further episodes are discussed. Iserson KV, Barsan WG: Accidental "cranial" defibrillation. *JACEP* 7:24-25, January, 1979.
defibrillators, injury, head

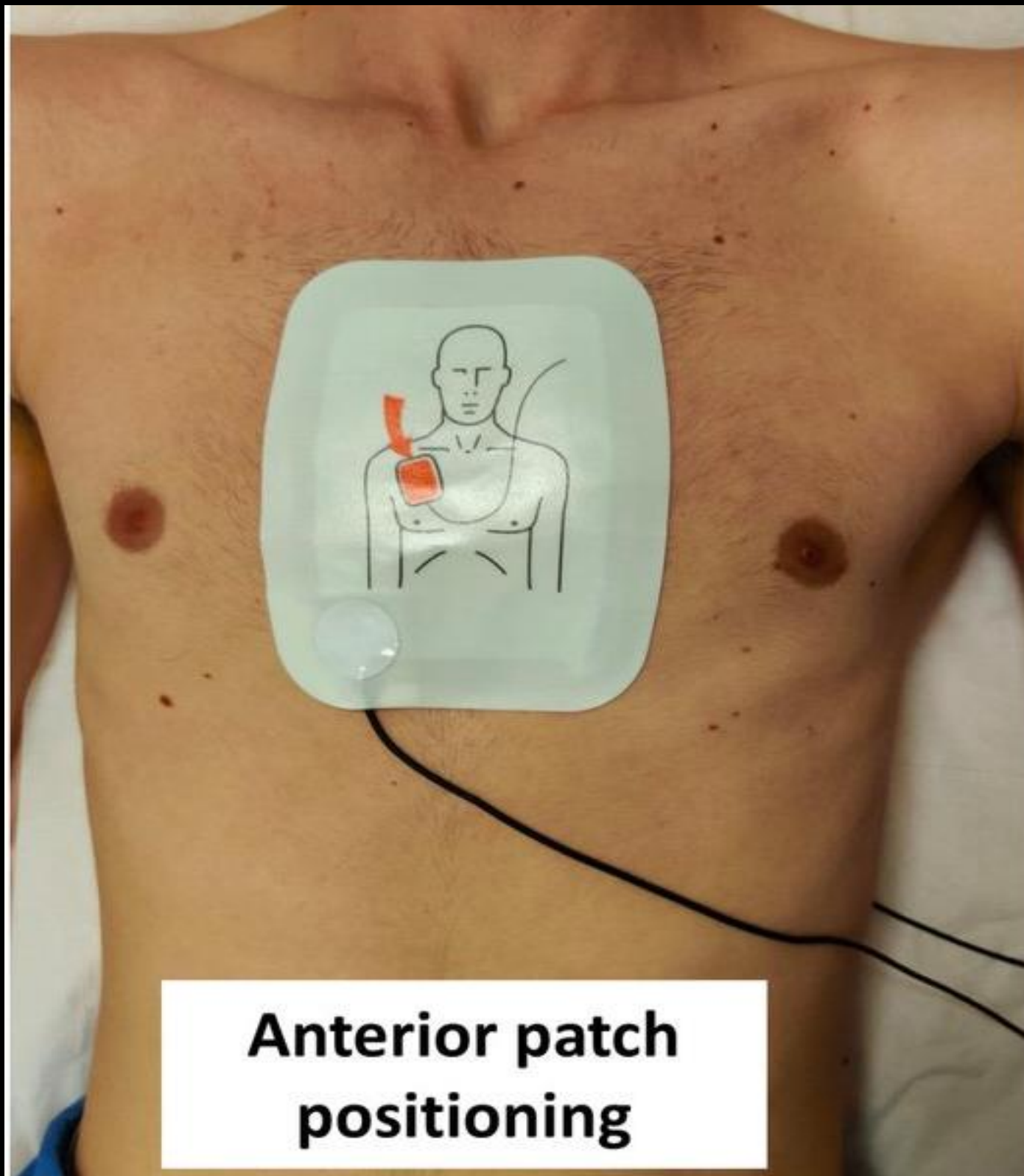


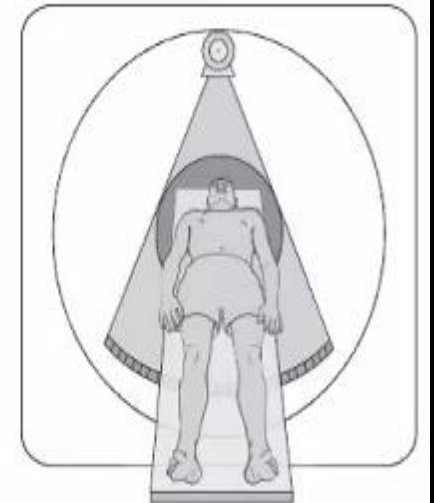
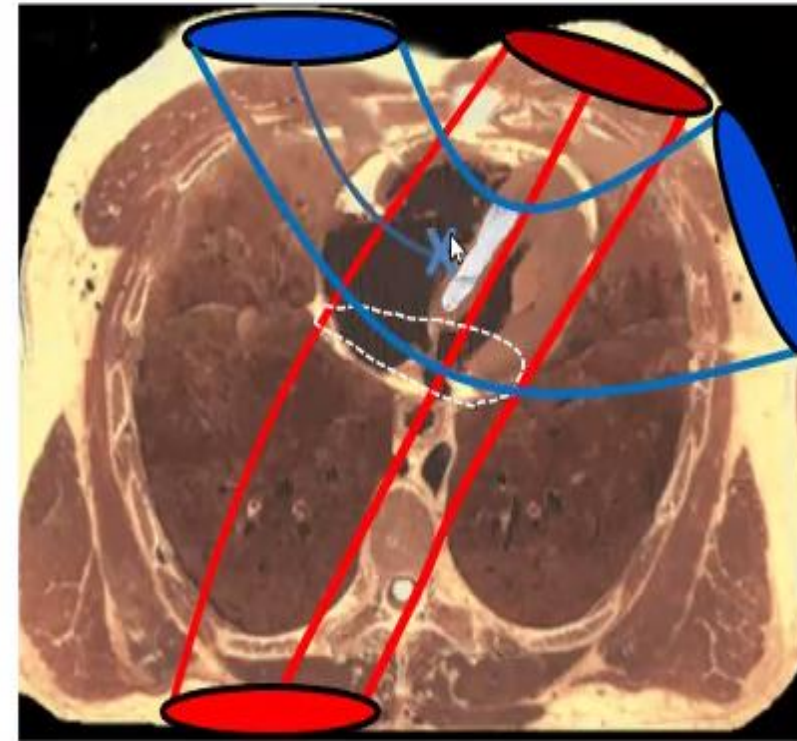
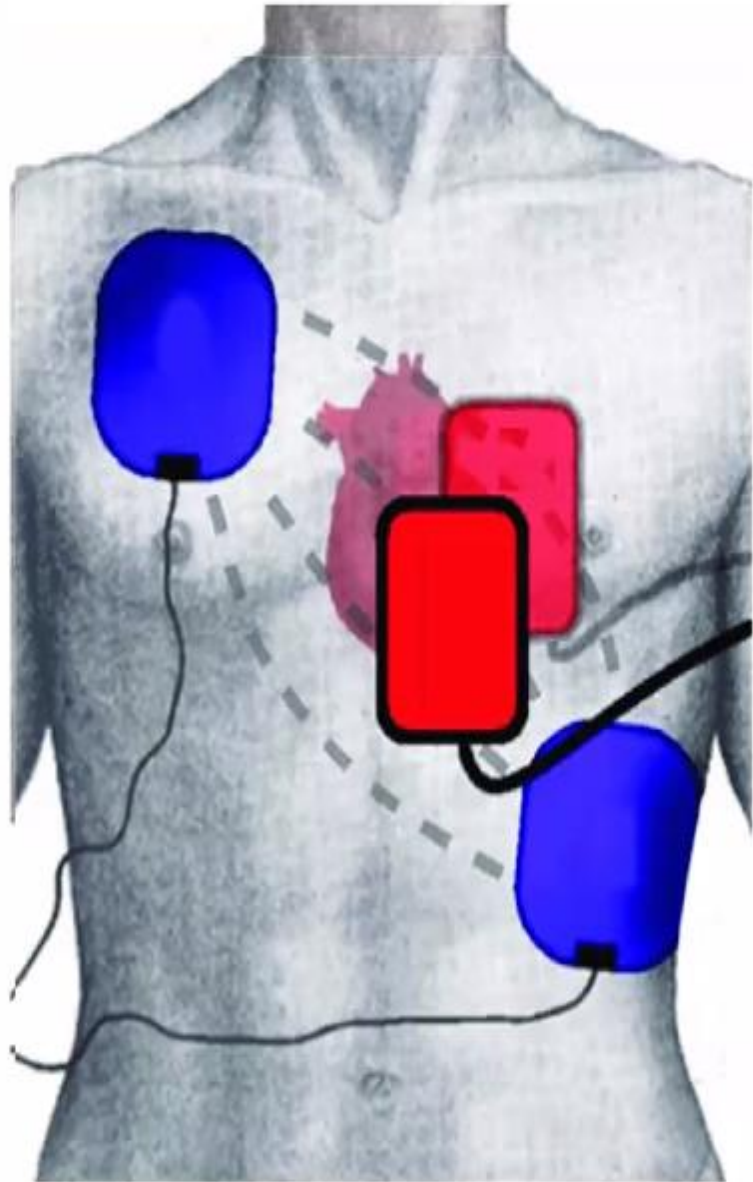










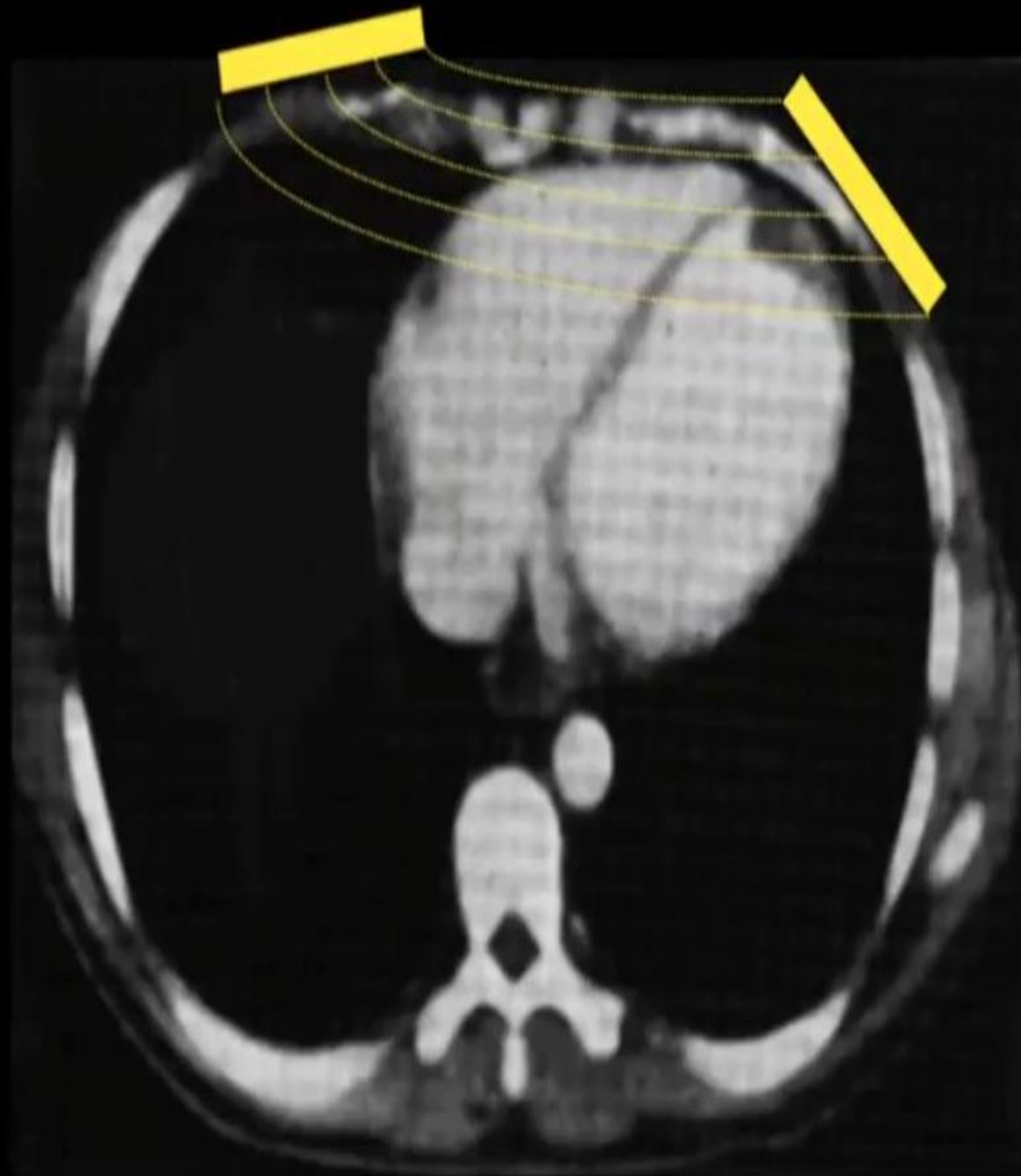
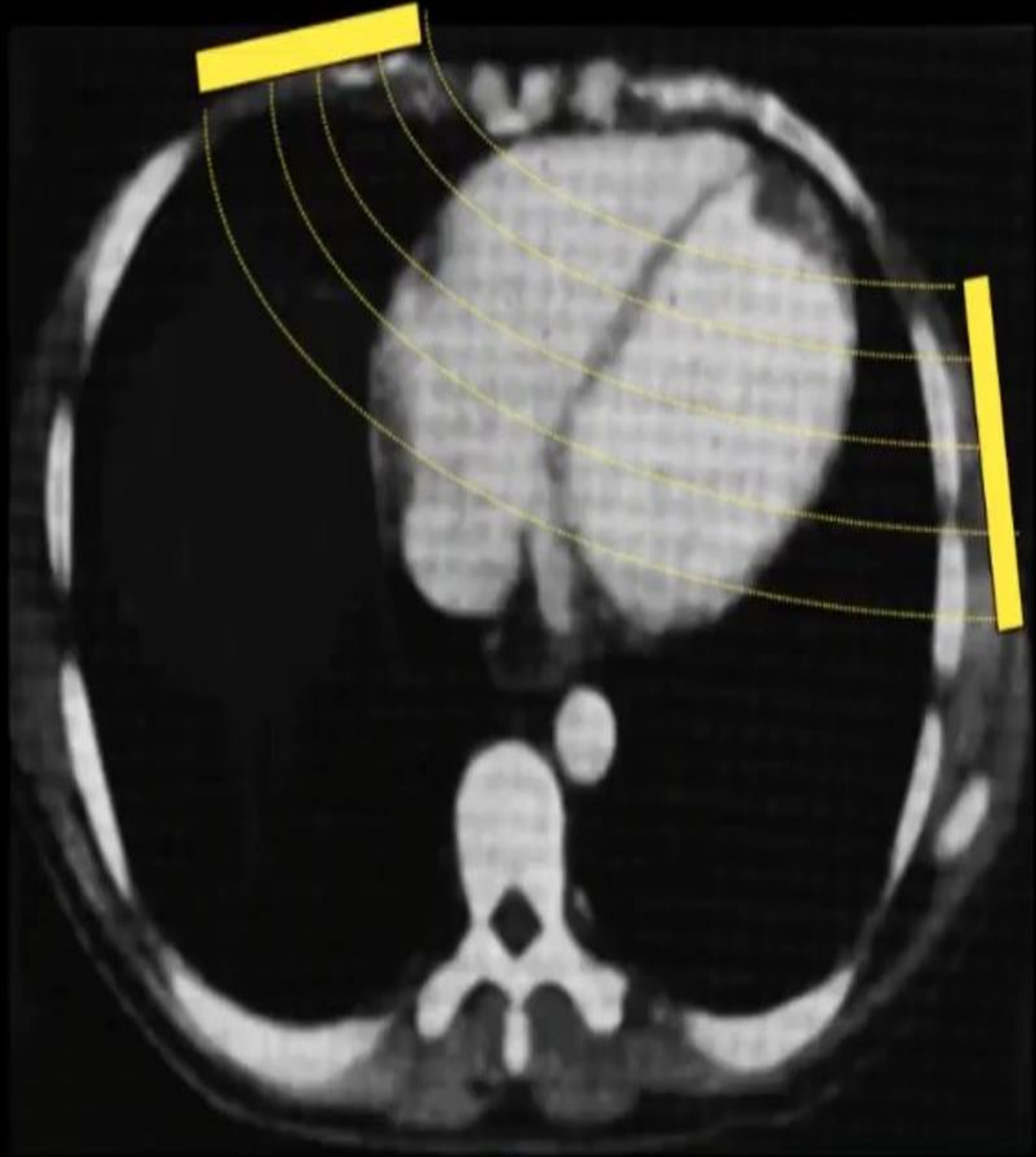


Antero-lateral

- Anterior electrode just to the right of the sternal border below the clavicle & above nipple
- Lateral electrode to the left & below nipple centered in the mid axillary line

Antero-posterior

- Anterior electrode over left precordium
- Posterior electrode just inferior to left or right scapula



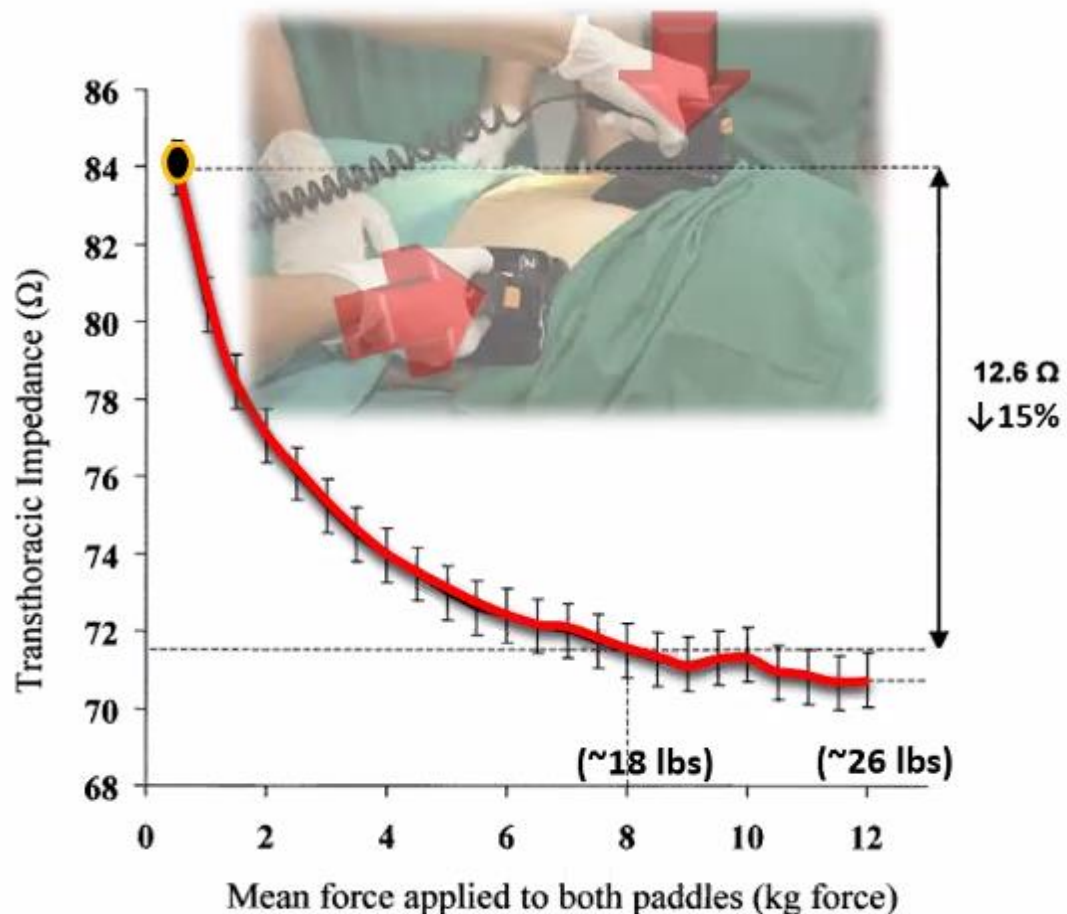


Determining the Optimal Paddle Force for External Defibrillation

Charles D. Deakin, MD, Daniel M. Sado, BSc, Graham W. Petley, BSc, PhD, and Frank Clewlow, BSc

n = 55 adults (39 men 16 women)

- Adult defib paddles (81.5 cm²)
- 0.5 kg vs 0.5 kg force increments
- 1 kg = 2.2 lbs

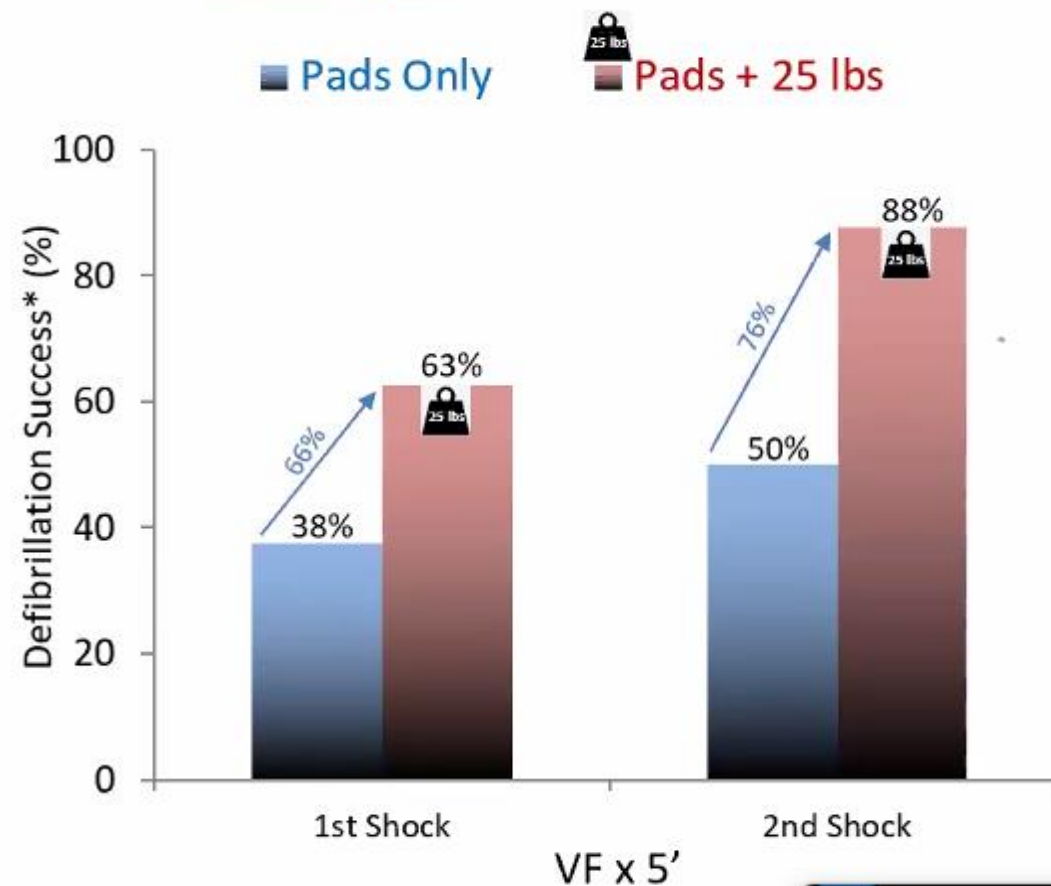
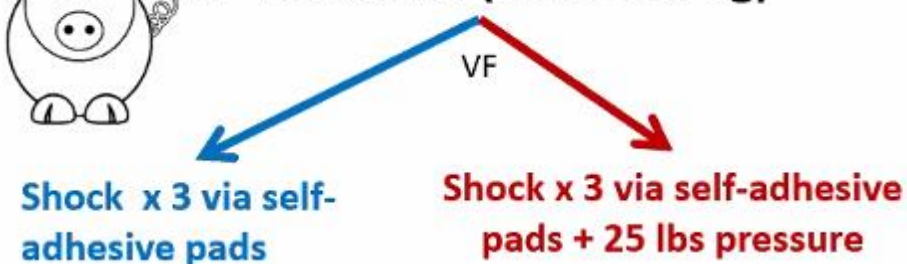


Effect of Application of Force to Self-Adhesive Defibrillator Pads on Transthoracic Electrical Impedance and Countershock Success

David E Persse, MD* Roger Dzwonczyk, PE[‡] Charles G Brown, MD*



n = 32 swine (36.5-55.7kg)



