



**CPR**

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation



**AED**

Automated external defibrillator

# BLS & ALS ALGORITHMS

European Resuscitation Council  
Spyros D. Mentzelopoulos



[www.erc.edu](http://www.erc.edu)



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

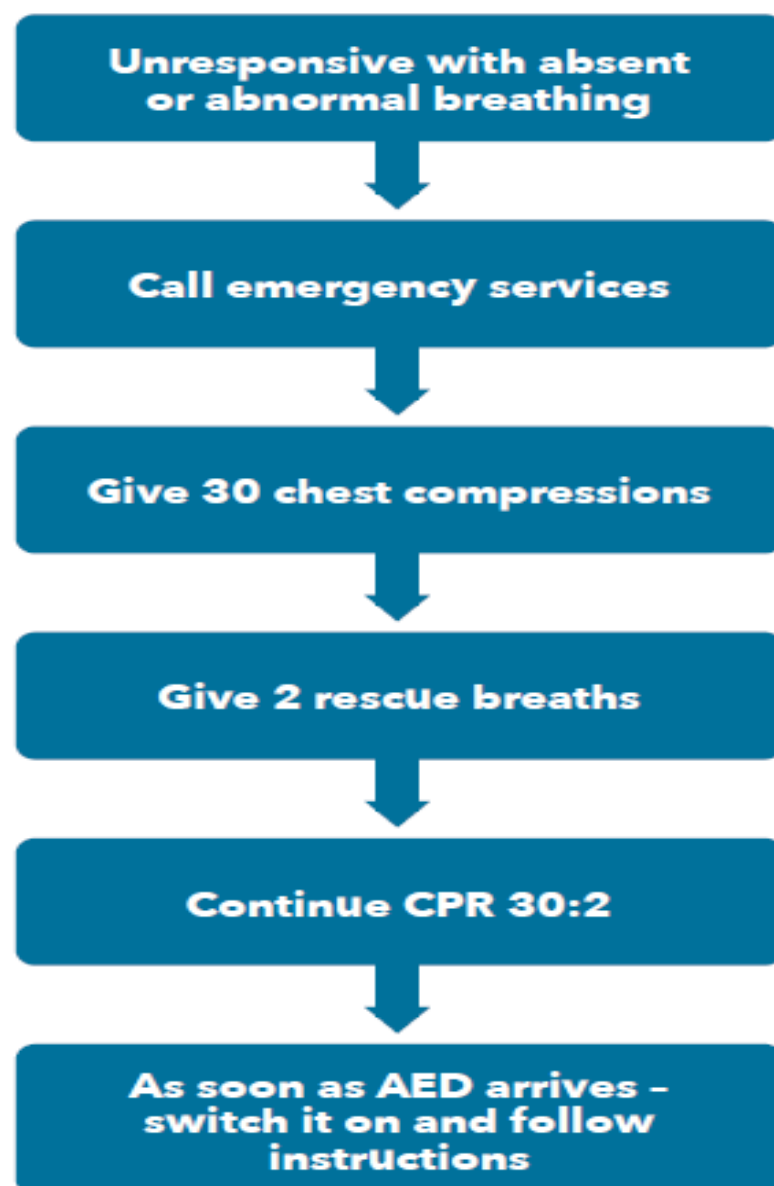


Data from registries should inform health system planning and responses to cardiac arrest



All European countries are encouraged to participate in the European Registry of Cardiac Arrest (EuReCa) collaboration

