

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Defibrillation or cardiopulmonary resuscitation first for patients with out-of-hospital cardiac arrests found by paramedics to be in ventricular fibrillation?

A randomized control trial.

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Resuscitation (2008) 79, 424-431

Overview: To determine if 3 minutes of CPR before defibrillation was more effective than immediate defibrillation in patients in VF with an ambulance response time of >5 minutes.

Conclusions: For out-of-hospital VF cardiac arrest there was no evidence to support 3 minutes of CPR before defibrillation over the standard practice of immediate defibrillation for patients with ambulance "on scene" arrival times of >5 minutes.