LETTER TO THE EDITOR | [ARTICLES IN PRESS](#)

First Time Use of Manual Pressure Augmentation for Ventricular Fibrillation Arrest in the Community

Aleksandr Voskoboinik   • Ziad Nehme • Peter M Kistler • Dion Stub • Karen Smith



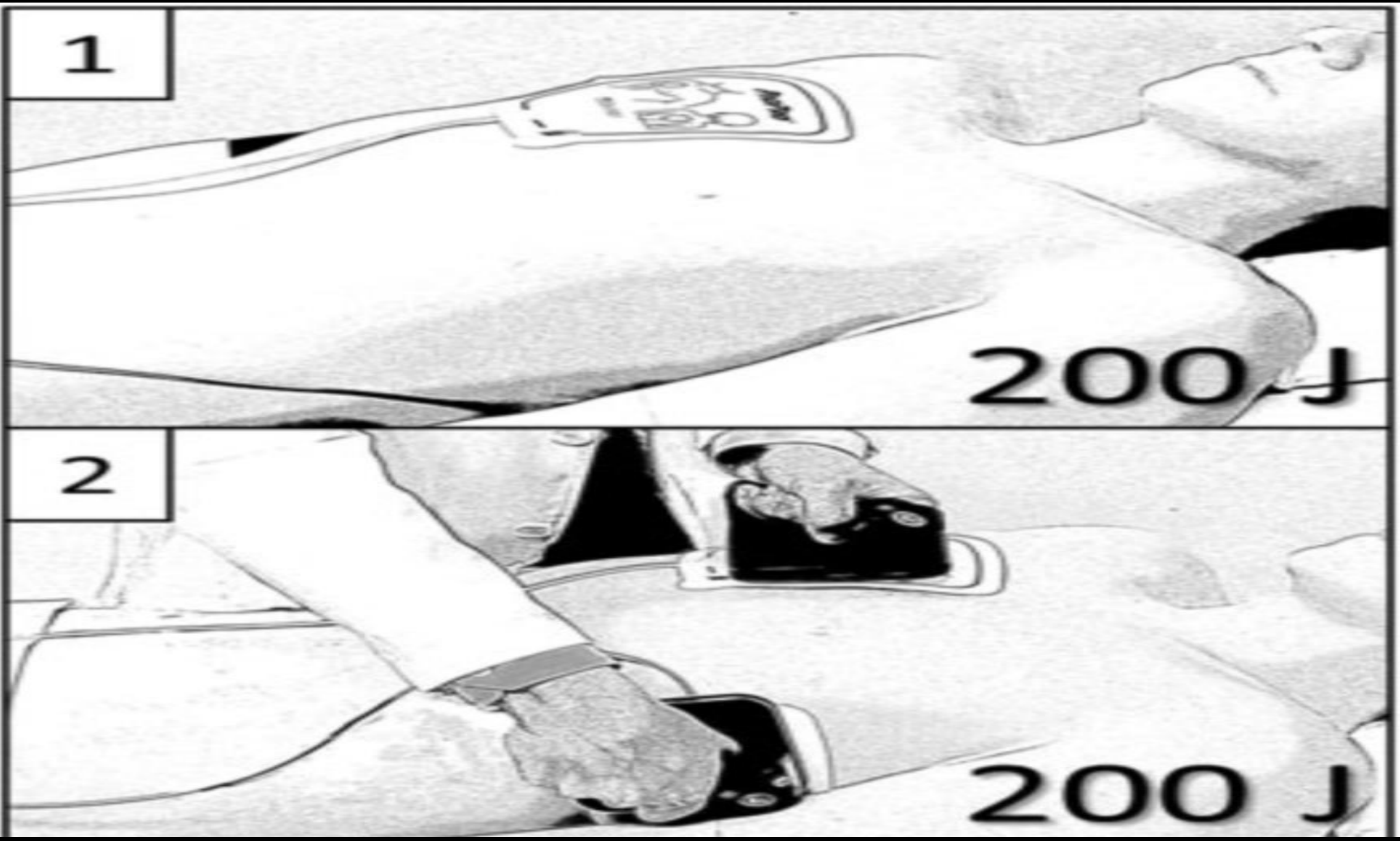
1

150

200 J

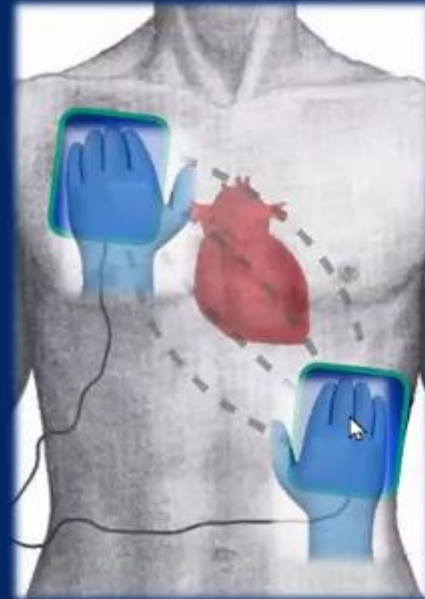
2

200 J





Research



- In 2022, Ambulance Victoria will **randomize** cardiac arrest patients to receive a novel defibrillation intervention
- Paramedics will use gloved hands to put **downward pressure on defibrillation electrodes** during shock to reduce transthoracic impedance & increase delivery of current to the heart
- The trial will help determine whether such pressure can help restore a perfusing rhythm and improve survival in patients with cardiac arrest

Manual Pressure Augmentation

 Search all things Monash

AUGMENT – Manual Pressure Augmentation in Defibrillation of Ventricular Arrhythmias

A cluster randomised trial involving 1,500 participants, comparing the efficacy and safety of manual pressure augmentation (MPA) compared with standard defibrillation in out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA).

Chief Investigators

Prof Dion Stub, Dr Ziad Nehme, Prof Karen Smith, A/Prof Aleksandr Voskoboinik

Funding source

Heart Foundation Vanguard Grant

Estimated completion date

December 2024

Background

Standard defibrillation during an OHCA involves the defibrillator operator standing back and isolating the patient whilst shocks are delivered. MPA involves an operator wearing gloves pushing down on the sternal and apical patches at the time of energy delivery using either a clenched fist or open palm.

First defibrillation success rates using standard defibrillation techniques for OHCA vary between 50% and 79%. Prior research led by Chief Investigator Voskoboinik has demonstrated that when cardioverting atrial fibrillation - a non-life-threatening arrhythmia - MPA on pads had superior outcomes compared to standard practice. This technique has never been robustly studied in the context of life-threatening OHCA, where it has the real potential to save lives.

Aim

To assess the efficacy and safety of defibrillation with MPA compared to standard defibrillation in OHCA.

Ambulance Victoria suspends trial after paramedic receives shock while restarting patient's heart



Marta Pascual Juanola

February 1, 2023 – 11.54am

Save | Share | [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

KEY POINTS

- A paramedic was thrown across a room when she got an electric shock while using a defibrillator to restart a patient's heart.
- She was using the lifesaving device with a trial method known as manual pressure augmentation.
- Although it's believed the method improves patient outcomes and is usually safe, the incident has prompted Ambulance Victoria to halt the trial.

Ambulance Victoria has halted the trial of a new defibrillating technique after a paramedic received an electric shock that threw her across the room while trying to restart the heart of a patient in northern Victoria.

Victorian Ambulance Union secretary Danny Hill said the advanced life-support paramedic was trialling a method known as manual pressure augmentation on a cardiac arrest patient on Friday when she was zapped.

Paramedic shocked using new defibrillation technique being trialled in Victoria

01/02/2023

SHARE THIS ARTICLE



RUMOUR CONFIRMED [THE RUMOUR FILE](#)



RUMOUR CONFIRMED

A Victorian paramedic has received an electric shock while defibrillating a patient.

The paramedic was using a technique being trialled in Victoria known as 'manual pressure augmentation' when the incident occurred on Friday.

Pharmacology

Epinephrine Origins

AN EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH INTO THE RESUS-
CITATION OF DOGS KILLED BY ANESTHETICS
AND ASPHYXIA.

By GEORGE CRILE, M.D., AND DAVID H. DOLLEY, M.D.

*(From the Laboratory of Surgical Physiology, Western Reserve Medical School,
Cleveland.)*

PLATES XLII-XLIX.

10 mL NDC 0409-4921-20

EPINEPHRINE
Injection, USP
1 mg/10 mL
(0.1 mg/mL)

Warning: Contains Sulfites
PROTECT FROM LIGHT

LIFESHIELD™

Glass
ABBOJECT™
Unit of Use Syringe

with male luer lock
adapter and 20-Gauge
protected needle

Rx only

Hospira

◀ PRESS AND PULL TO OPEN

Adrenaline was associated with a **better survival rate** in a subgroup with a non-shockable heart rhythm
[Nakahara et al, 2013](#) ↗

Adrenaline made **no difference to survival**
[Jacobs et al, 2011](#) ↗

Adrenaline was associated with a **worse survival rate**
[Dumas et al, 2014](#) ↗

Adrenaline made **no difference to survival** or to the risk of severe brain damage
[Machida et al, 2012](#) ↗

Adrenaline was associated with a **worse survival rate**
[Herlitz et al, 1995](#) ↗

Adrenaline was associated with a **worse survival rate** and increased risk of **severe brain damage**
[Olasveengen et al, 2012](#) ↗

Adrenaline made **no difference to survival**
[Woodhouse et al, 1995](#) ↗

Adrenaline was associated with a **worse survival rate**
[Holmberg et al, 2002](#) ↗

Adrenaline was associated with a **worse survival rate** and increased risk of **severe brain damage**
[Hagihara et al, 2012](#) ↗

Adrenaline made **no difference to survival**
[Ong et al, 2007](#) ↗

Adrenaline made **no difference to survival**, but increased the risk of **severe brain damage**
[Hayashi et al, 2012](#) ↗

PARAMEDIC2 Trial
Higher survival w Epi
BUT
No difference in good neuro outcome

PARAMEDIC2



Survival = 3.2% in the adrenaline group vs 2.4% in the placebo group (OR 1.39, 95% CI 1.06-1.82; P=0.02)

Favourable neurological outcomes = 2.2% adrenaline vs 1.9% placebo (OR 1.18, 95% CI 0.86-1.61)

Severe neurological impairment (in survivors) = 31% adrenaline group vs 17.8% placebo

EPINEPHRINE IS THE MIND KILLER

CMS AVENGER



RESUSCITATION

Risks of Epinephrine

- Increases myocardial work,
- Increases risk of tachydysrhythmia,
- Promotes thrombogenesis and platelet activation
- Reduces microvascular perfusion including the CNS
 - (JEM, 2017;52:809).



Risks of Epinephrine

- Epinephrine as potential risk factor for prehospital re-arrest
 - Yamashita, et al, Prehospital Emergency Care, February 2020
 - Requirement for epi before prehospital ROSC was associated with
 - Subsequent re-arrest
 - Poorer neuro outcome



Current Epi Dosing VF – 2020

- 1mg IV/IO every 3-5 minutes
 - Think of the puppies

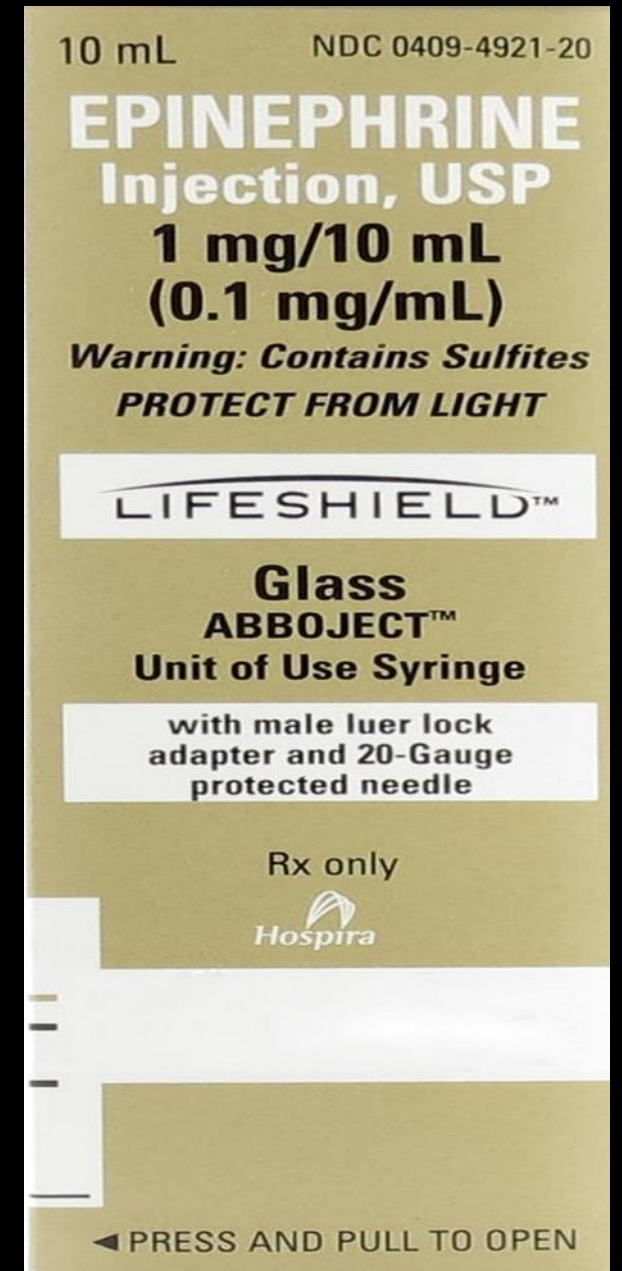
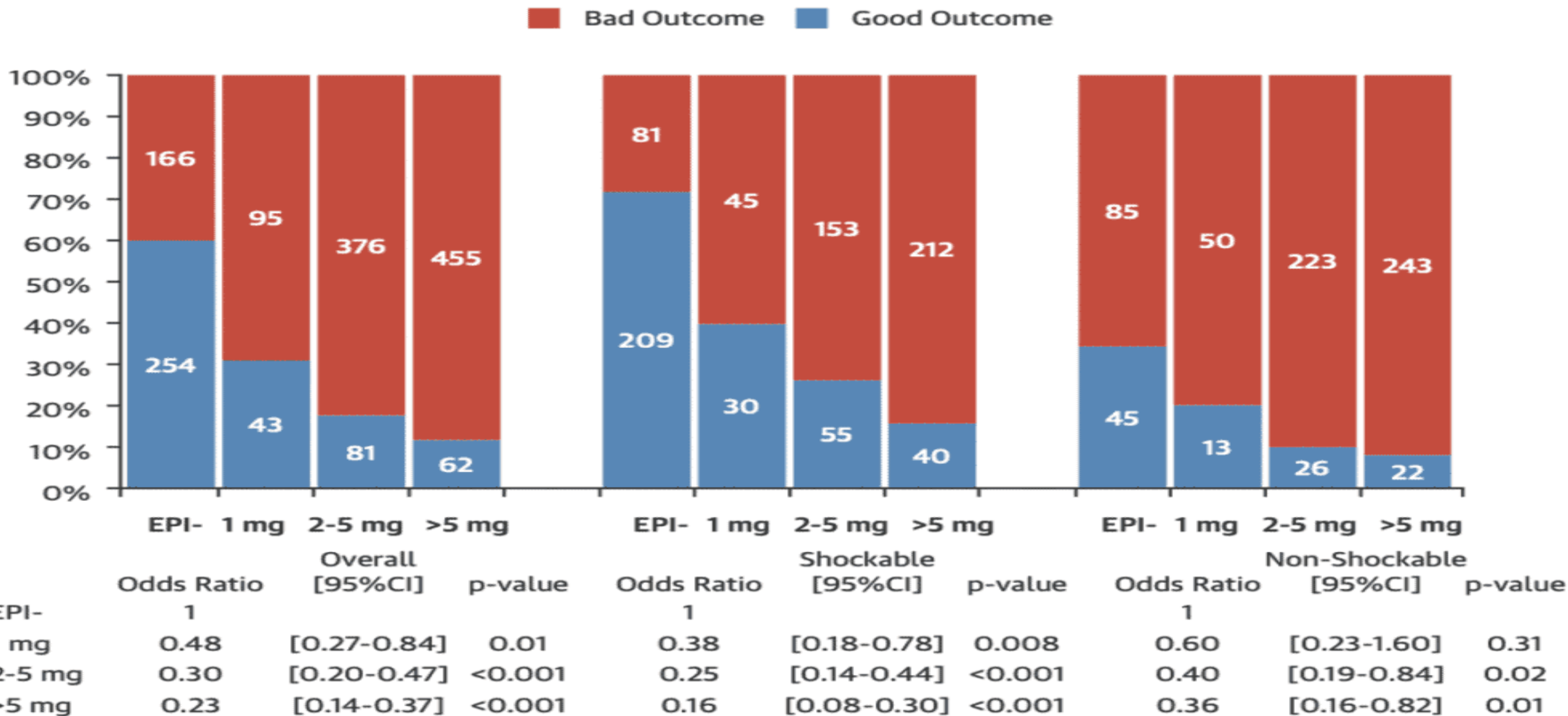


FIGURE 3 Association Between Outcome and Early Dose of EPI and According to the Initial Rhythm





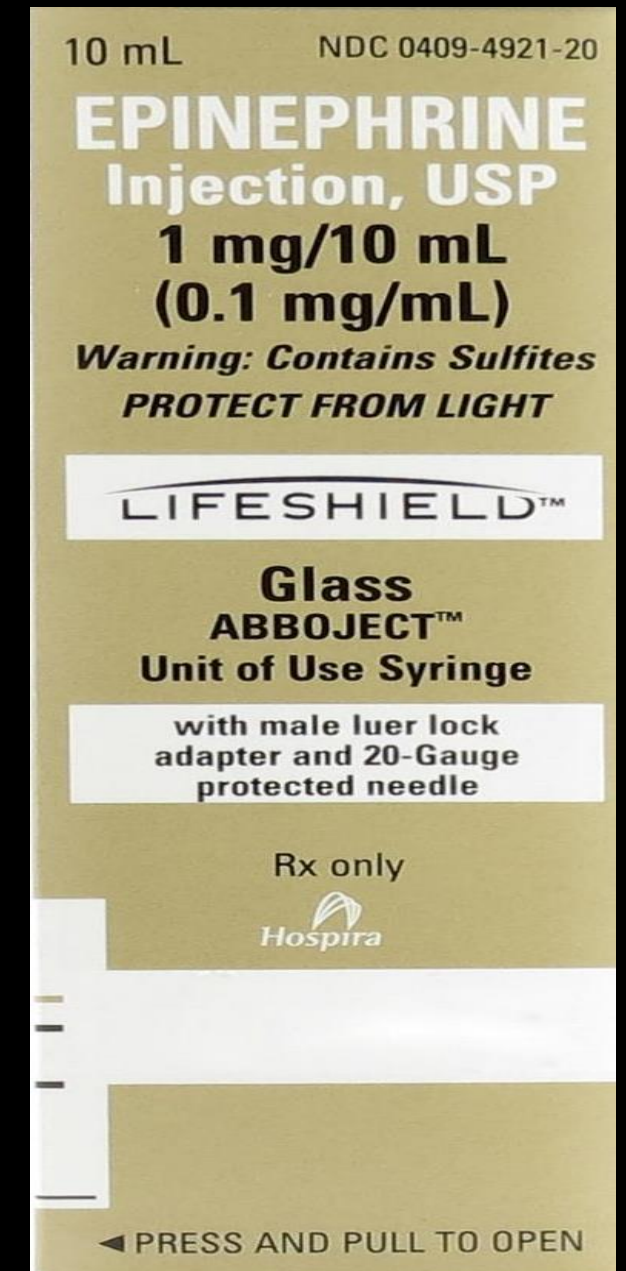
Medication Route in Cardiac Arrest

PARAMEDIC3

- **P**rehospital **A** **R**andomized trial of **MEDIC**ation route in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (**PARAMEDIC3**)
 - 15,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests
 - 30 day survival
 - April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2025

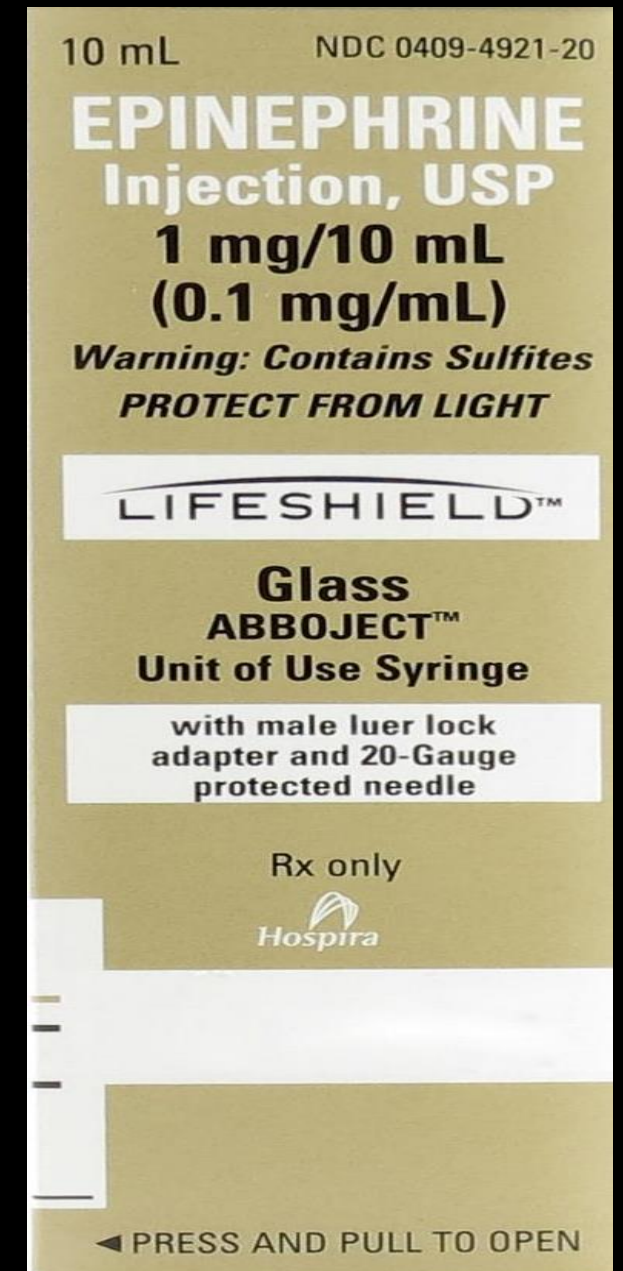
San Antonio Epi Dosing - Miramontes

- 0.5 mg IV q 5-10 minutes
- VF = 2 Doses
- Non-VF = 4 doses
- “No ACLS Card”



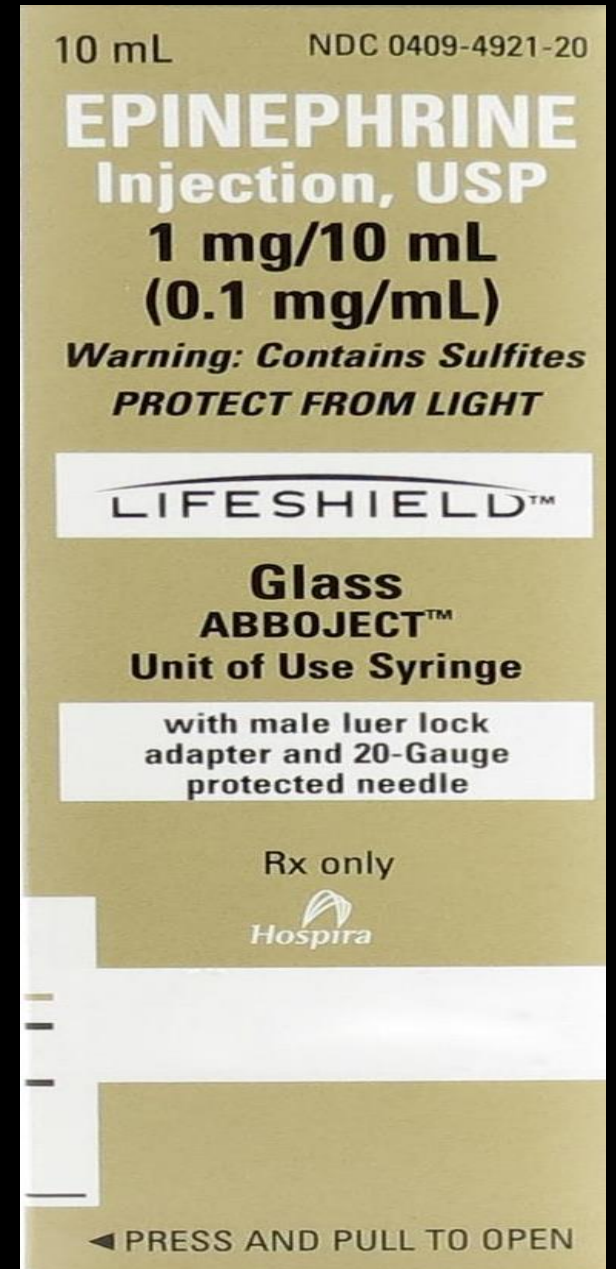
Broward Epi Dosing

- VF - 1 mg IV then Epi Drip
- Amiodarone
- If PMVT – MgSO4



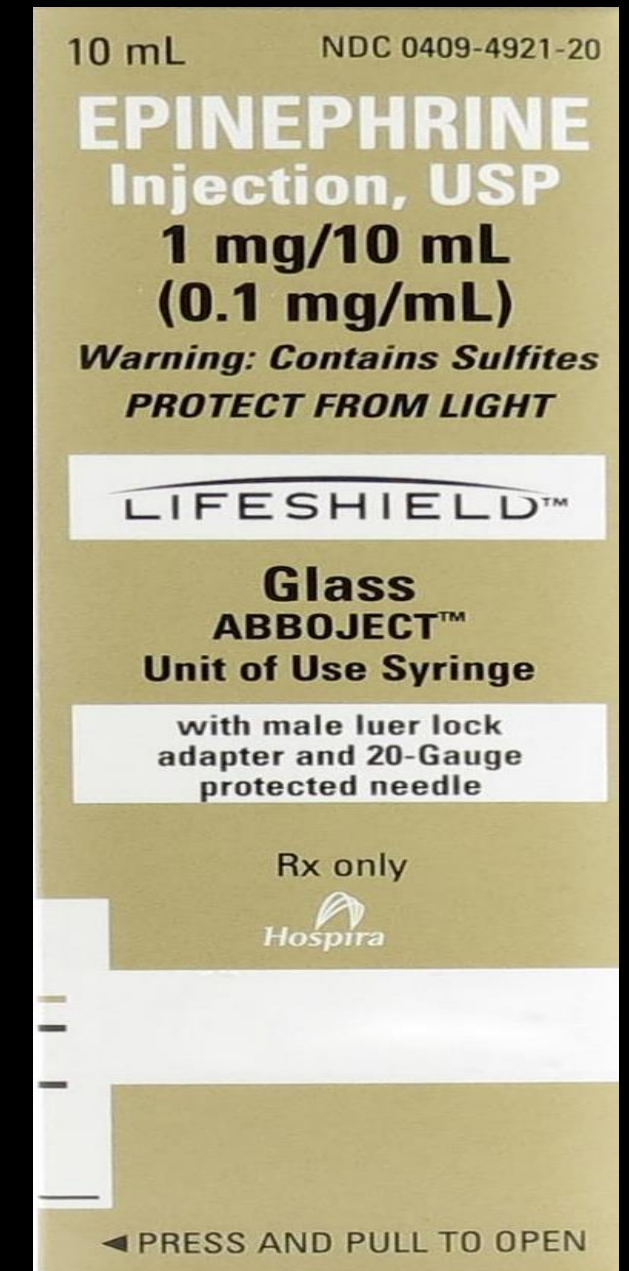
Antevy Epi Dosing

- VF – NO Epi!