**Fig. 1.** Schematic representation of pathological processes of the post-cardiac arrest syndrome in the brain, and of single major pathway-level interventions (as proposed in Ref. [19]) versus multiple pathway interventions such as therapeutic hypothermia (TH). Therapeutic interventions are highlighted in red script; the “plus sign” corresponds to augmentation and the “minus sign” to inhibition. TXA2, thromboxane A2; PLT, Platelet; IL, Interleukin; FasL, Fas Ligand; FADD, Fas-associated protein with death domain; TNF, tumor necrosis factor; TNF R, TNF Receptor; TRADD, TNF receptor-associated death domain; AP-1, Activator protein 1; NFkB, Nuclear factor kappa beta; CIRP, Cold-inducible, ribonucleic acid-binding protein; ATP, Adenosine triphosphate; H<sup>+</sup>, Hydrogen ion; P<sup>3-</sup>, Phosphate ion; Na<sup>+</sup>, Sodium ion; K<sup>+</sup>, Potassium ion; Ca<sup>++</sup>, Calcium ion; pH, Negative of the base 10 logarithm of H<sup>+</sup> concentration; MTX, Mitochondrion; MPTP, Mitochondrial permeability transition pore; Cyt C, Cytochrome C; DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid; ROS, Reactive oxygen species; RNS, reactive nitrogen species; PTEN, Phosphatase and tensin homolog protein; AKT, Protein kinase B; NMDA, N-methyl-D-aspartate (receptor); PLA2, Phospholipase A2; FFA, Free fatty acids; Bax, Bak, Bok, and Bid, Pro-apoptotic proteins of the Bcl-2 family; PKC, Protein kinase C; AIF, Apoptosis inducing factor; JNK, C-Jun-N-terminal protein kinase; ERK, Extracellular signal-regulated kinases; P 38, P 38 mitogen-activated protein kinase. Adapted in part and re-synthesized into a single Figure from Figs. 1–3 of Ref. [8] (González-Ibarra FP, et al, Front Neurol. 2011;2:4.), in concordance with the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC-BY). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

If unconscious  
and not breathing  
normally - start CPR



**NO, NO GO**

Conscious - NO;

Breathing or breathing normally - NO;

GO - start CPR

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Place your  
hands at the  
center of the  
chest



Compress at a  
rate of 100-120  
per minute at a  
depth of 5-6 cm



Don't stop until  
help arrives or  
the persons  
wakes up

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Get an AED as soon as possible, turn it on AED and follow instructions



If you are not alone, try to minimize pauses in CPR by having one person do chest compressions while another turns on and applies the AED

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Chest compressions  
should be given to any  
unresponsive person  
not breathing normally



When trained and able to  
provide mouth-to-mouth  
ventilations, you should  
start 30:2 CPR

# ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

## Unresponsive with absent

Give high-quality chest compressions and

- Give oxygen
- Use waveform capnography
- Continuous compressions if advanced airway
- Minimise interruptions to compressions
- Intravenous or intraosseous access
- Give adrenaline every 3-5 min
- Give amiodarone after 3 shocks
- Identify and treat reversible causes

Immediately resume chest compressions for 2 minutes

Identify and treat reversible causes

- Hypoxia
- Hypovolaemia
- Hypo-/hyperkalemia/metabolic
- Hypo-/hyperthermia
- Thrombosis - coronary or pulmonary
- Tension pneumothorax
- Tamponade- cardiac
- Toxins

Consider ultrasound imaging to identify reversible causes

Return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC)

Consider

- Coronary angiography/percutaneous coronary intervention
- Mechanical chest compressions to facilitate transfer/treatment
- Extracorporeal CPR

After ROSC

- Use an ABCDE approach
- Aim for SpO<sub>2</sub> of 94-98% and normal PaCO<sub>2</sub>
- 12 Lead ECG
- Identify and treat cause
- Targeted temperature management

Immediately resume chest compressions for 2 minutes

### **High-quality CPR\***

Give high-quality CPR with oxygen  
and airway adjuncts\*  
Switch compressor at every  
rhythm assessment



### **Defibrillation\***

Apply pads/ turn on AED  
Attempt defibrillation if indicated\*\*



### **Advanced life support**

When sufficient skilled personnel  
are present



### **Handover**

Handover to resuscitation team  
using SBAR format

### **Assess\***

ABCDE assessment- recognise and treat  
Give high-flow oxygen  
(titrate to SpO<sub>2</sub> when able)  
Attach monitoring  
Obtain IV access  
Consider call for resuscitation/ medical  
emergency team (if not already called)



### **Handover**

Handover to resuscitation/ medical  
emergency team using SBAR format

# 5 TOP MESSAGES

**1. High-quality chest compression with minimal interruption, early defibrillation, and treatment of reversible causes remain the priority**

**2. Premonitory signs and symptoms often occur before cardiac arrest in- or out-of-hospital - cardiac arrest is preventable in many patients**

**3. Use a basic or advanced airway technique - only rescuers with a high success rate should use tracheal intubation**

**4. Use adrenaline early for non-shockable cardiac arrest**

**5. In select patients, if feasible, consider extracorporeal CPR (eCPR) as a rescue therapy when conventional ALS is failing**