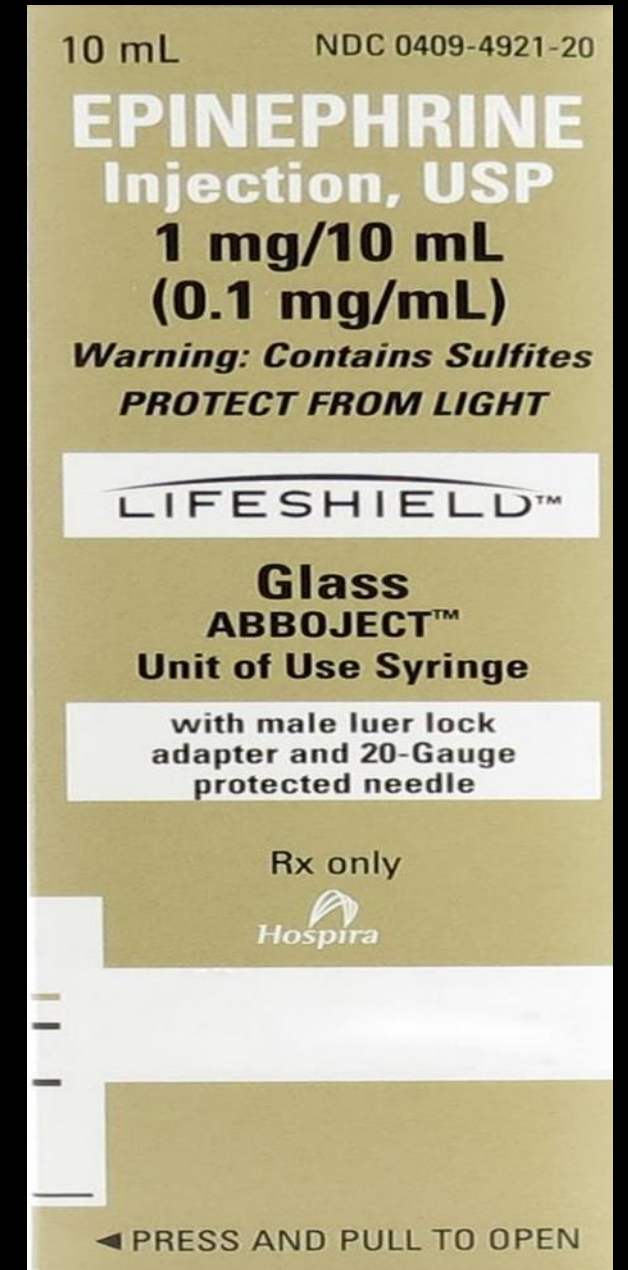
ACR Epi Dosing

- **No Epi Until:**
 - HQCPR / Mechanical CPR
 - ITD (Res-Q-Pod)
 - Apneic O2 during ETT or SGA
 - EtCO2 at least 20mmHg before defib/epi



Epi Conclusions??

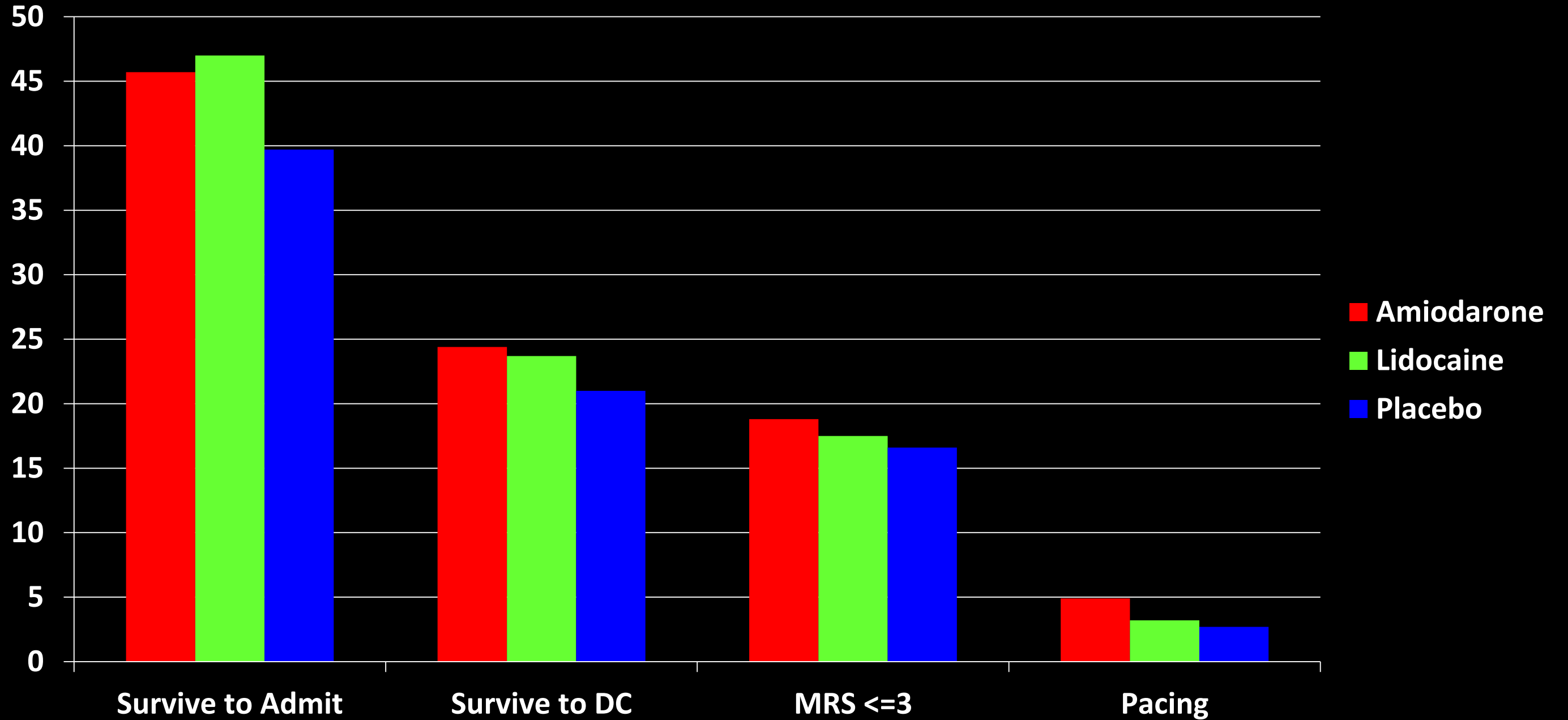
-  ROSC but bad neuro
- Higher doses do not help
- Timing may be important
- We want it to work but.....




Amiodarone, Lidocaine, Placebo Study (ALPS)

**Kudenchuk, PJ, et al (2016).
Amiodarone, Lidocaine, or Placebo in
Out-Of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest.
New England Journal of Medicine
2016 375(8), 802-803**

ALPS Outcomes





NO
ANTIARRHYTHMIC
DRUG has yet been
shown to INCREASE
SURVIVAL or
NEUROLOGIC
OUTCOMES after
cardiac arrest due to
VF/pVT

What Was Old Is New Again



About Sections Tools

FREE ACCESS | ABSTRACT

ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY AND ARRHYTHMIAS

SESSION TITLE: ANTIARRHYTHMIC DRUG CONSIDERATIONS IN 2020

Abstract 15024: Efficacy of Bretylium in Termination of Treatment Resistant Ventricular Tachycardia and Ventricular Fibrillation

Janos Molnar and John C Somberg

Originally published 12 Nov 2020 |
https://doi.org/10.1161/circ.142.suppl_3.15024 |
Circulation. 2020;142:A15024

The image shows a mobile app interface for the drug "bretylium". The title "bretylium" is in a bold, blue font. Below it is a section titled "Adult Indications & Dosing" in a smaller blue font. Under this section, it lists "Dosage Forms: INJ". To the right of this, there is a box that says "No Black Box Warning". Below this, there are three sections for different indications: "ventricular arrhythmias, malignant", "ventricular arrhythmias, other", and "initial tx" (which appears to be a sub-section for each). Each section provides specific dosing instructions and a "Calculate Dose" button. At the bottom of the page, there is a "Formulary" section with a dropdown menu currently set to "No Formulary Selected".

bretylium

Adult Indications & Dosing

Dosage Forms: INJ

DEA/FDA
Rx

No Black Box Warning

ventricular arrhythmias, malignant

initial tx

Dose: 5-10 mg/kg/dose IV q15-30min prn;
Start: 5 mg/kg/dose IV x1; Max: 30 mg/kg
total dose; Info: for short-term tx; not 1st-
line agent

Calculate Dose

maintenance tx

Dose: 1-2 mg/min IV; Alt: 5-10 mg/kg/dose IV
q6h; Info: for short-term tx; not 1st-line
agent

Calculate Dose

ventricular arrhythmias, other

initial tx

Dose: 5-10 mg/kg/dose IM/IV q1-2h prn; Info:
for short-term tx; not 1st-line agent

Calculate Dose

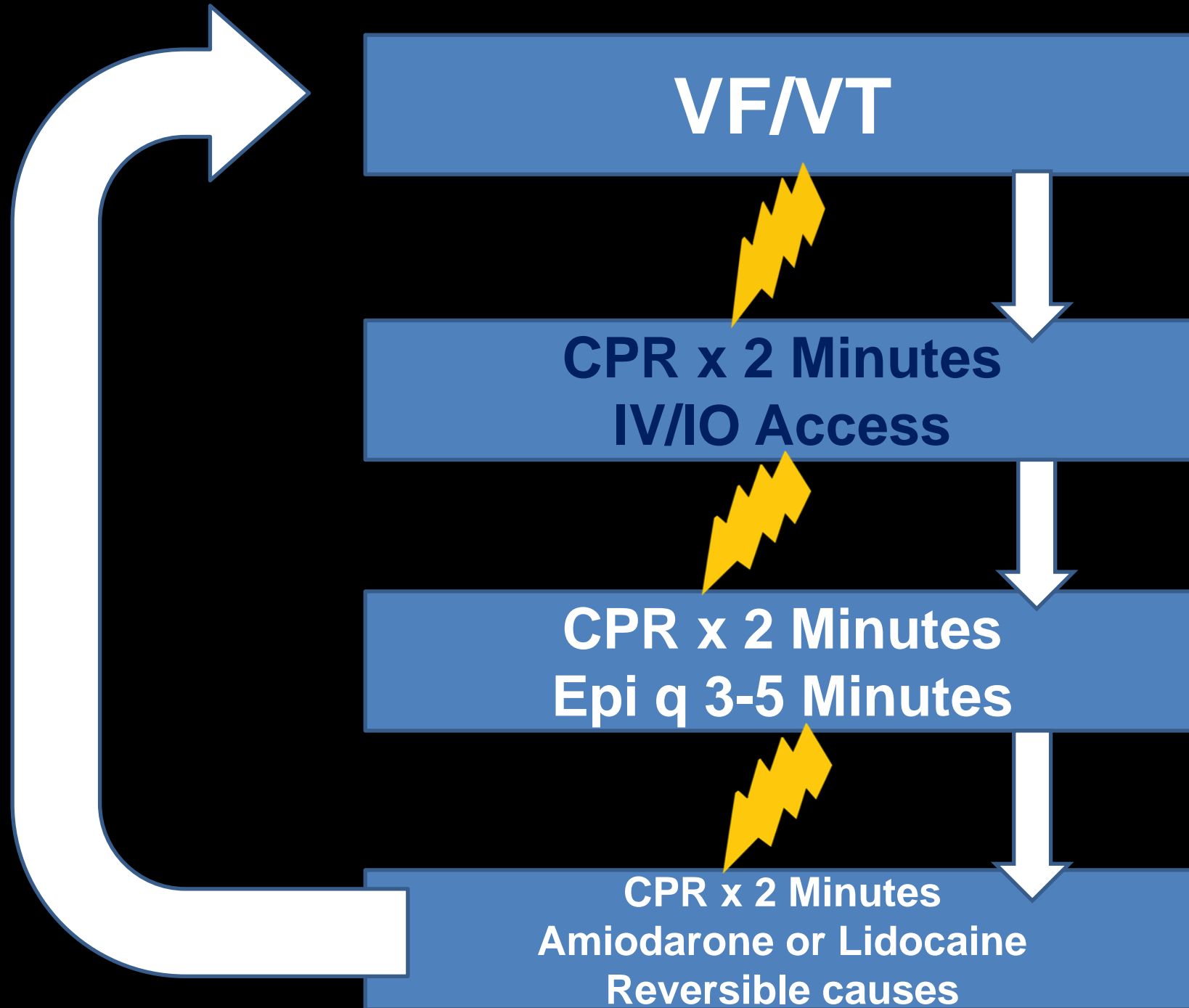
Formulary

No Formulary Selected

IS THAT LIDOCAINE OR BRETYLIUM



ACLS for VF/VT



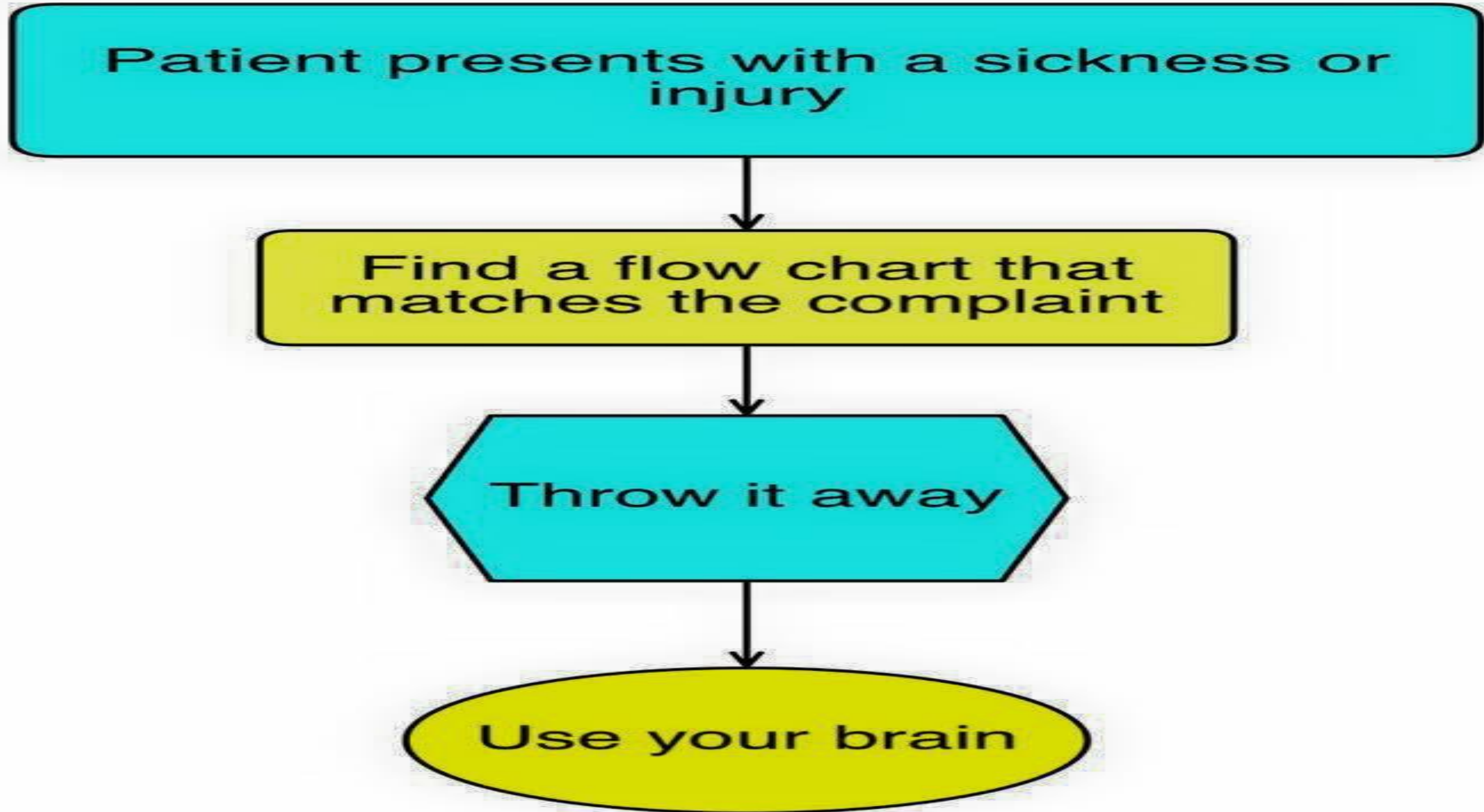


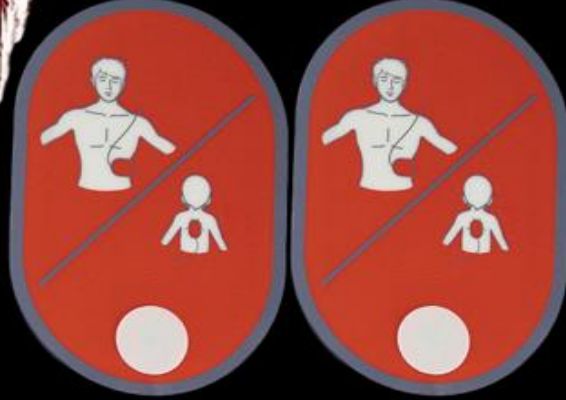
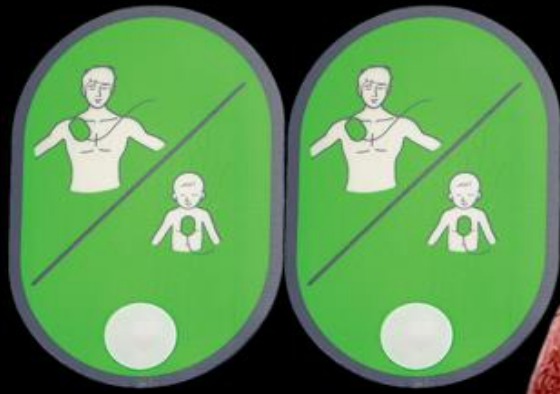
Patient presents with a sickness or injury

Find a flow chart that matches the complaint

Throw it away

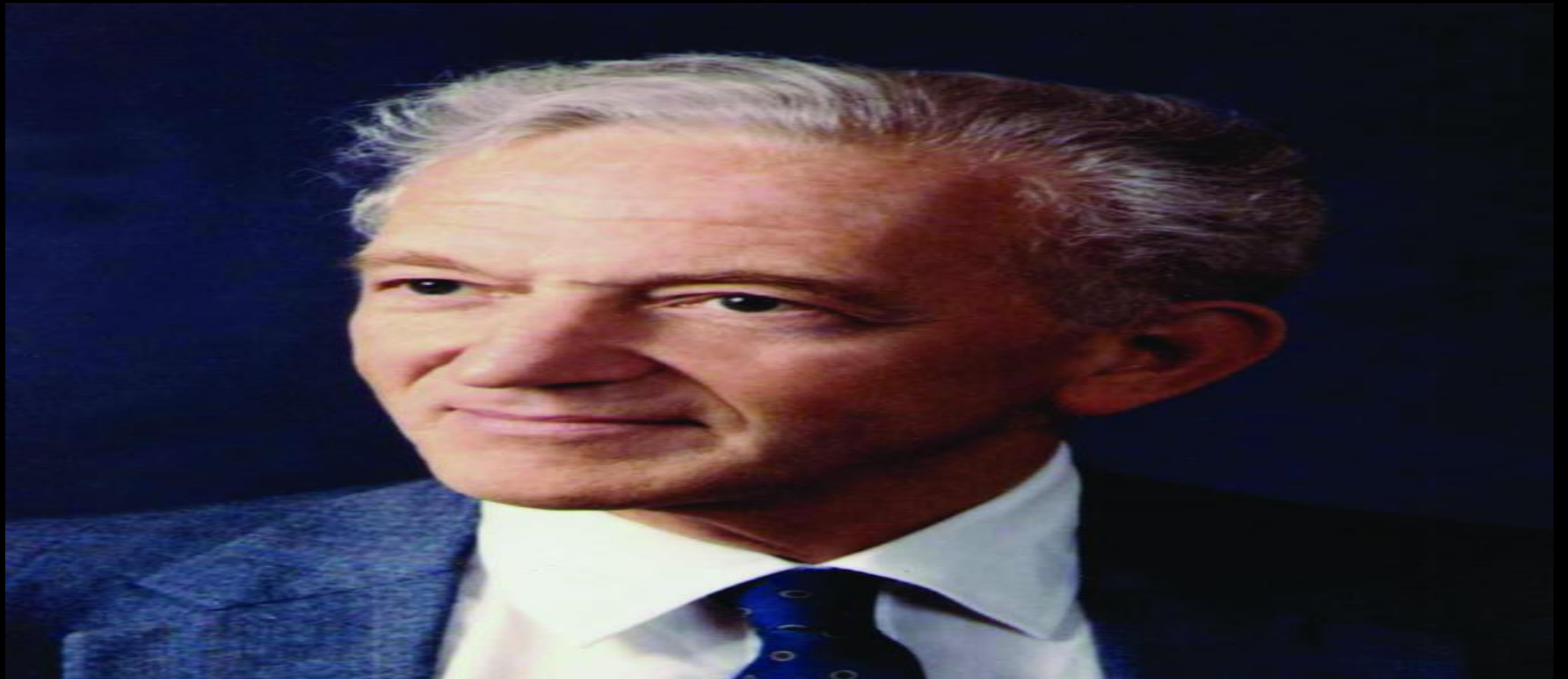
Use your brain





Dual
Sequential
Defibrillation
(DSD)

Esmolol



“for the person with a heart and brain too good to die.” - Dr. Peter Safar

1986	Chang	Canine	Both healthy and induced infarcted canine hearts with induced VF DSD shock terminated if single shock did not
1986	Jones	Human	21 <i>volunteers</i> with WPW underwent induced VF in EP lab to single or double sequential defibrillation DSD had lower defibrillation threshold, patients with repeated failed single shocks at max voltage had immediate successful DSD as "rescue"
1989	Brady	Human	16 - OOHCA survivors were randomized and demonstrated lower defibrillation threshold with DSD
1994	Hoch	2,990 EP lab	5 patients with rVF resistant to single shocks. All 5 VF terminated with first DSD shock All 5 survived

2014	Cabanas	OOHCA 10 patients	Successful conversion to NSR in 7/10 patients Unfortunately no survivors
2014	Gerstein	DSD IHCA	Successful DSD defibrillation after 74 minutes of resuscitation
2015	Lybeck	40 yo OHCA with VF from commotio cordis	DSD on 8th attempt CT cardiac contusion. Normal coronaries on cath. DC with full neurological function
2016	Bowman	21 yo SAD	DSD on 8th defibrillation attempt Conversion to SR Cath -> normal coronaries DC with CPC 1, back to college, AICD

2016	Johnston	28 yo OHCA	CPR 6 single shocks 1 DSD w ROSC Dx w LQT, AICD, CPC 2
2016	Ross	3 Years 3470 OHCA	279 complete data with rVF 50 DSD, 229 No DSD No significant survival difference
2016	Cortez	4 Years 2428 OHCA	12 DSD 9 converted out of VF 3 ROSC - 2 w CPC 1
2016	Jui	Prospective Study	28 patients 12 w conversion from VF 9 w ROSC 3 survivors w CPC 1-2 (ages 27-81)



Do you have any evidence?



I have these anecdotes



That's not good enough!

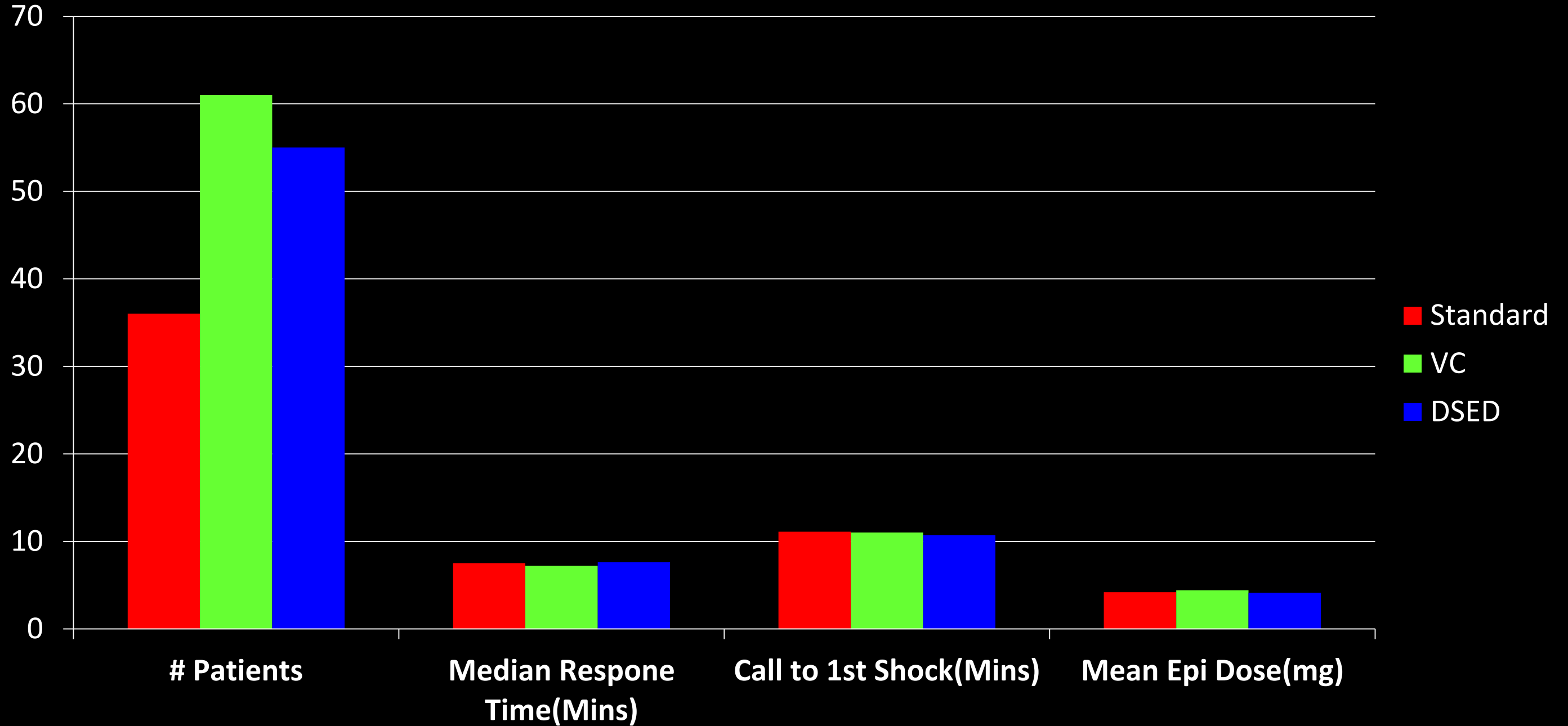
DOSE VF Study (Pilot Study) 2020

- **Double Sequential External Defibrillation for Refractory Ventricular Fibrillation**
 - Cheskes, et al, Resuscitation, 2020

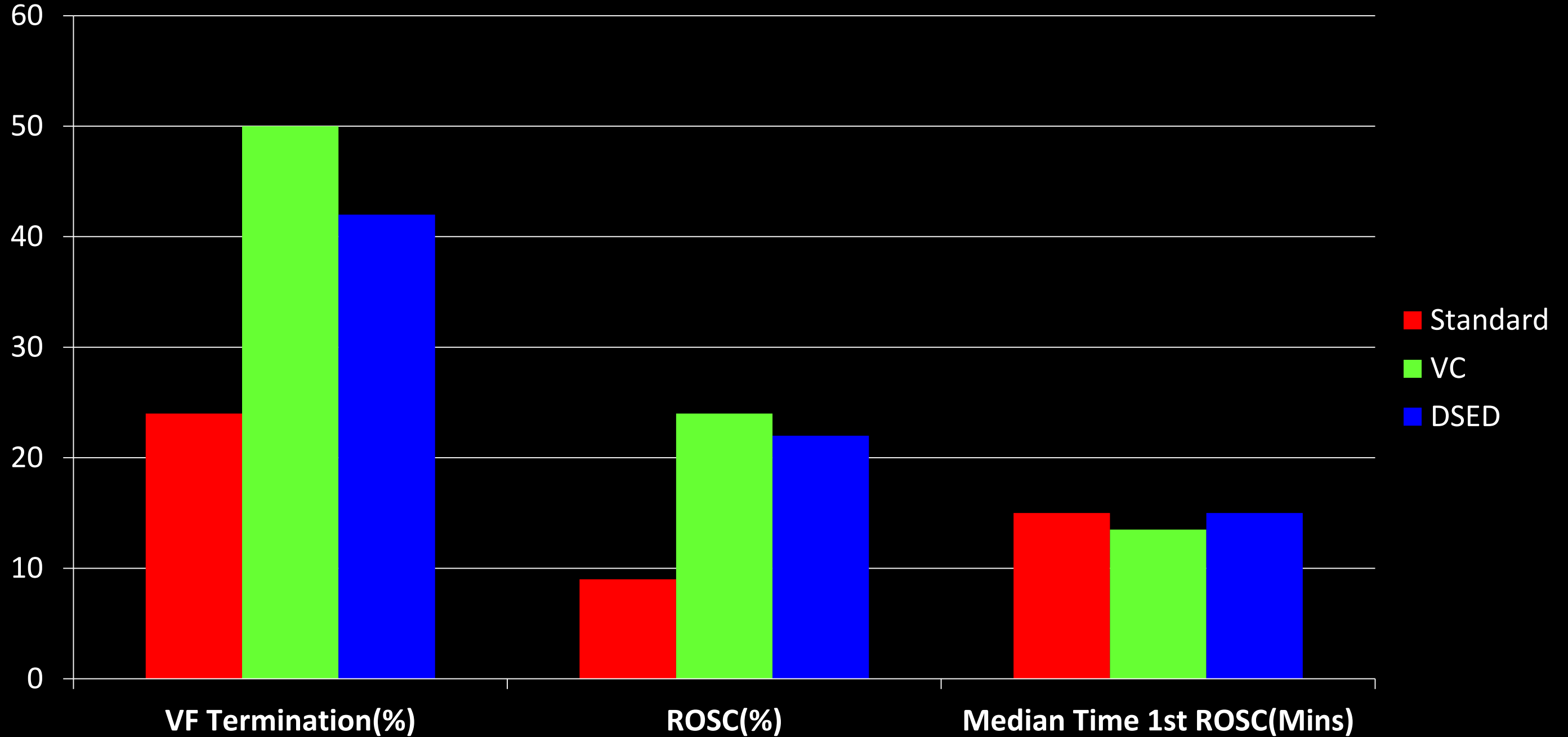
What They Did

- **Strategy 1:** Continued standard defibrillation pads in the anterior-lateral configuration
- **Strategy 2:** Vector change (VC) defibrillation with pads transferred from anterior-lateral to anterior-posterior position
- **Strategy 3:** DSED with intentional delay to ensure rapid sequence delivery

DOSE-VF Pilot



DOSE-VF Pilot



Important Finding

- There were ***no reported cases of defibrillator malfunction***, skin burns, difficulty with pad placement or concerns expressed by paramedics, families or emergency department staff about the trial.

Conclusions

- **Findings suggest the DOSE-VF protocol is feasible and safe.**
- **Rates of VFT and ROSC were higher in the VC and DSED than standard defibrillation.**

DOSE-VF Follow-Up 2022



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE



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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

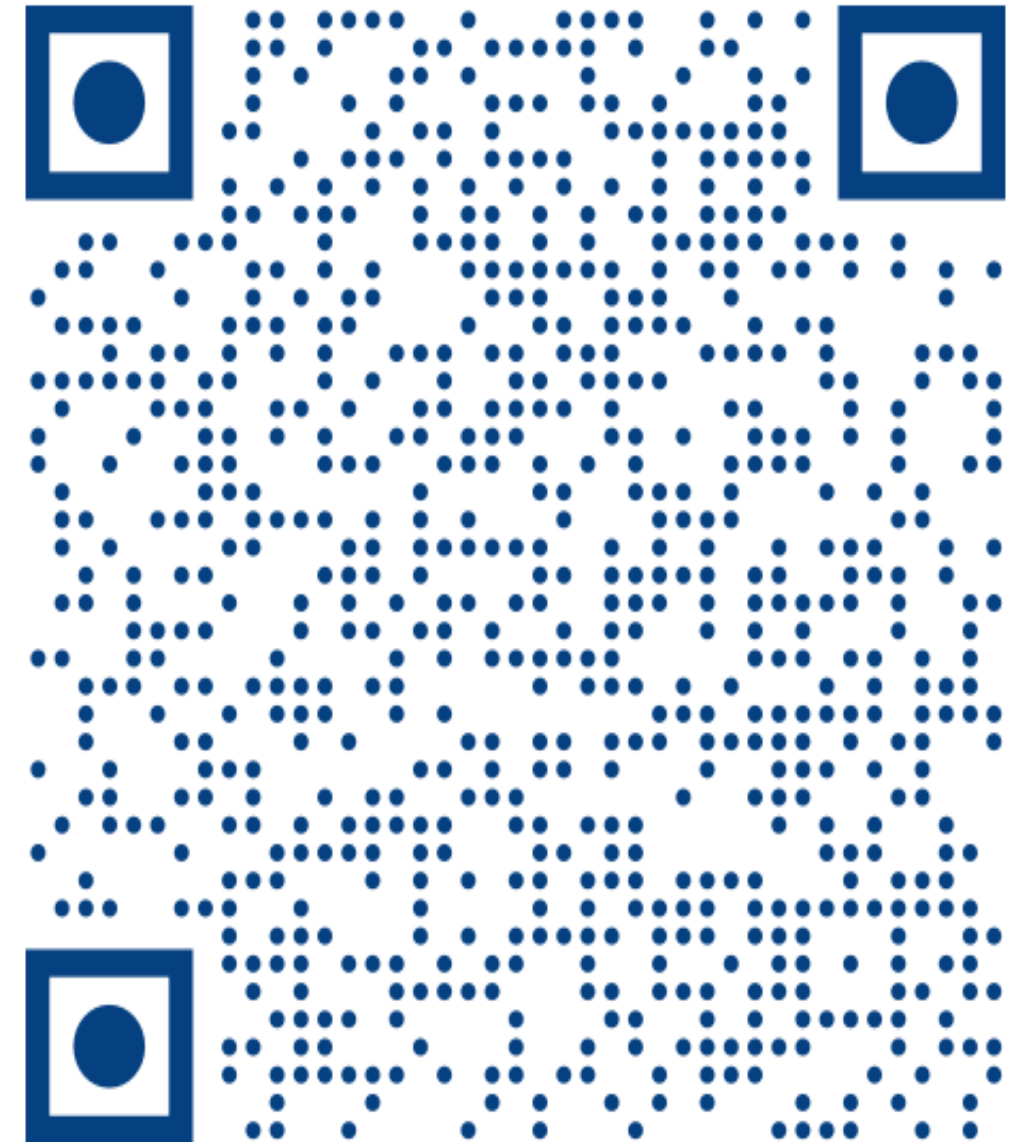
FREE PREVIEW

Defibrillation Strategies for Refractory Ventricular Fibrillation

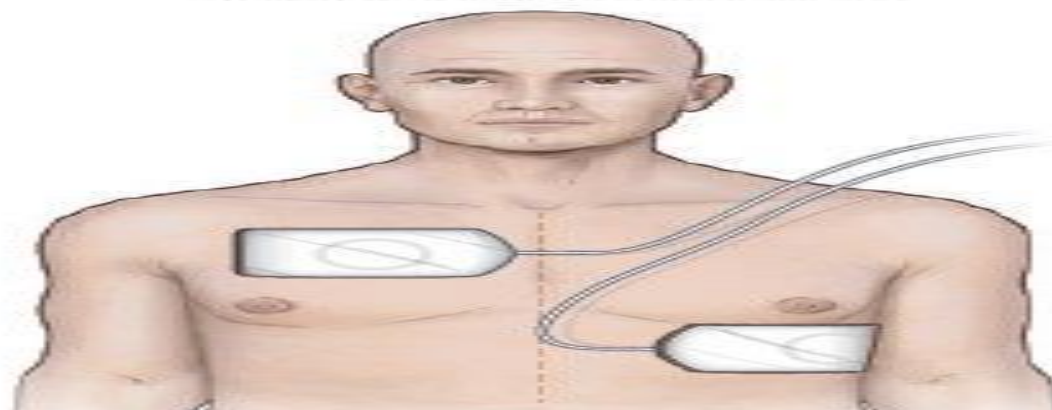
Sheldon Cheskes, M.D., P. Richard Verbeek, M.D.,
Ian R. Drennan, A.C.P., Ph.D., Shelley L. McLeod,
Ph.D., [et al.](#)

November 6, 2022

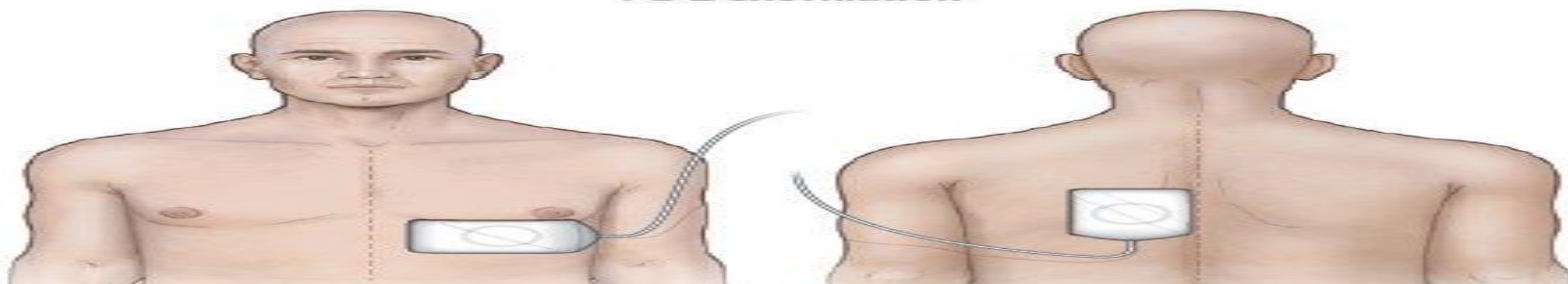
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2207304



Standard Defibrillation



VC Defibrillation



DSED

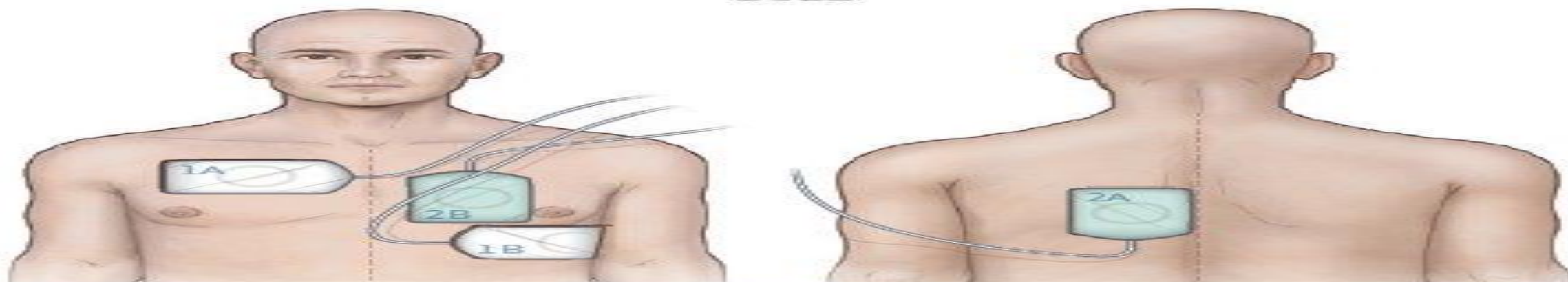


Figure 1. Pad Placement in the Three Defibrillation Strategies.

Pad placement for standard defibrillation, vector-change (VC) defibrillation, and double sequential external defibrillation (DSED) is shown. In the bottom panel, defibrillation pads 2A and 2B are those of the second defibrillator, with the pads placed in the posterior and anterior positions. For all strategies, the first three shocks occurred with pads placed in the configuration used for standard defibrillation.

405 Underwent randomization

136 (33.6%) Were assigned to standard defibrillation
135 Received standard defibrillation
1 Received DSED

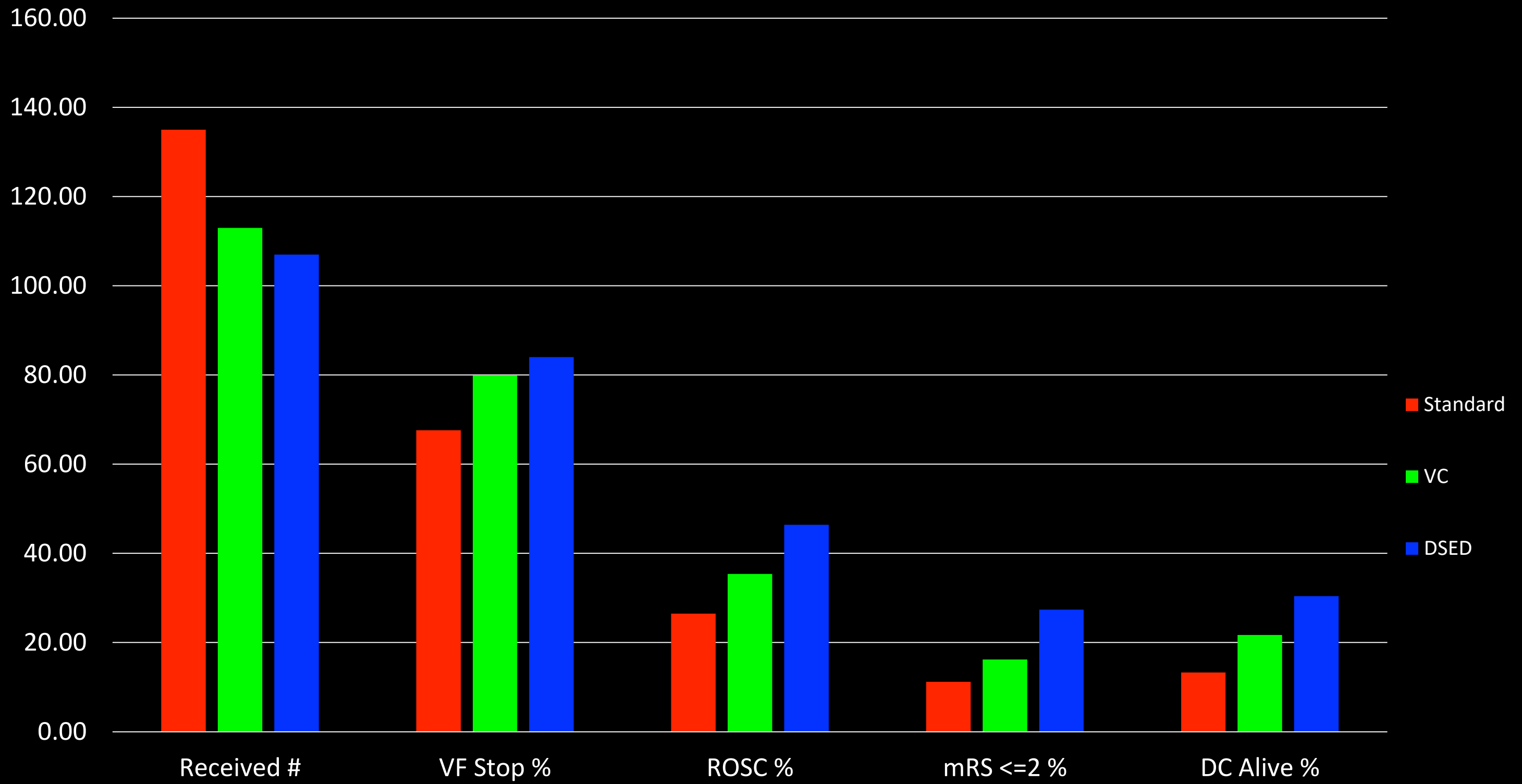
92 (67.6%) Had VF termination
36 (26.5%) Had ROSC at any time
15 (11.2%) Had modified Rankin scale score ≤ 2
18 (13.3%) Survived to hospital discharge

144 (35.6%) Were assigned to VC defibrillation
113 Received VC defibrillation
31 Received standard defibrillation

115 (79.9%) Had VF termination
51 (35.4%) Had ROSC at any time
23 (16.2%) Had modified Rankin scale score ≤ 2
31 (21.7%) Survived to hospital discharge

125 (30.9%) Were assigned to DSED
107 Received DSED
16 Received standard defibrillation
2 Received VC defibrillation

105 (84.0%) Had VF termination
58 (46.4%) Had ROSC at any time
34 (27.4%) Had modified Rankin scale score ≤ 2
38 (30.4%) Survived to hospital discharge