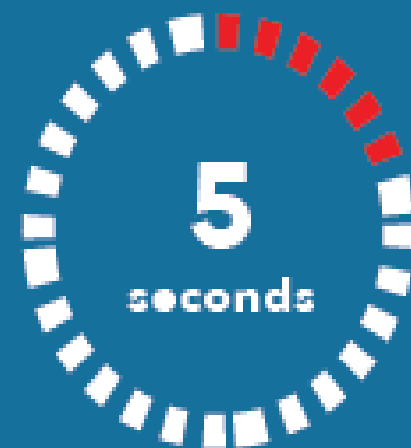
# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Give a shock as early as possible for a shockable cardiac arrest

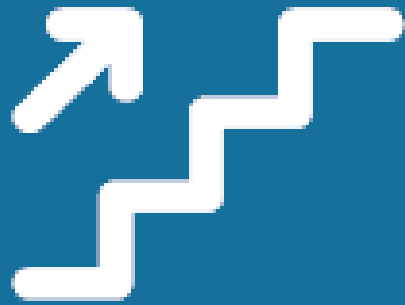


Deliver shocks with minimal interruption to chest compression, and minimise the pre-shock and post-shock pause - with a manual defibrillator aim for a total pause of less than 5 seconds

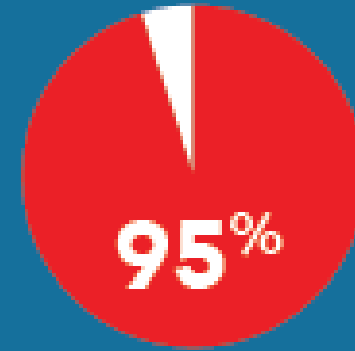


Aim for less than a 5 second interruption in chest compression for tracheal intubation

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



During CPR, start with basic airway techniques and progress stepwise according to the skills of the rescuer until effective ventilation is achieved



If an advanced airway is required, only rescuers with a high tracheal intubation success rate should use tracheal intubation. The expert consensus is that a high success rate is over 95% within two attempts at intubation

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Give adrenaline 1 mg IV (IO) as soon as possible for adult patients in cardiac arrest with a non-shockable rhythm

Give adrenaline 1 mg IV (IO) after the 3rd shock for adult patients in cardiac arrest with a shockable rhythm

Repeat adrenaline 1 mg IV (IO) every 3-5 minutes whilst ALS continues



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Consider extracorporeal CPR (eCPR) as a rescue therapy for selected patients with cardiac arrest when conventional ALS measures are failing or to facilitate specific interventions (e.g. coronary angiography and percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), pulmonary thrombectomy for massive pulmonary embolism, rewarming after hypothermic cardiac arrest) in settings in which it can be implemented

Arrange & cover the patient with plastic sheet

If possible, shift the patient to a negative pressure/isolation room

Clearly

communicate  
COVID-19 status

Use appropriate PPE  
Apnoeic oxygenation

Consider shocks before  
starting compressions  
(Use disposable paddles)

Continue high

concentration oxygen  
Consider  
Anticoagulants

Surveillance  
and  
prevention

Recognition and  
activation of the  
emergency  
response system

Immediate  
High-quality  
CPR

Rapid  
Defibrillation

Advanced life  
Support and  
Postarrest care

## OPTIMISING RECOVERY

### ICU management

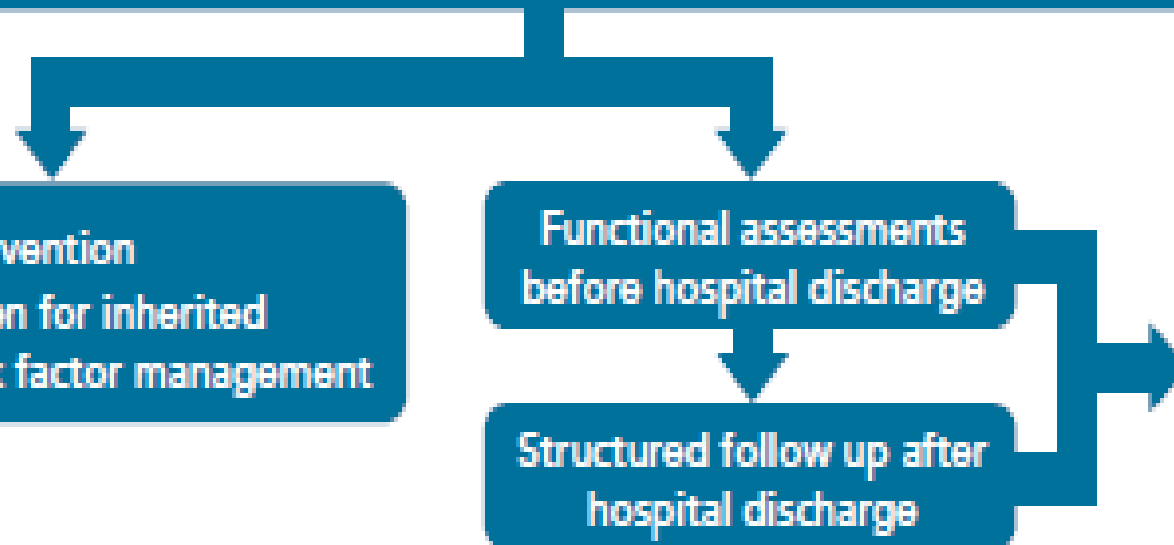
- Temperature control: constant temperature 32°C – 36°C for  $\geq 24$ h; prevent fever for at least 72h
- Maintain normoxia and normocapnia; protective ventilation
- Avoid hypotension
- Echocardiography
- Maintain normoglycaemia
- Diagnose/treat seizures (EEG, sedation, anti-epileptic drugs)
- Delay prognostication for at least 72h