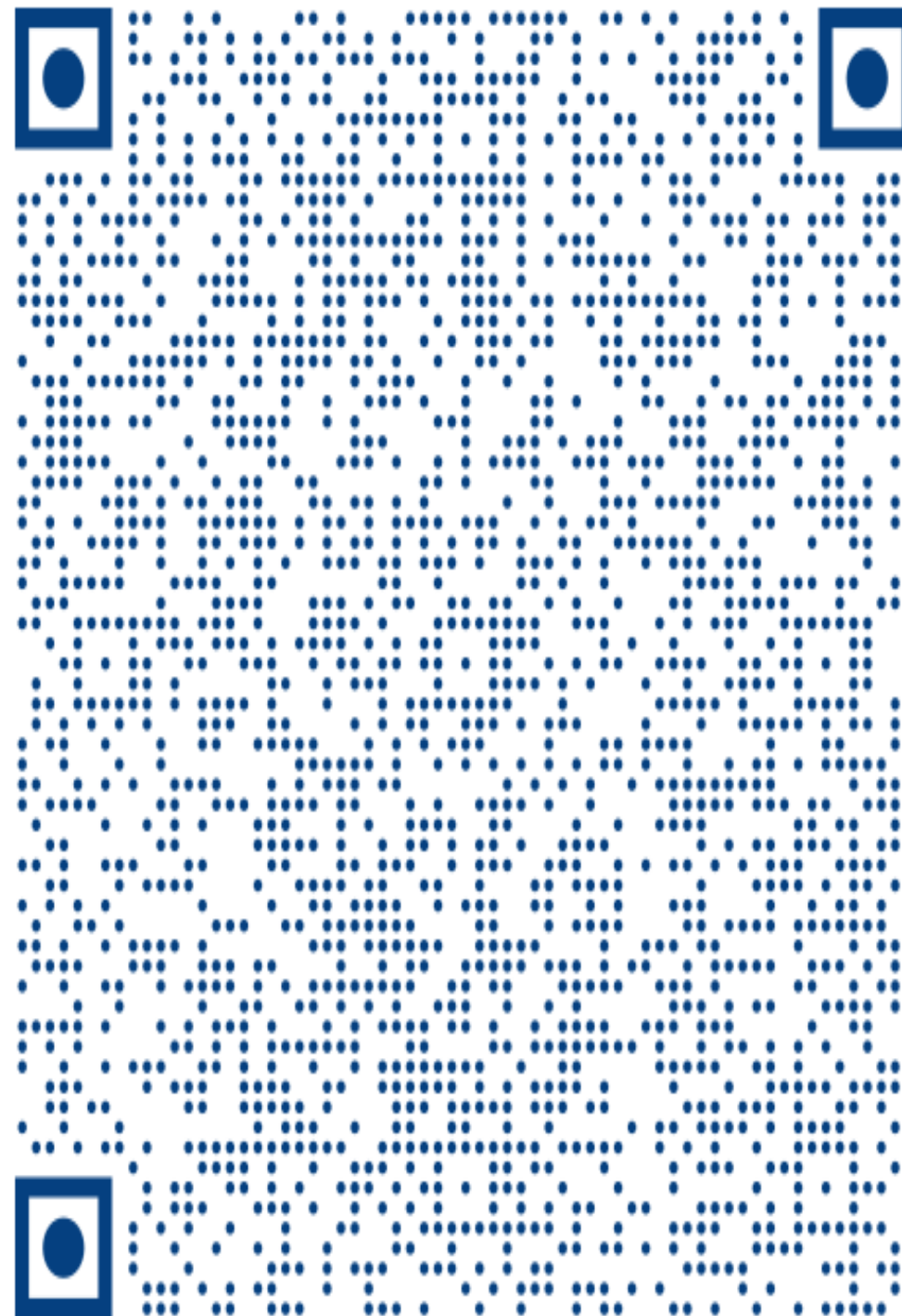


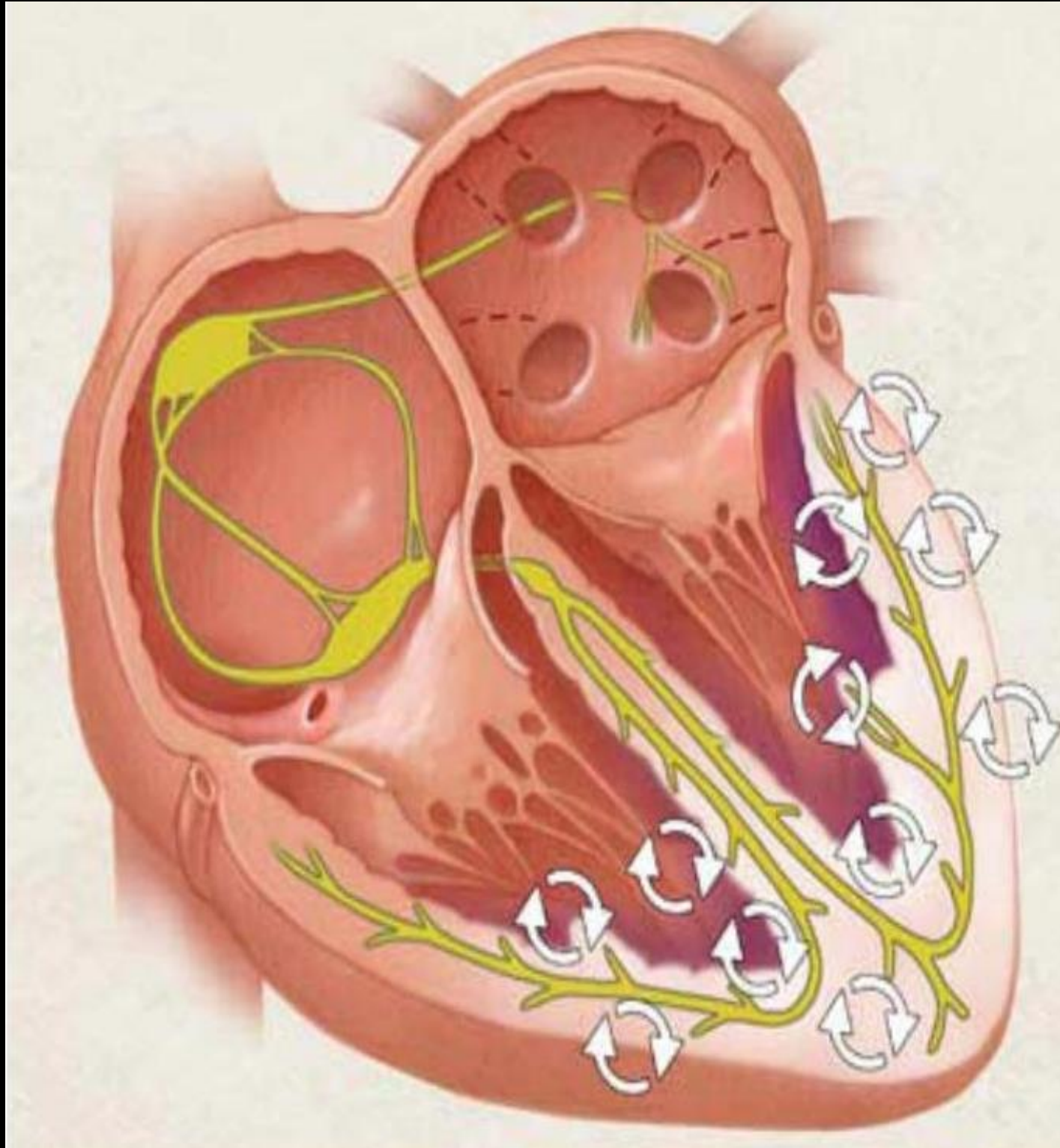


American Heart Association

Meet the Trialist meeting

Meet the Trialists: How Will DOSE-VF Potentially Change Resuscitation Practice?





- **Larger current density**
- **Broader energy vector**
- **Even distribution over myocardium**
- **Prolonged shock duration**
- **More myocytes depolarized**
- **Reduced defibrillation threshold from 1st shock to 2nd shock**
- **More energy**



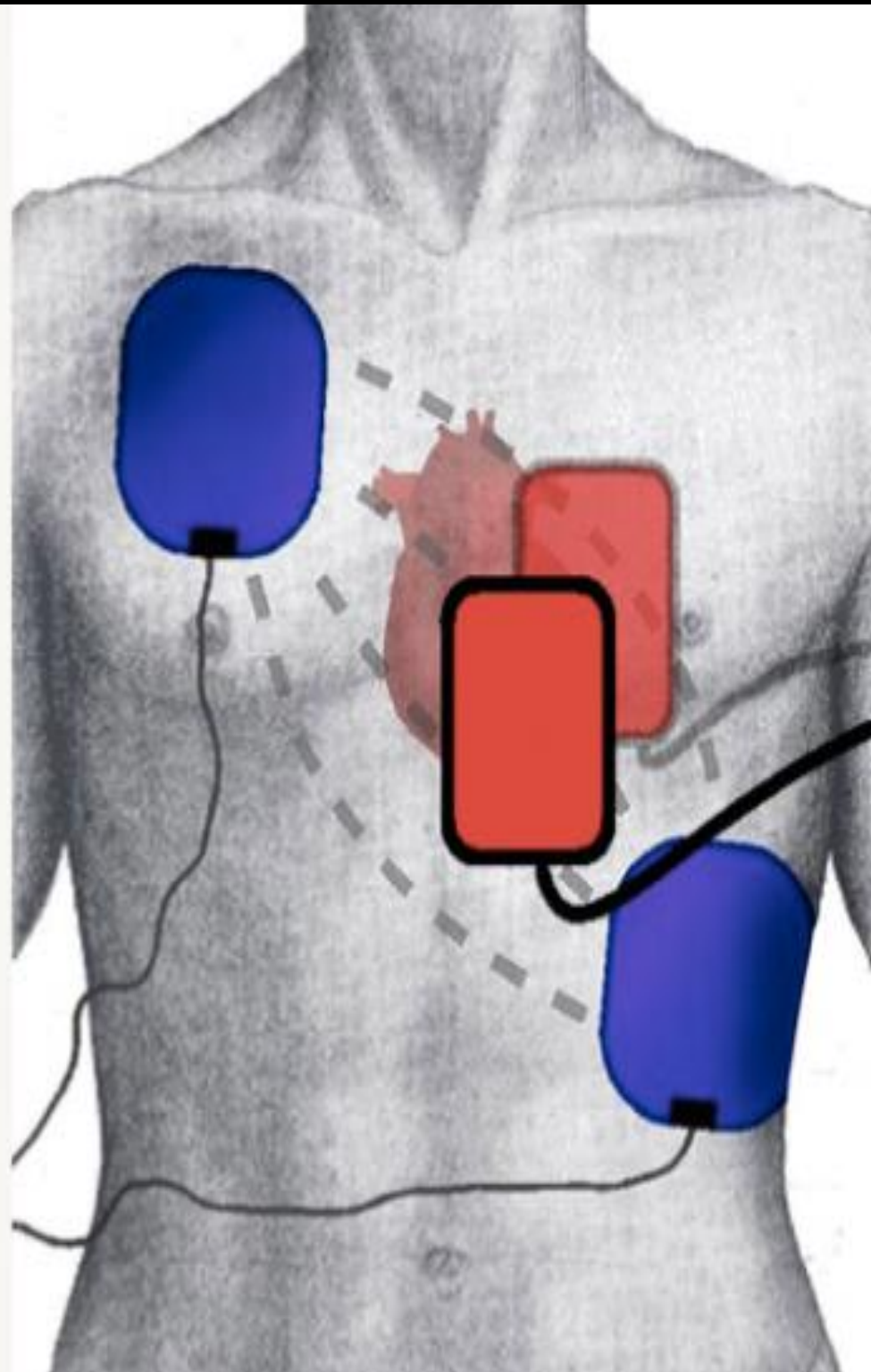
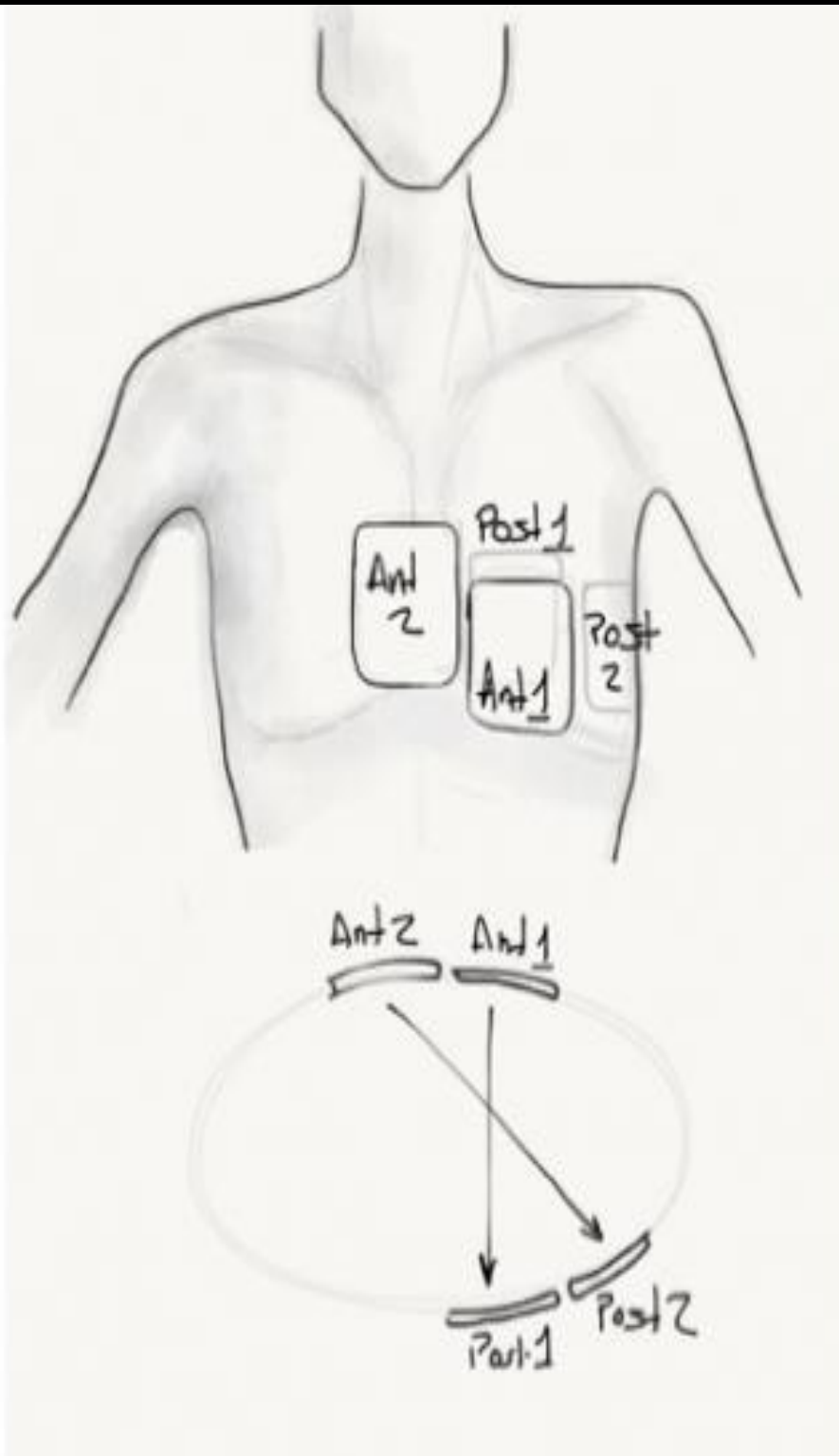
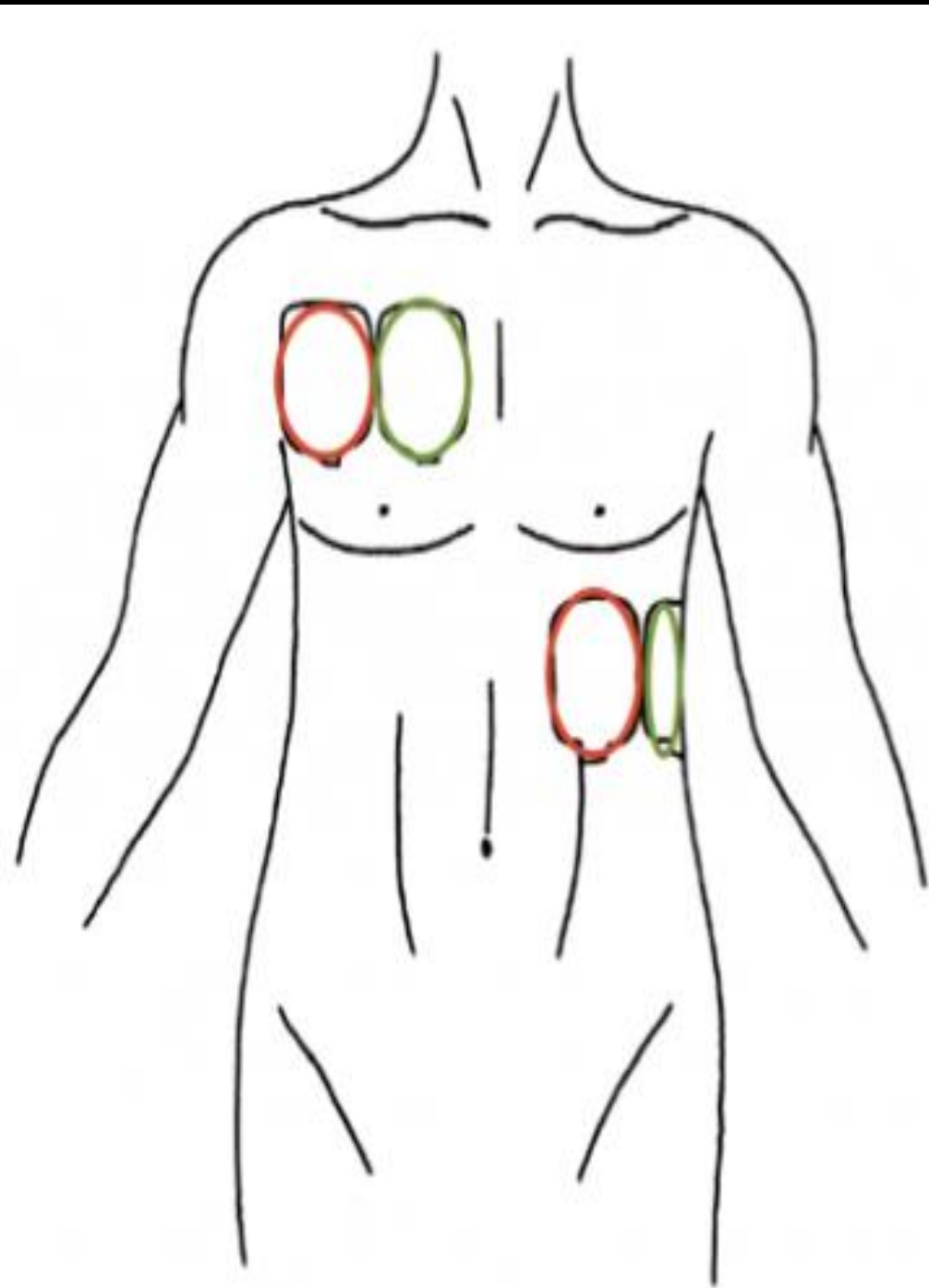
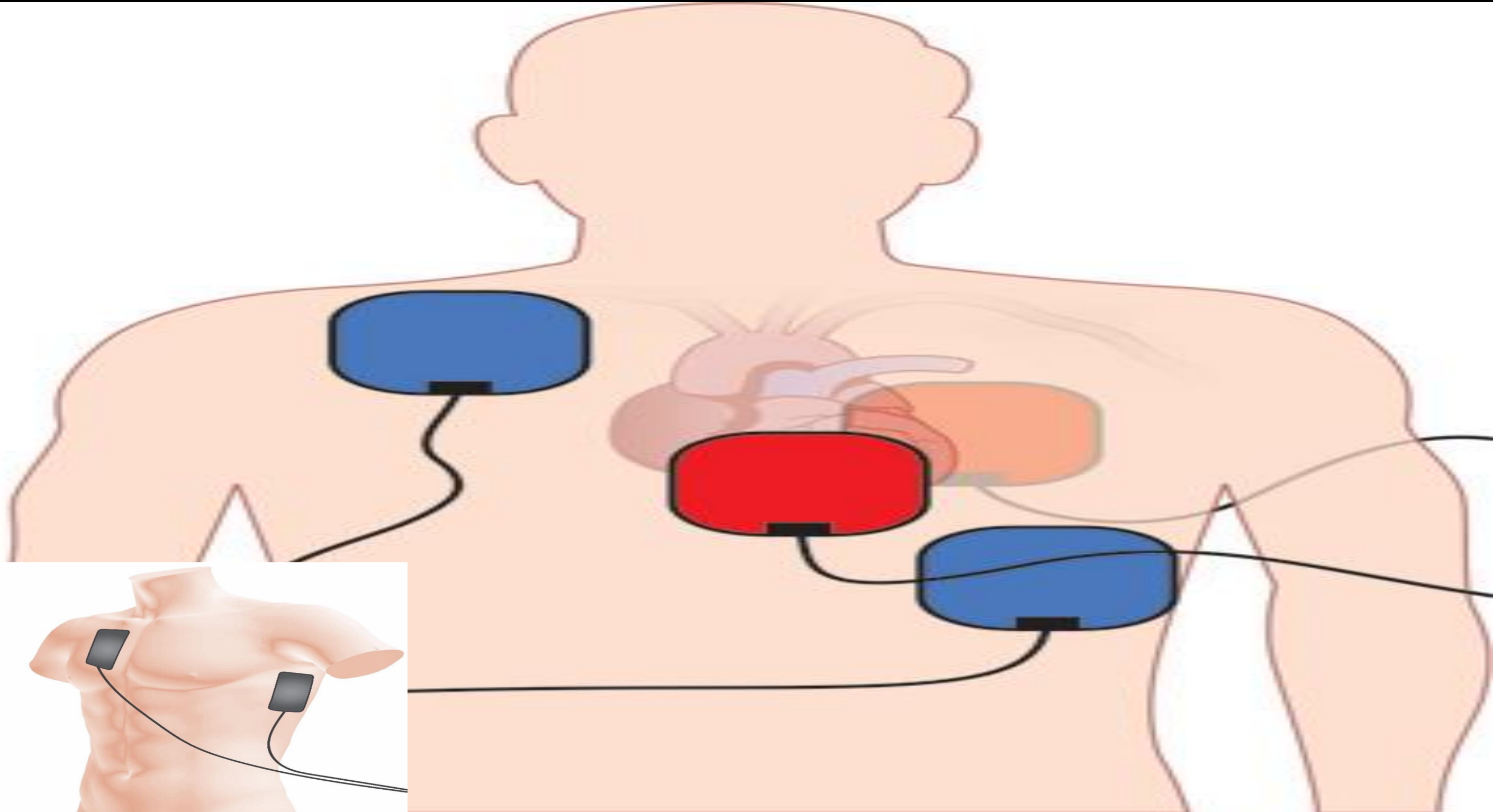
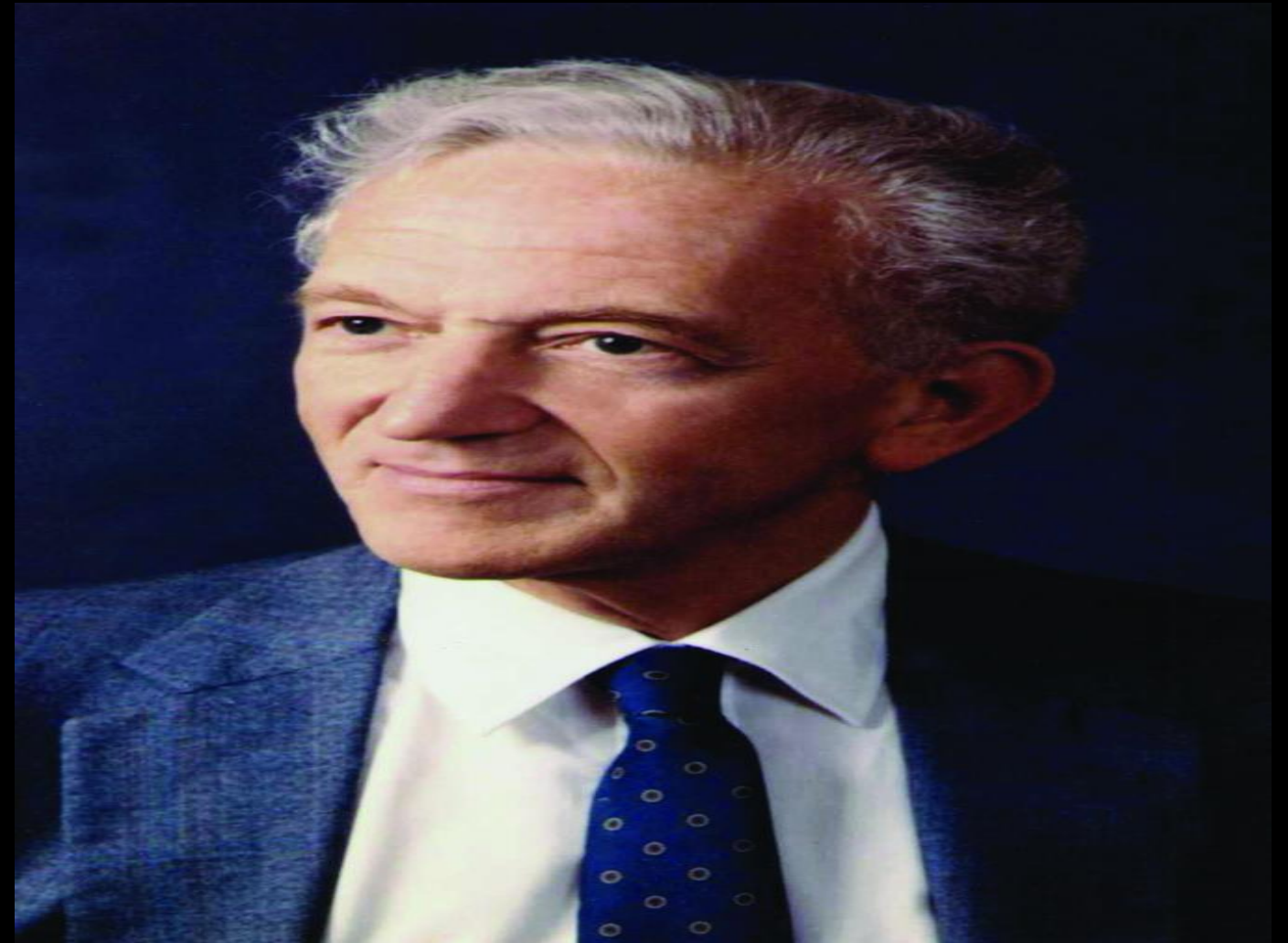


Figure 1. Placement of defibrillator pads.



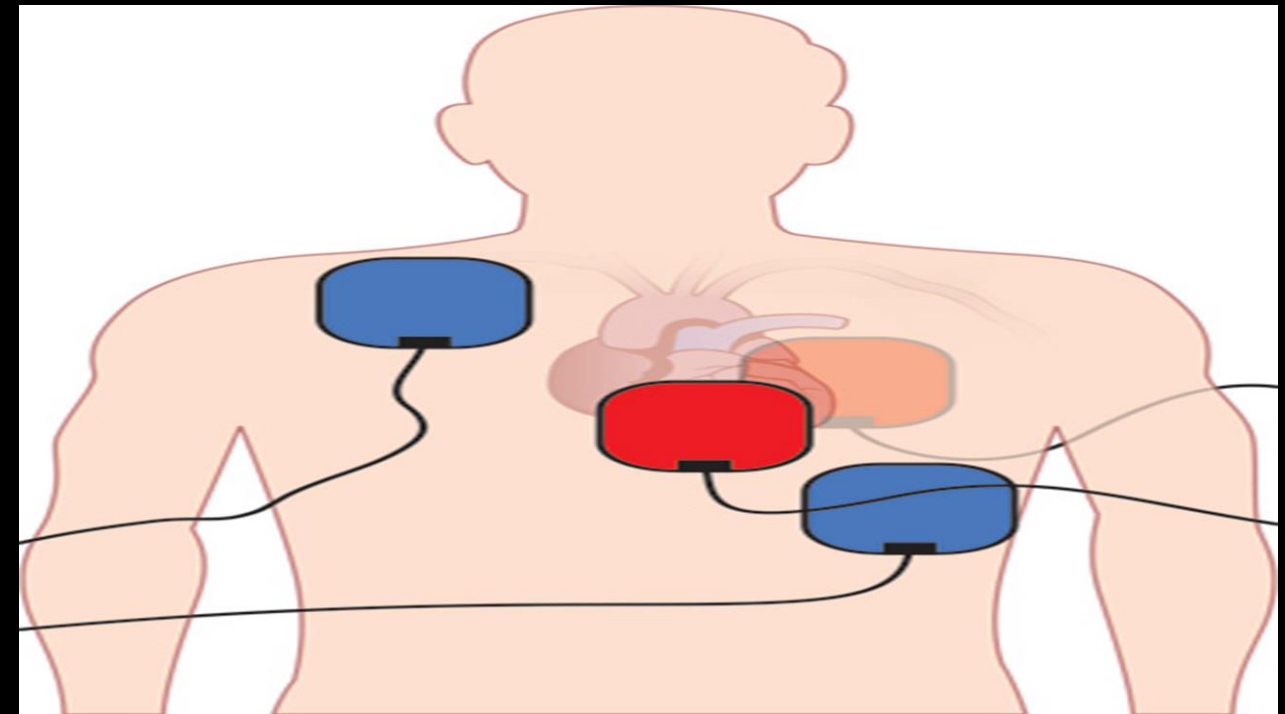
Efficacy of DSD

- *Routine use* of DSD is not recommended?



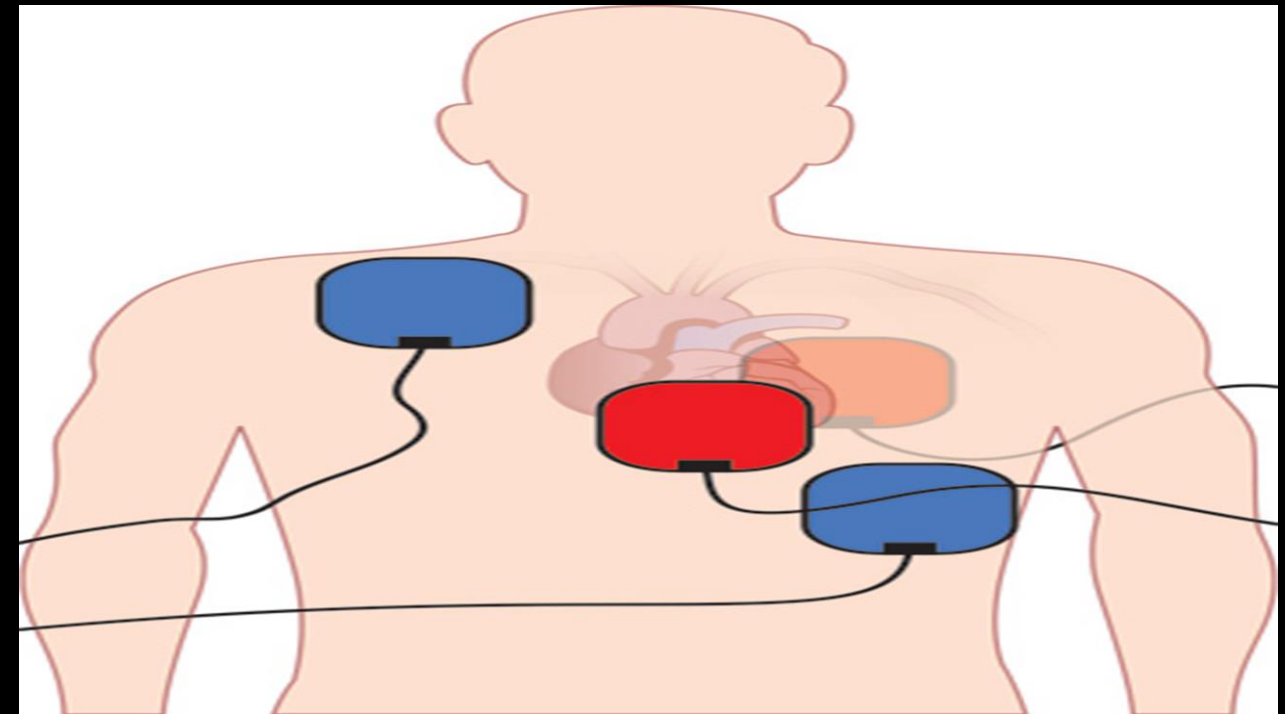
ACLS 2020 & DSD

- **Knowledge Gap**
 - **High-quality studies comparing DSD with standard defibrillation**



ACLS 2020 & DSD

- Suggest against *routine use* of DSD
- Requires
 - Training of staff
 - Available defibrillators
 - Track adverse events
 - Harm to patient
 - Defibrillator damage





DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS

External Defibrillator Damage Associated With Attempted Synchronized Dual-Dose Cardioversion

Neal S. Gerstein, MD, FASE^{*}; A. Robb McLean, MD, MHGM; Eric C. Stecker, MD, MPH; Peter M. Schulman, MD

**Corresponding Author. E-mail: ngerstein@gmail.com.*

The simultaneous use of 2 external defibrillators to administer either dual or sequential cardioversion or defibrillation for refractory cardiac arrhythmias is increasing in both the out-of-hospital and in-hospital settings. Using 2 defibrillators to administer higher energy levels than can be achieved with a single defibrillator is considered off-label and is currently not part of published advanced cardiac life support guidelines. We report the first case in which the use of dual-dose cardioversion was associated with external defibrillator damage. Because defibrillator damage, especially if undetected, jeopardizes patient safety and off-label medical product use may void the manufacturer's warranty, this case should urge users to proceed with caution when contemplating this technique. [Ann Emerg Med. 2017;■:1-4.]

0196-0644/8-see front matter

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.annemergmed.2017.04.005>



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Resuscitation Plus

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/resuscitation-plus



Clinical paper

A survey of the incidence of defibrillator damage during double sequential external defibrillation for refractory ventricular fibrillation



Ian R. Drennan^{a,b,c,*}, Dustin Seidler^{d,e}, Sheldon Cheskes^{c,f,g}

Conclusion: When DSED is used, rate of defibrillator damage appears to be exceedingly low.

**ESMOLOL
HCl INJECTION**

FOR IV USE

100 mg/10 mL

(10 mg/mL)

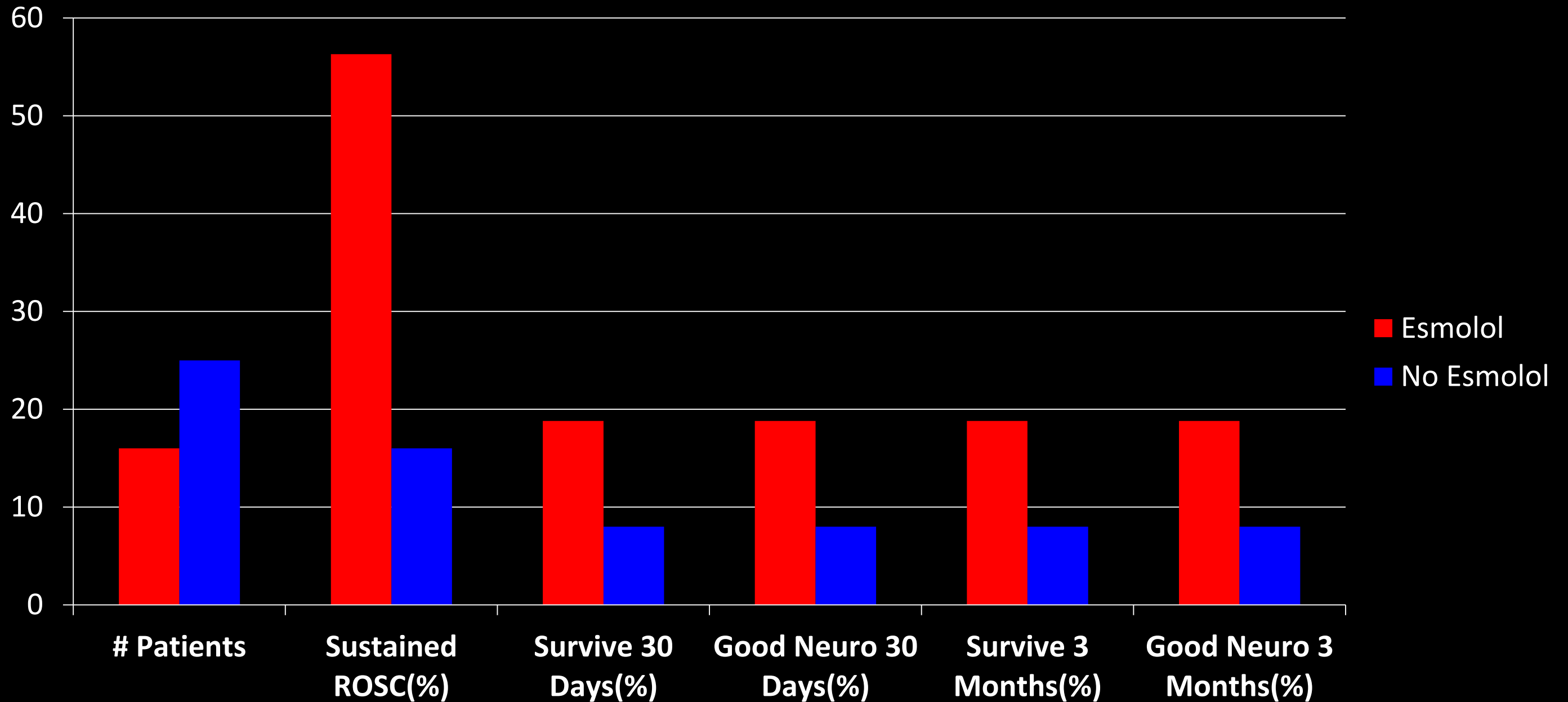
Rx ONLY.

Refractory VF Treated with Esmolol

- Resuscitation October 2016
- 41 patients
- OHCA with refractory VF
- 25 No Esmolol
- 16 Esmolol
- Load 500mcg
- Infusion 0 – 100mcg/kg/min



rVF Treated with Esmolol

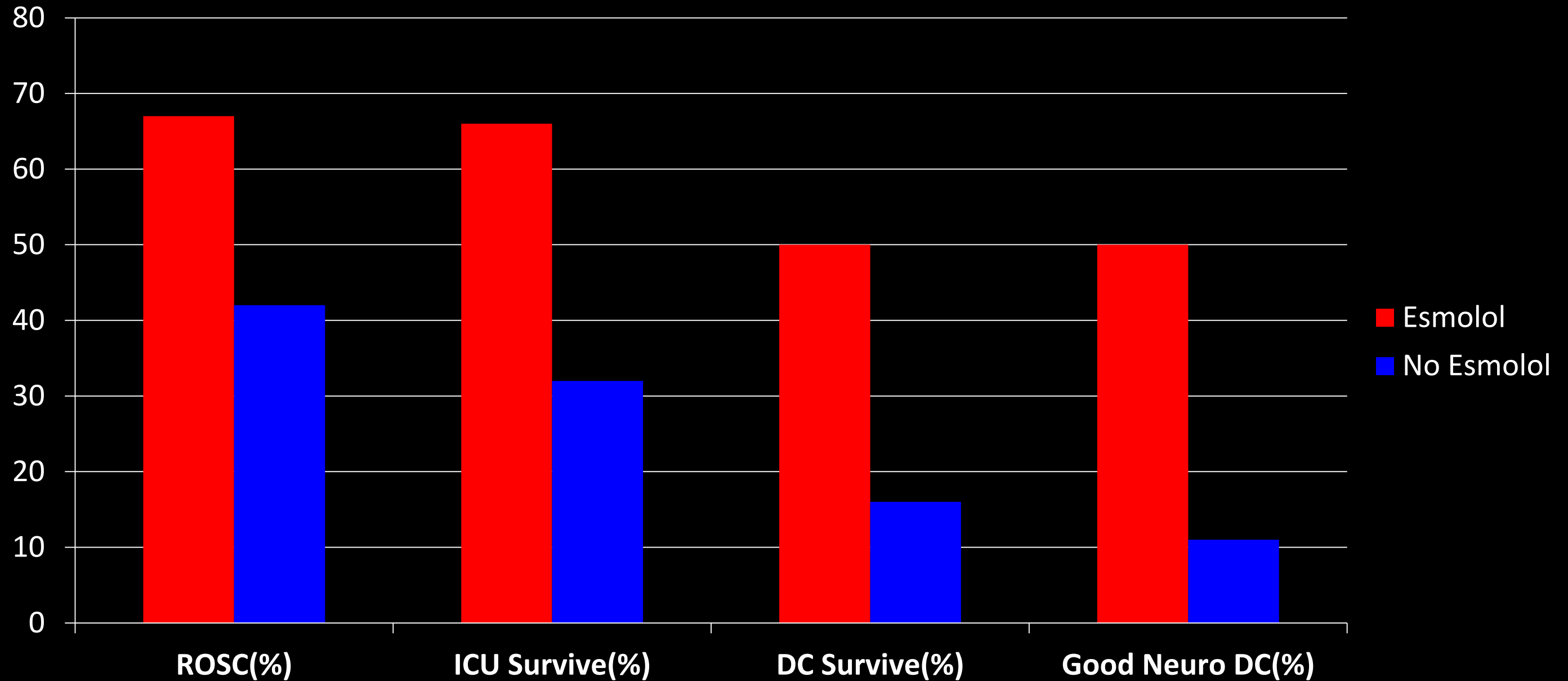


Esmolol After Failure Standard CPR with Refractory VF

- **Resuscitation October 2014**
- **25 patients**
- **19 No esmolol**
- **6 Esmolol**



Esmolol After Failure Standard CPR with Refractory VF



First Report of Survival in Refractory VF after DSD and Esmolol

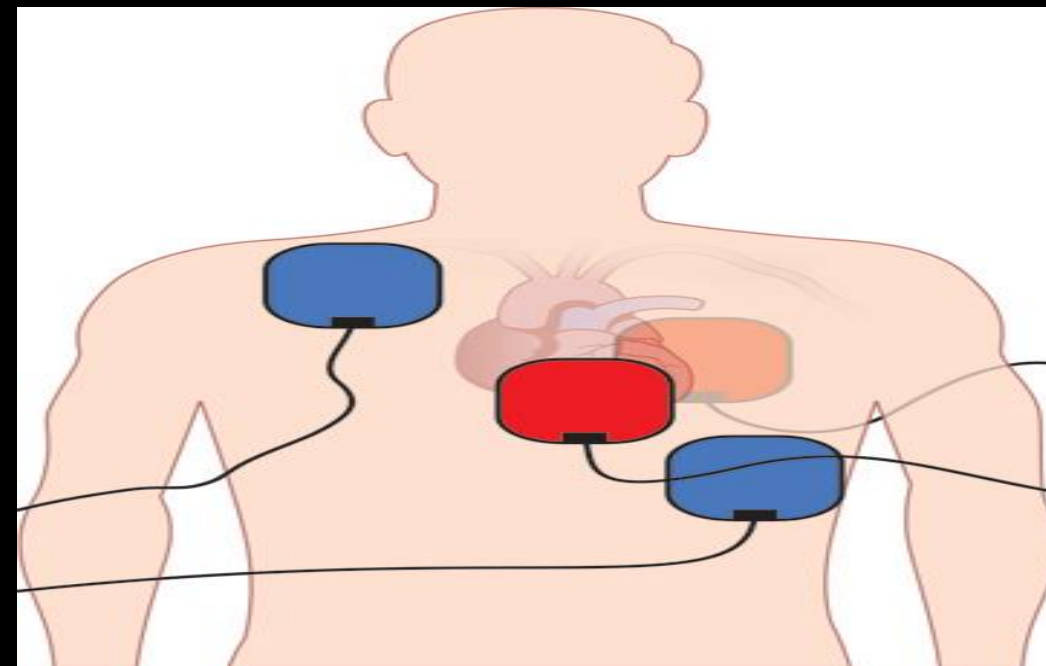
- **Boehm et al**
- **November 2016**
- **Western Journal of Emergency Medicine**



- **67 yom**
- **Hx LAD stent**
- **ED CP with CPA**
- **VF**

- **First 15 minutes**
 - **5 single shocks**
 - **Epi 1 mg x 4 doses**
 - **Amiodarone 450mg**

- **Decision to use DSD & Esmolol**
- **DSD x 1, no change**
- **Esmolol 80mg IVP ($\sim 1000\text{mcg/kg}$)**
- **Esmolol 0.1mg/kg/hr ($\sim 133\text{mcg/kg/min}$)**
- **Circulated x 3 minutes**
- **2nd DSD with ROSC and waking up**
- **Cath lab with LAD lesion/stent**





ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Emergency Medical Services

Feasibility of prehospital esmolol for refractory ventricular fibrillation

Casey Patrick MD¹ | Remle P. Crowe PhD, NREMT² | Brad Ward EMT-P¹ |
Ali Mohammed DO³ | Kelley Rogers Keene BSN, RN⁴ | Robert Dickson MD^{1,4}

¹Montgomery County Hospital District EMS, Conroe, Texas, USA

²ESO Inc., Austin, Texas, USA

³Department of Emergency Medicine, HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood, Kingwood, Texas, USA

⁴Department of Emergency Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA

Abstract

Background: Esmolol may increase survival for patients with refractory ventricular fibrillation (RVF); however, information related to esmolol use in the prehospital environment is limited. We aimed to assess the feasibility of prehospital bolus dose esmolol for patients with RVF treated by a high-volume, ground-based emergency medical services (EMS) agency.

Esmolol, vector change, and dose-capped epinephrine for prehospital ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia

Kyle Stupca et al. Am J Emerg Med. 2022.

Conclusions: Patients who received the EMS bundle achieved sustained ROSC significantly less often and were less likely to have pulses at hospital arrival. The incidence of neurologically intact survival was low and similar between groups.

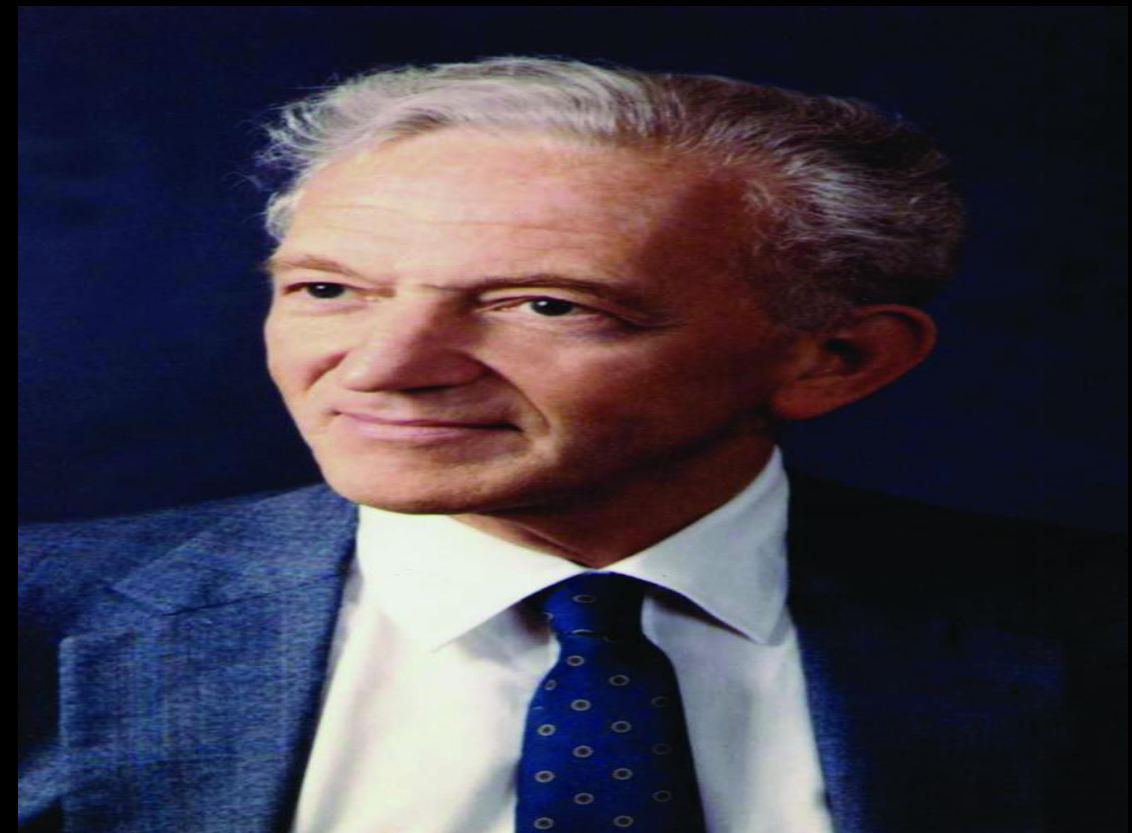
Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB)

SGB Indications

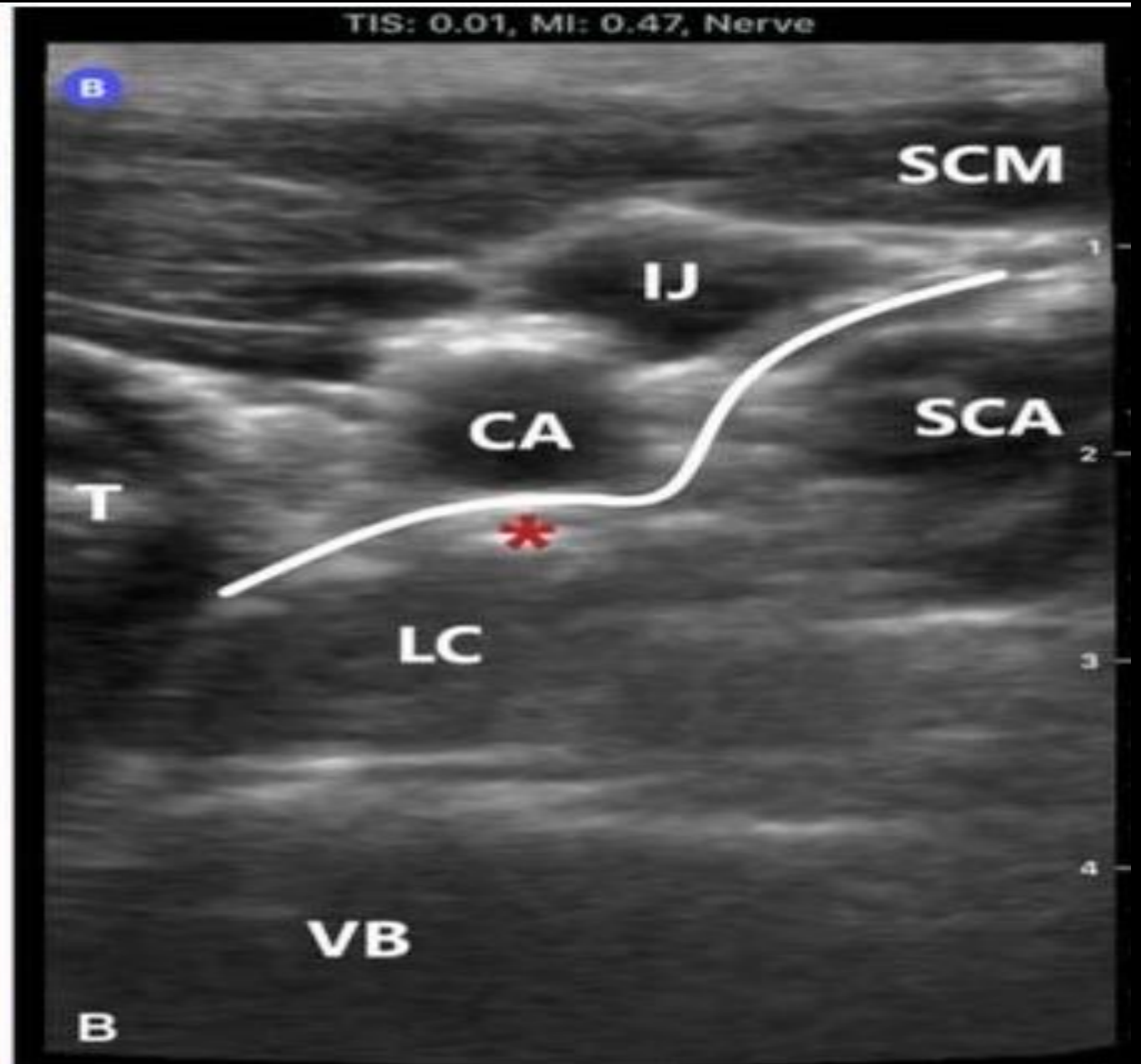
- **Ventricular Storm**
- **rVF**
- **Persistent VT**
- **Drug refractory electrical storm**
- **Unresponsive to “traditional” therapies (ACLS)**

Why?