Secondary prevention  
e.g. ICD, screen for inherited disorders, risk factor management

Functional assessments  
before hospital discharge

Structured follow up after  
hospital discharge

Rehabilitation



# 5 TOP MESSAGES

## 1. After ROSC use ABC approach

- Insert an advanced airway (tracheal intubation when skills available)
- Titrate inspired oxygen to an SpO<sub>2</sub> of 94-98% and ventilate lungs to achieve normocapnia
- Obtain reliable intravenous access, restore normovolaemia, avoid hypotension (aim for systolic BP > 100mmHg)

## 2. Emergent cardiac catheterisation +/- immediate PCI after cardiac arrest of suspected cardiac origin and ST-elevation on the ECG

## 3. Use targeted temperature management (TTM) for adults after either OHCA or IHCA (with any initial rhythm) who remain unresponsive after ROSC

## 4. Use multimodal neurological prognostication using clinical examination, electrophysiology, biomarkers, and imaging

## 5. Assess physical and non-physical impairments before and after discharge from the hospital and refer for rehabilitation if necessary

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Perform urgent coronary angiography (and immediate PCI if required) in patients with ROSC and ST-elevation on ECG

Consider urgent coronary angiography in patients with ROSC without ST-elevation on ECG if estimated high probability of acute coronary occlusion

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Use TTM for adults after cardiac arrest (with any initial rhythm) who remain unresponsive after ROSC



Maintain a constant target temperature between 32°C and 36°C for at least 24h

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



A Glasgow Motor Score of  $\leq 3$  at  $\geq 72$ h or later after ROSC may identify patients in whom neurological prognostication is needed



No single predictor is 100% accurate; therefore, use a multimodal neuroprognostication strategy comprising clinical examination, electrophysiology, biomarkers, and imaging

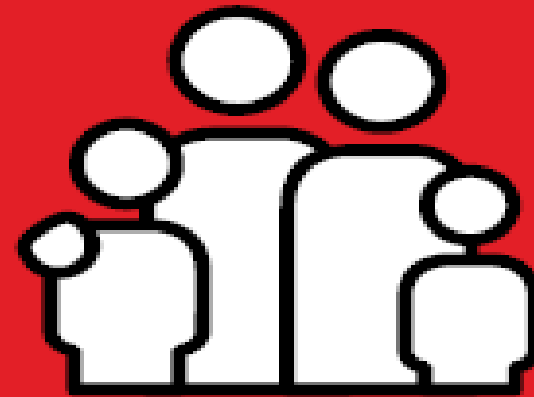


Beware of confounding caused by residual sedation

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Perform functional assessments of physical and non-physical impairments before discharge from the hospital to identify early rehabilitation needs and refer to rehabilitation if necessary



Organise follow-up for all cardiac arrest survivors within 3 months after hospital discharge, including screening for cognitive problems, screening for emotional problems and fatigue, and providing information and support for survivors and family members

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Consider organ donation  
in post-cardiac arrest  
patients who have  
achieved ROSC and who  
fulfil neurological criteria  
for death

In comatose ventilated patients  
who do not fulfil neurological  
criteria for death, when a  
decision to start end-of-  
life care and withdrawal of  
life support is made, organ  
donation should be considered  
after circulatory arrest occurs

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION !!!