- You have tried everything else
- Your patient is going to die
- “Heart too good to die” – Safar
- “Are my intentions honorable - Hinds



POCUS Guided SGB

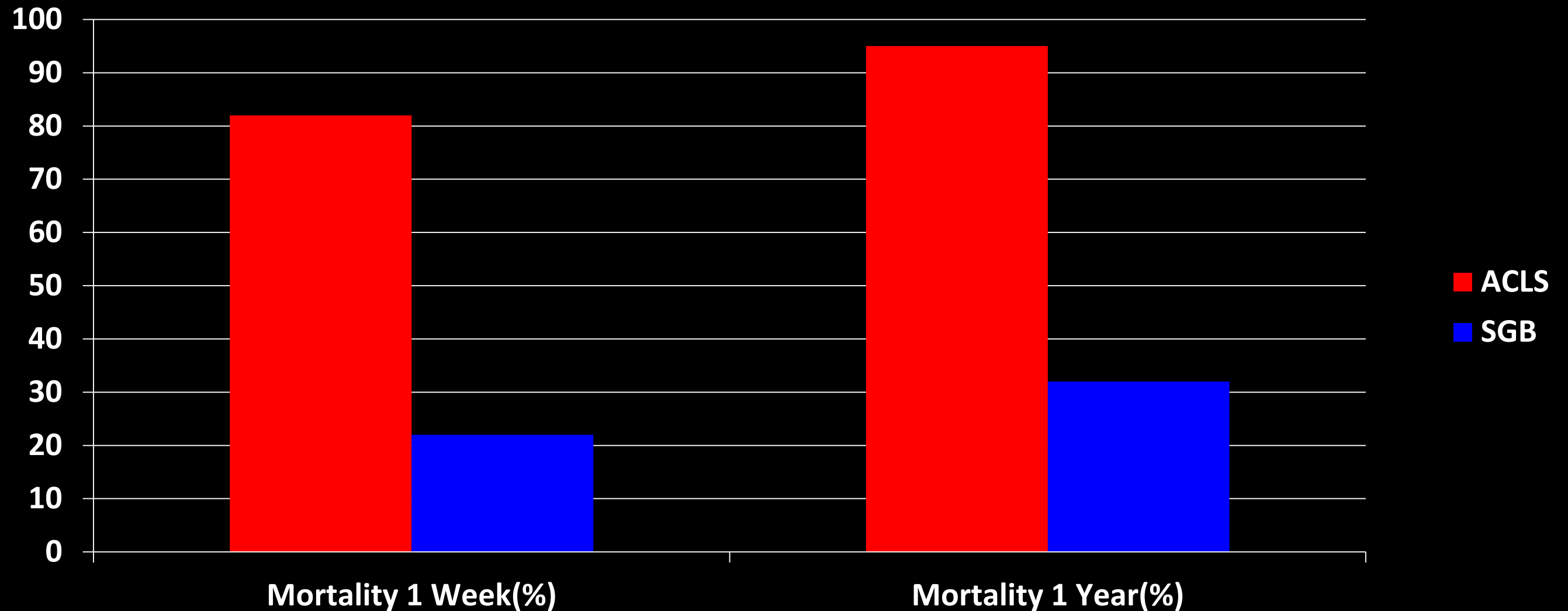


Treating electrical storm : sympathetic blockade versus advanced cardiac life support-guided therapy

K Nademanee ¹, R Taylor, W E Bailey, D E Rieders, E M Kosar

Affiliations + expand

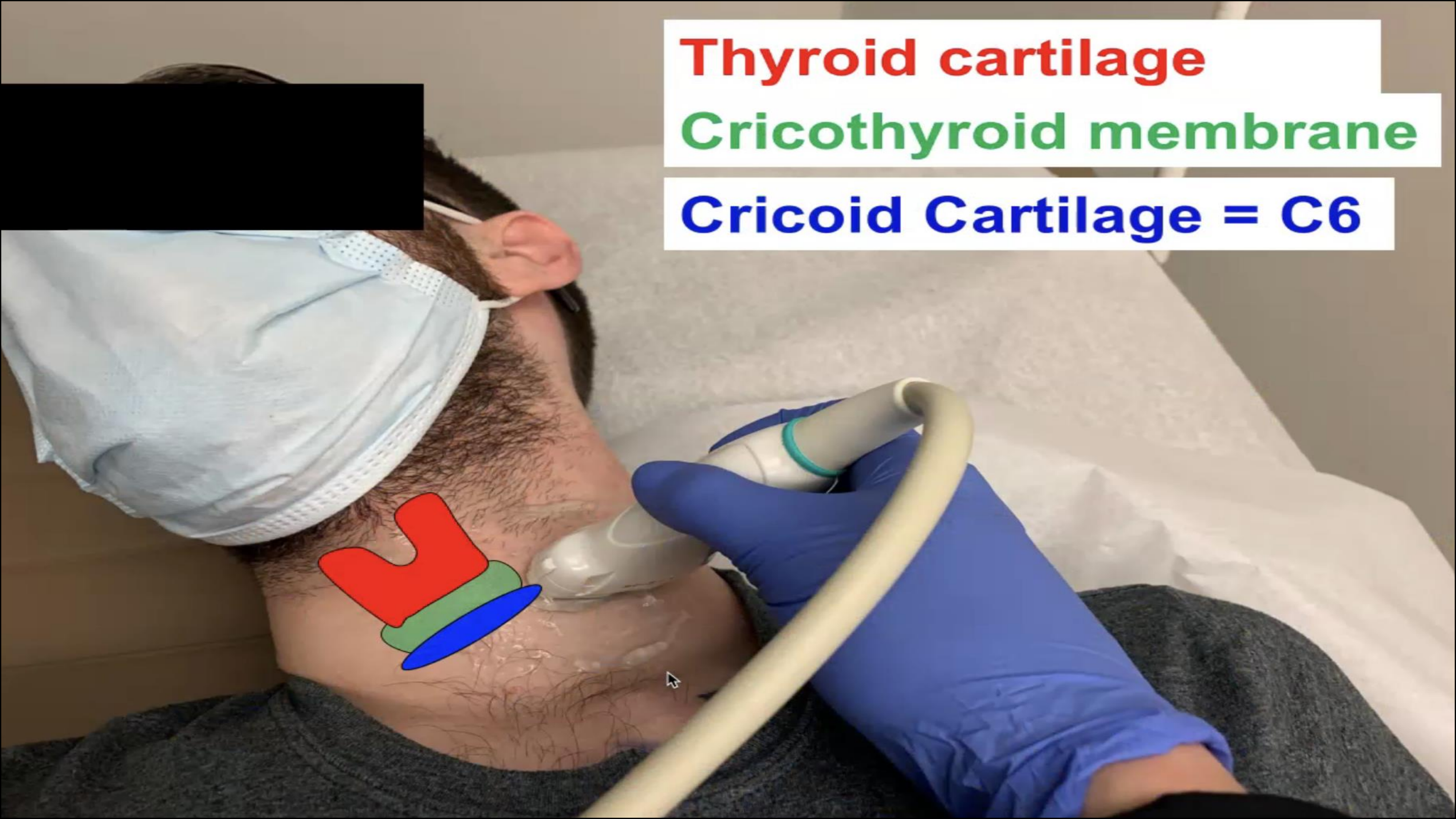
PMID: 10942741 DOI: 10.1161/01.cir.102.7.742

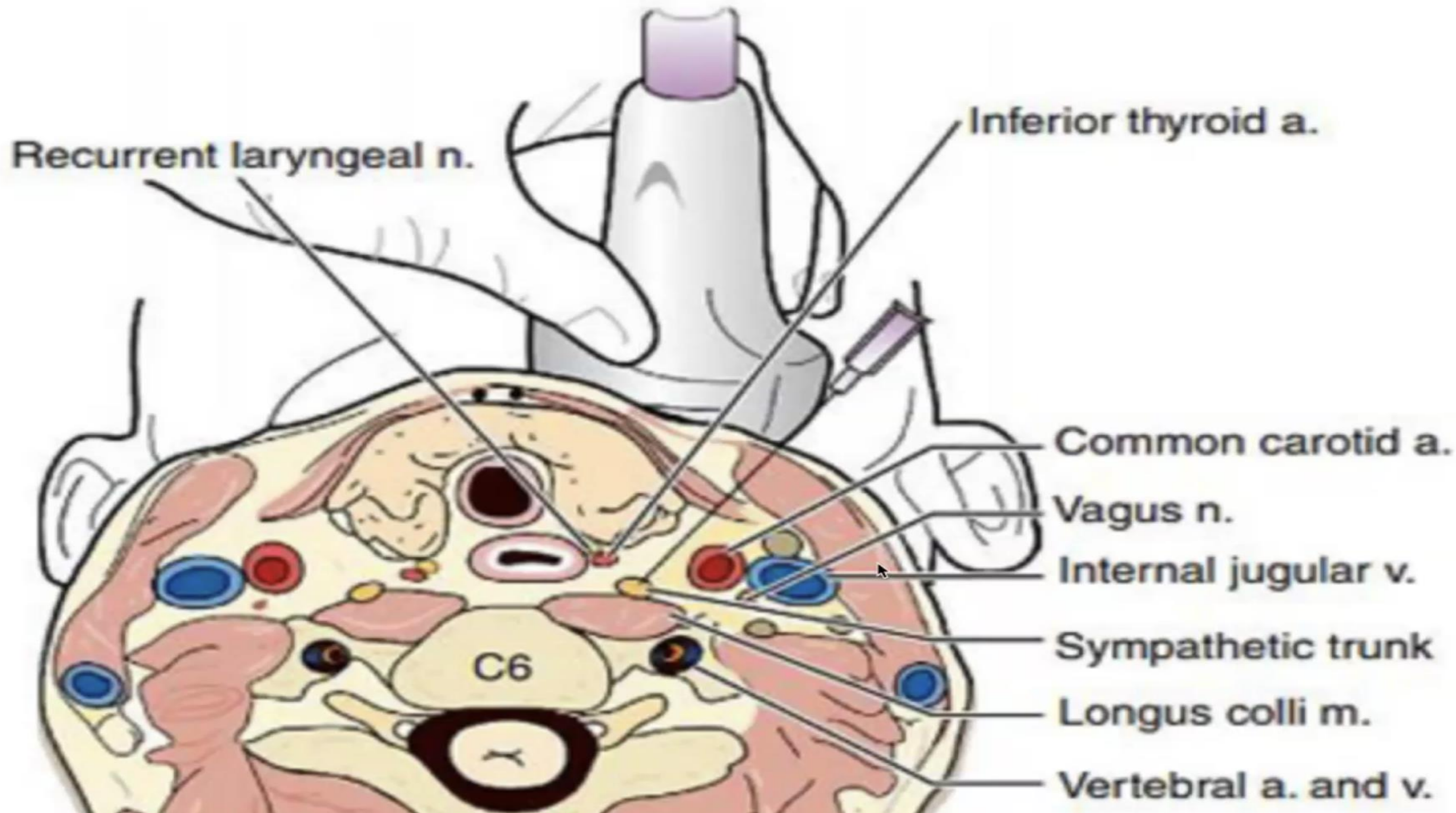


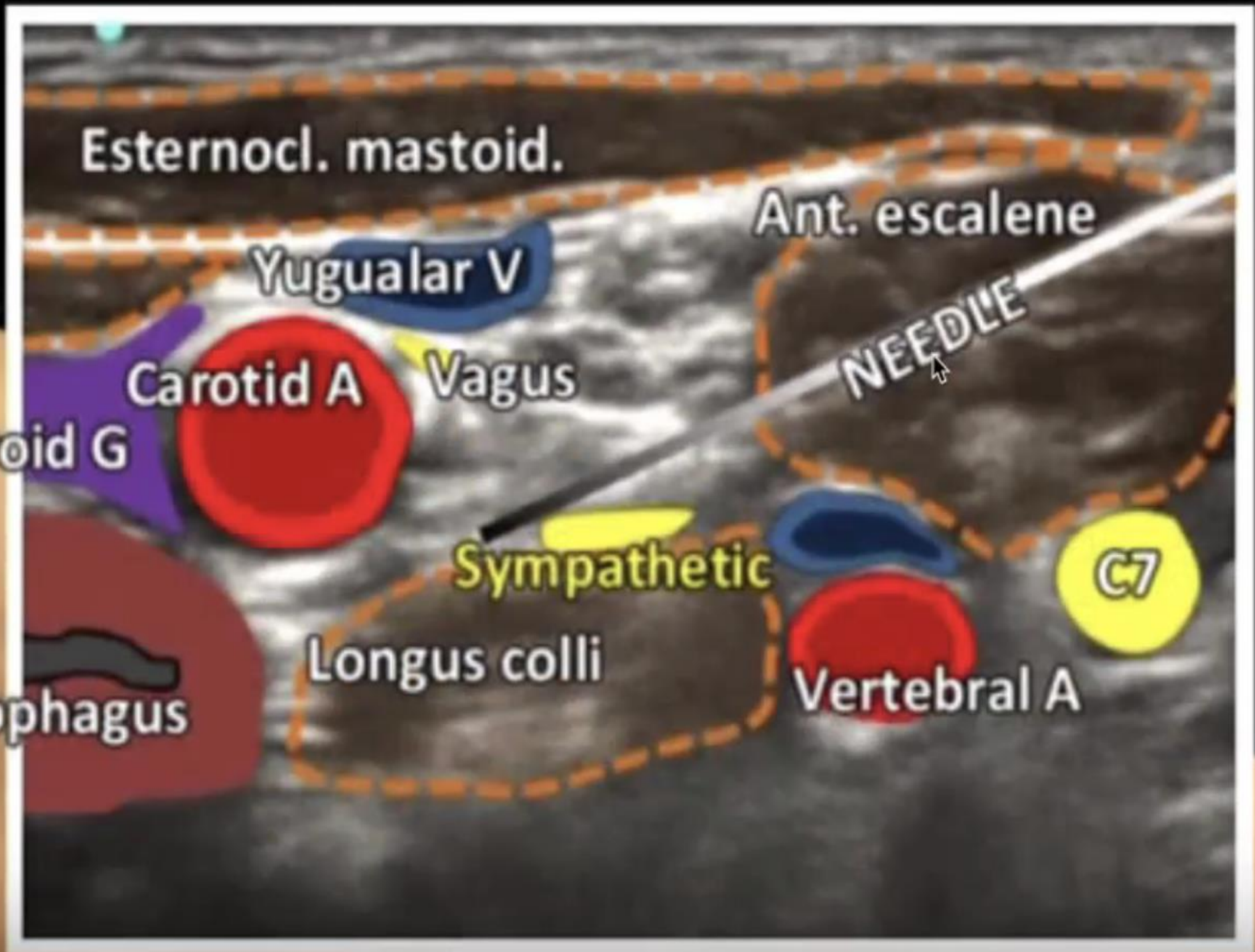
Thyroid cartilage

Cricothyroid membrane

Cricoid Cartilage = C6







Successful SGB

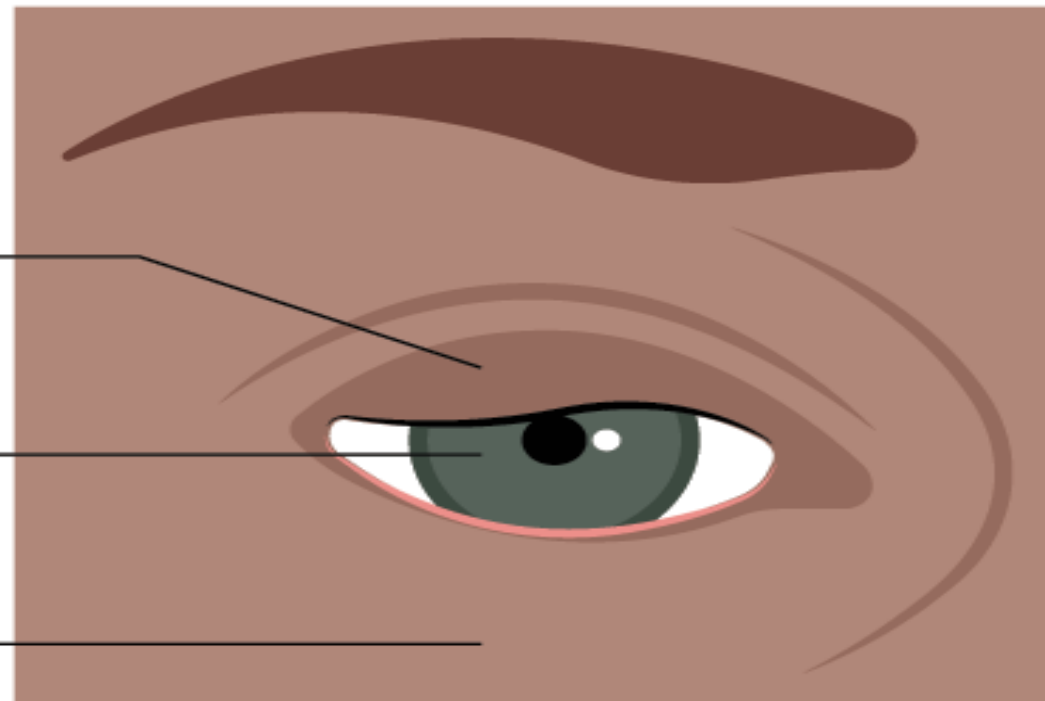
- Termination of VF

HORNER'S SYNDROME

PTOSIS
Drooping Eyelids

MIOSIS
Constricting pupil

ANHIDROSIS
Loss of sweating
on the face



PREHOSPITAL

ECMO

VF ARREST

ARREST Study (2020)

- **The ARREST trial**
- **Yannopoulos D, et al. Advanced reperfusion strategies for patients with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and refractory ventricular fibrillation (ARREST)**
- **Lancet. 2020 Nov 12:S0140-6736(20)**

Patients

- **Adult patients (aged 18-75) OOHCA**
- **Initial rhythm VF/VT**
- **No ROSC after three defibs,**
- **Body size that fit the Lund CPR Assist System (LUCAS)**
- **Estimated transfer time to the emergency department of less than 30 minutes.**



Exclusions

- **DNR**
- **Trauma or burns**
- **Drowning**
- **Overdose**
- **Pregnancy**
- **Nursing home resident**
- **Unavailability of the cath lab**
- **Contraindications to angiography**
- **Contrast allergy**
- **Active GI or internal bleeding.**

Intervention

- **ECMO (V-A)**
 - **Straight to cath lab by EMS placed on ECMO.**
 - **There were strict criteria used to discontinue resuscitation in this group**
 - **Two or more of the following:**
 - **End-tidal CO₂ <10 mm Hg**
 - **PaO₂ <50 mm Hg or oxygen saturation <85%**
 - **Lactic acid >18 mmol/L).**

Comparison

- **Standard ALS**
 - **The protocol dictated that resuscitation efforts had to continue for at least 15 minutes after ED arrival and at least 60 minutes after the 911 call.**

Outcome

- **The primary outcome was survival to hospital discharge.**

Results

- **30 patients, mean age of 59 years, 83% men.**
- **Large improvement in the primary outcome of survival to hospital discharge (43% versus 7%).**
- **Survival to 6 months also better ECMO group (43% vs 0%).**





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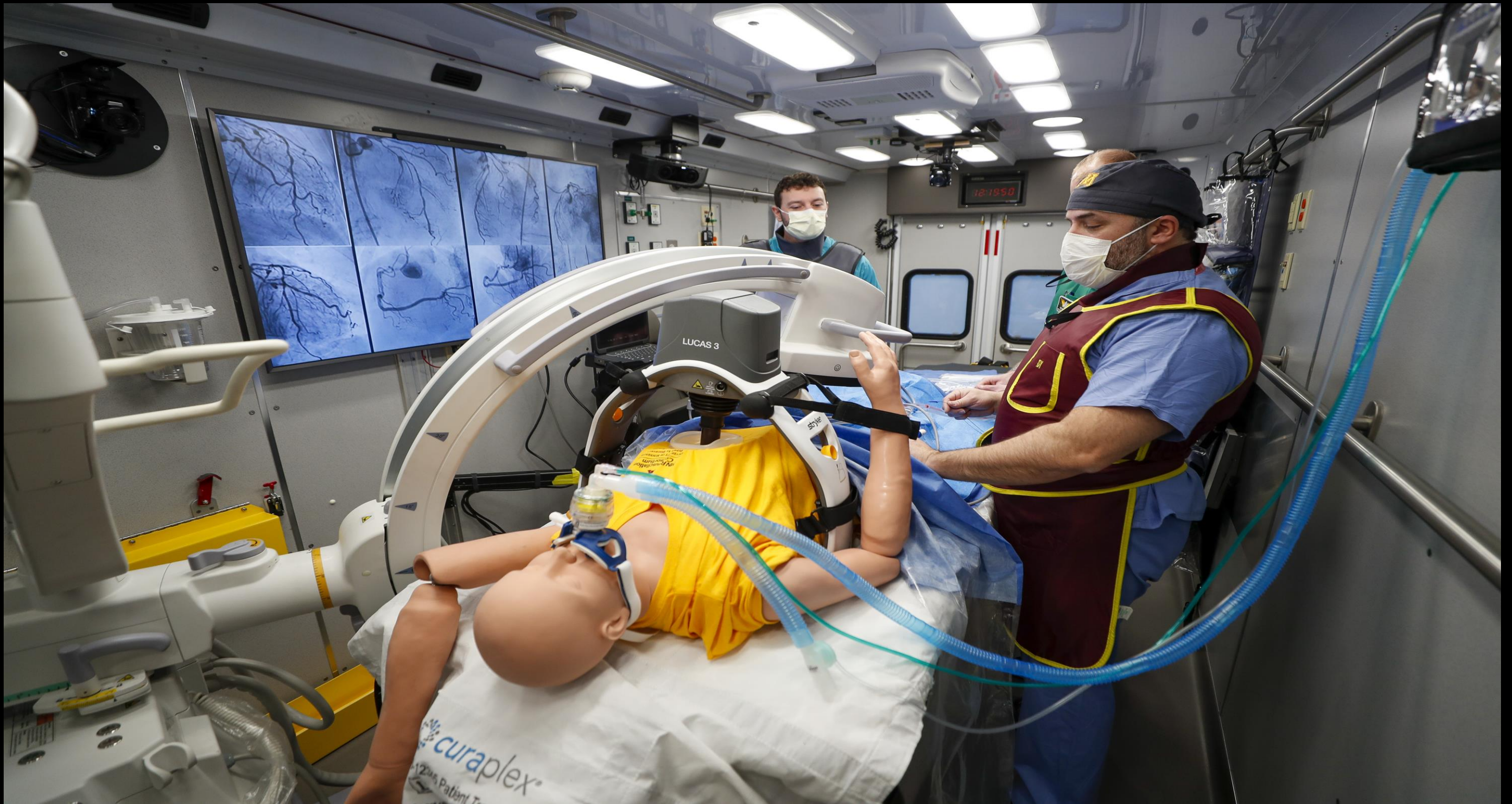
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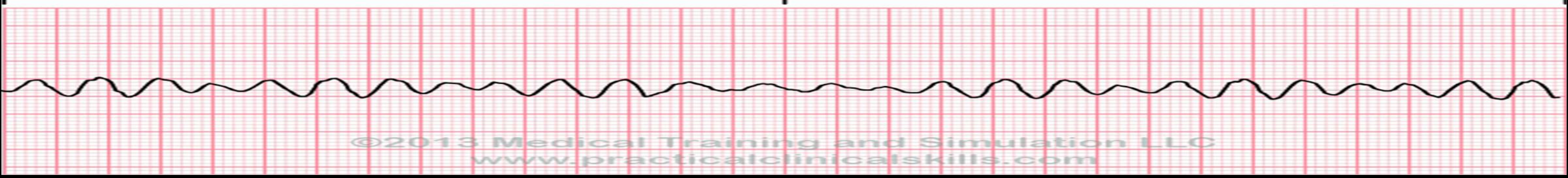
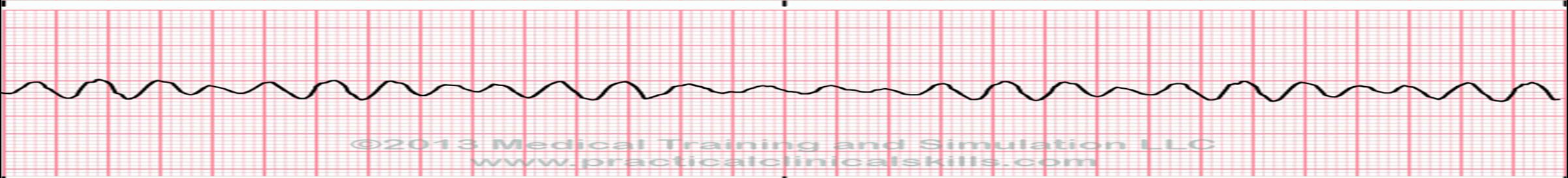






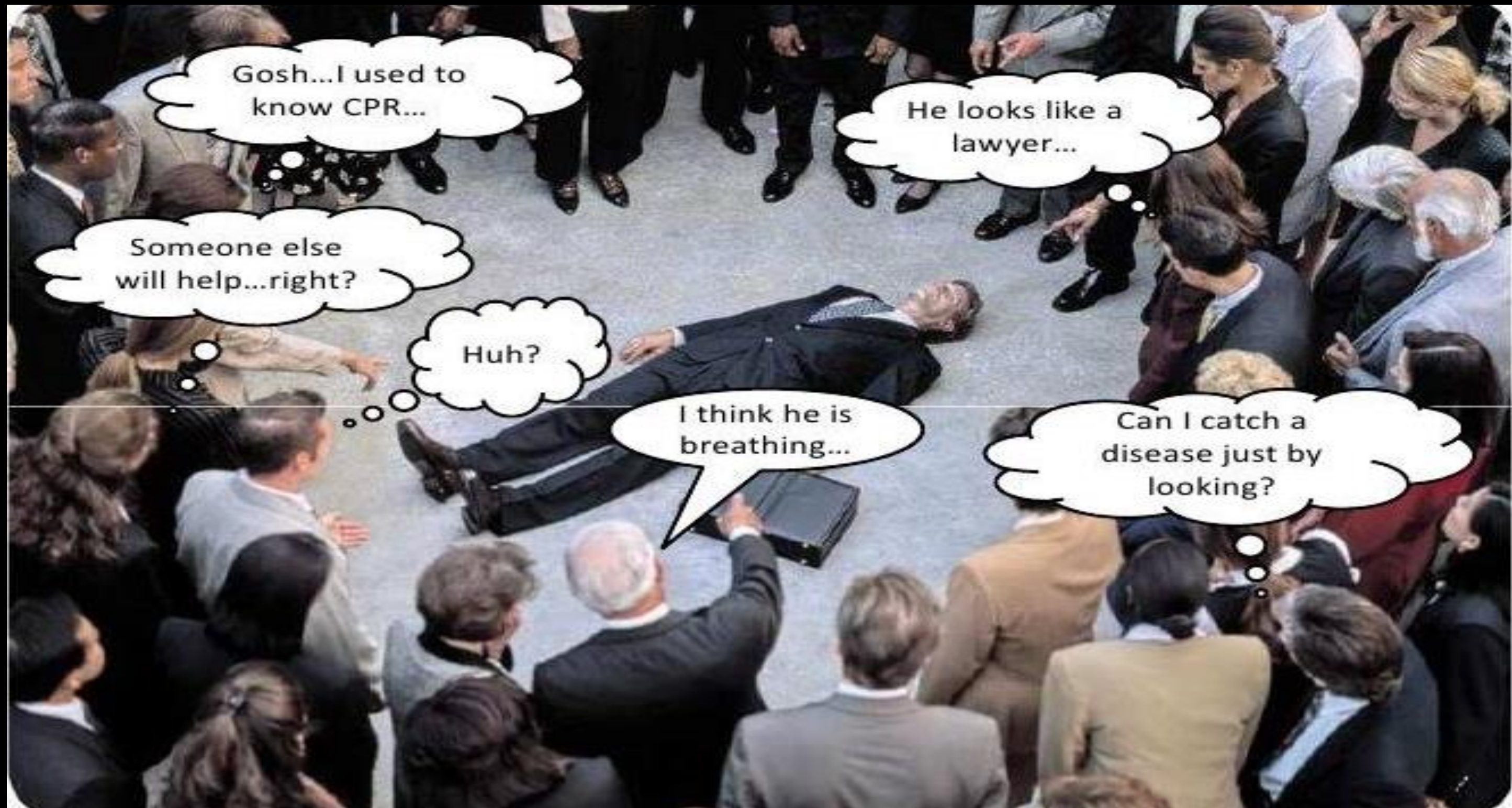


A Success Story









Gosh...I used to know CPR...

He looks like a lawyer...

Someone else will help...right?

Huh?

I think he is breathing...

Can I catch a disease just by looking?



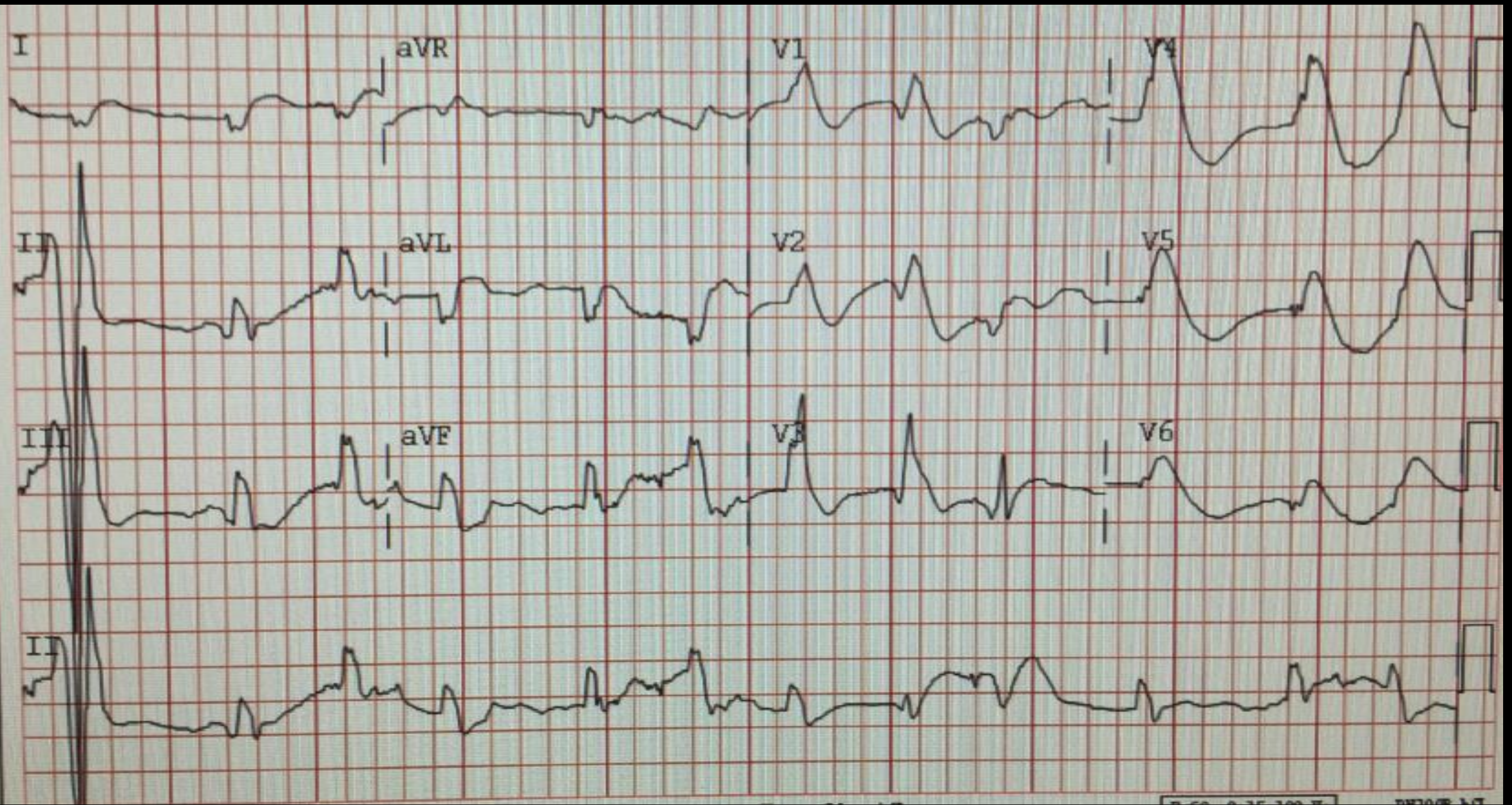


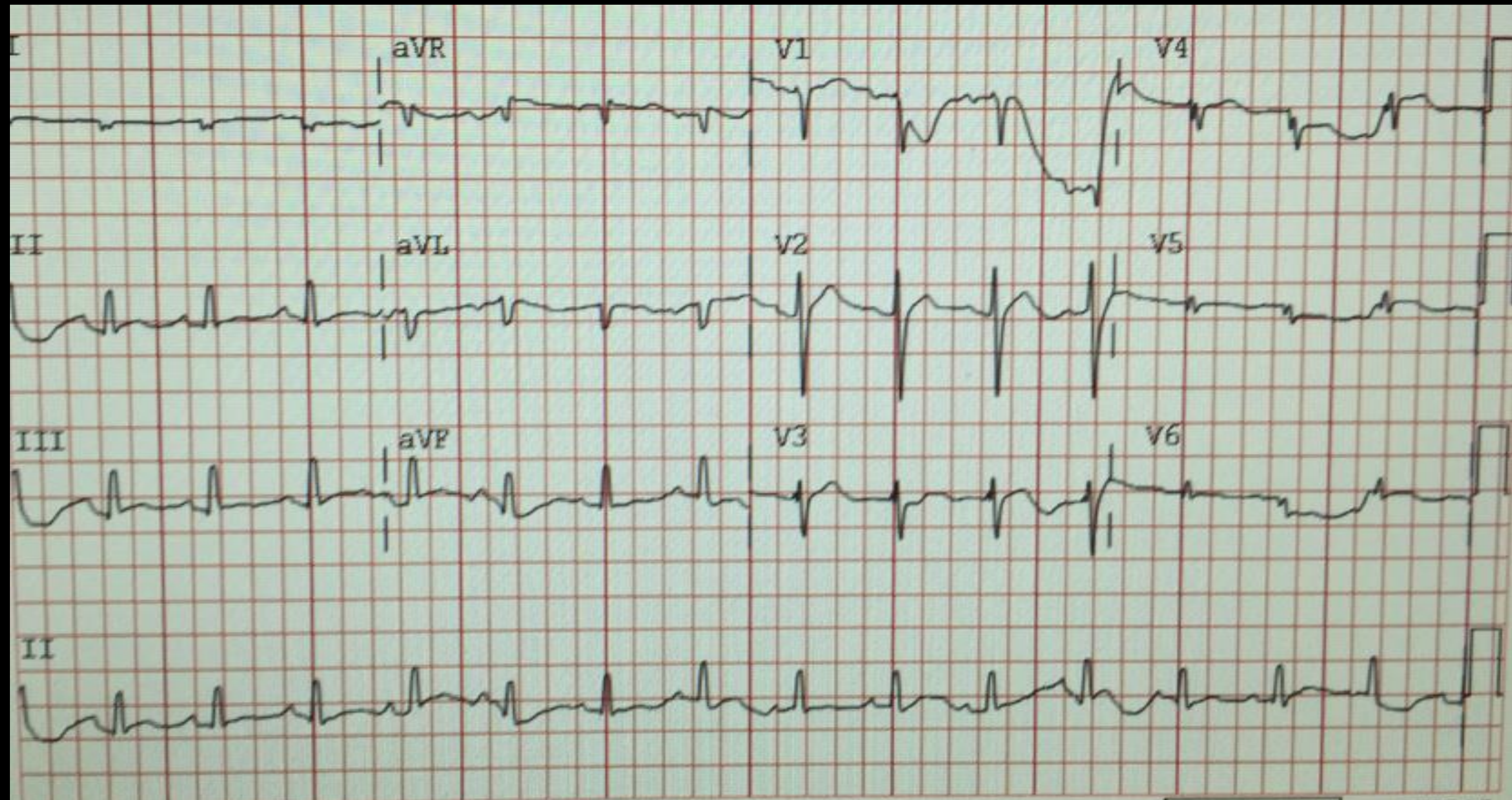




I Say
WWhat?









When you get pulses back and they ask what you want done next

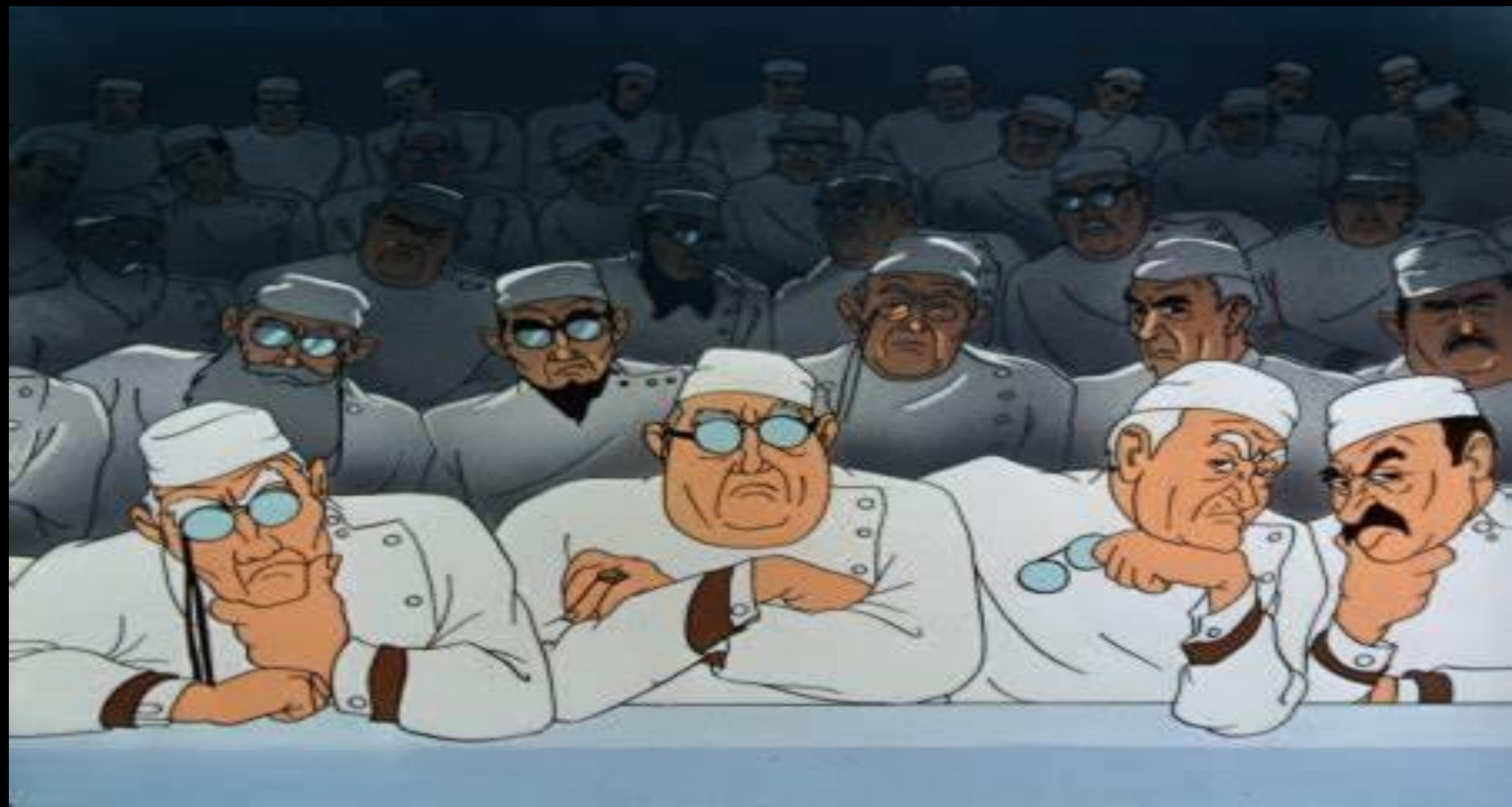


Better Method Refractory VF?

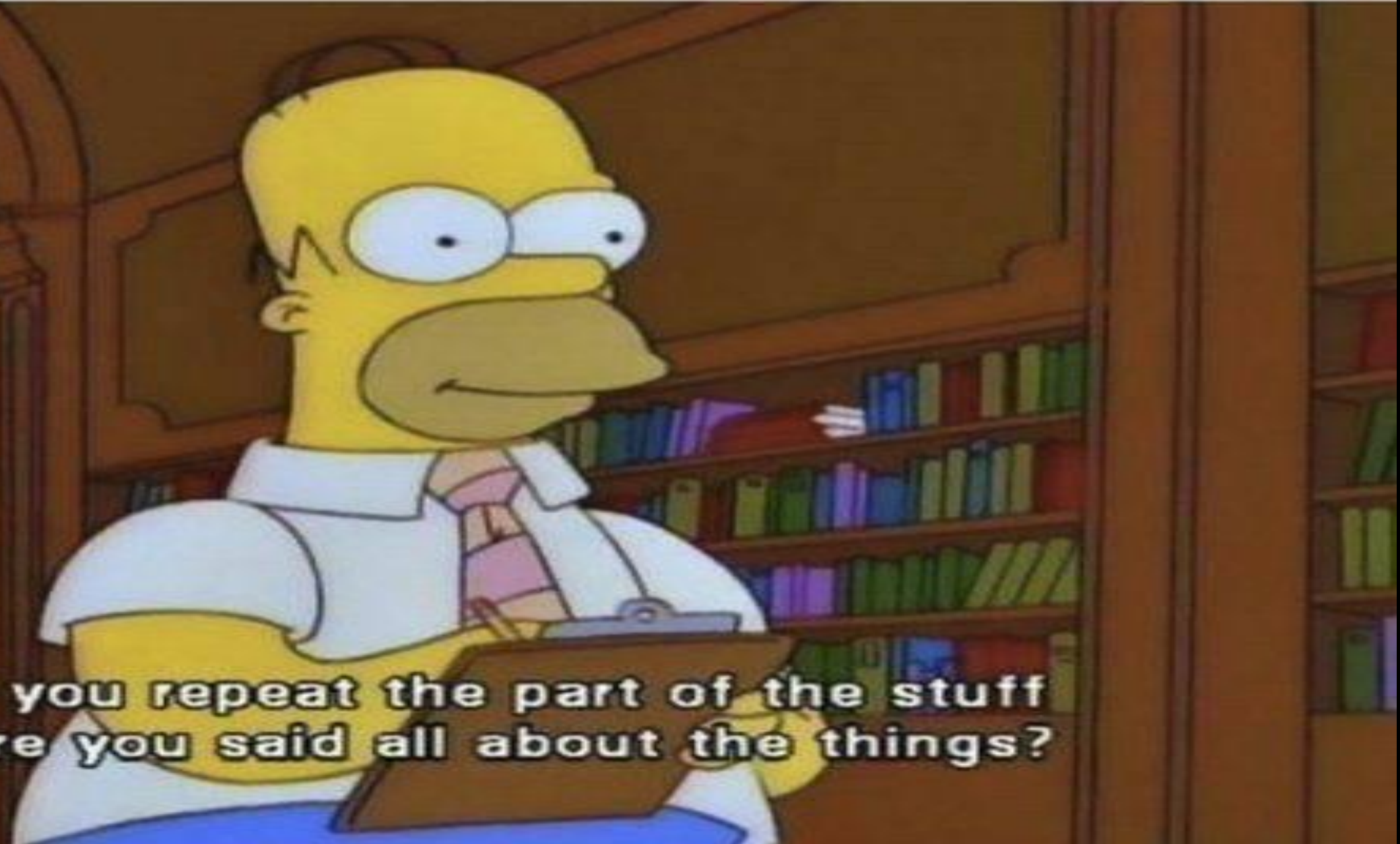
- High quality CPR, limited interruption
- Early defib  Early change vector  Early DSD
- Limit epinephrine
- Esmolol bolus and infusion

Summary

- **rVF**
 - **High quality CPR, Prompt Defib**
 - **? Limit Epi, ? Lidocaine, ? Amiodarone, ? Bretylium**
 - **Consider defib vector change**
 - **Consider DSD, Esmolol**
 - **Consider SGB**
 - **Prehospital / ED ECMO**

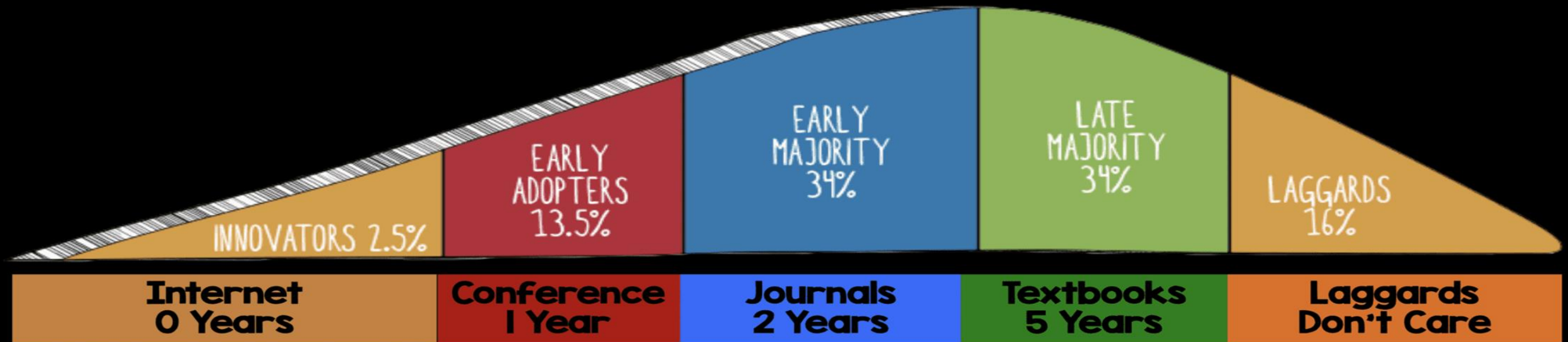


when your lecturer asks if you have any questions

A cartoon illustration of Homer Simpson from 'The Simpsons'. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a pink and white striped tie. He has a neutral, slightly awkward expression and is looking towards the right. He is holding a brown clipboard with a silver clip at the top. The background is a library with wooden bookshelves filled with books of various colors (blue, green, red, purple). The lighting is warm and indoor.

Can you repeat the part of the stuff where you said all about the things?

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@AndrewACNP1

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