

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Compression-only CPR-To teach or not to teach?

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Comment: There is mounting evidence to support the concept of chest compression-only CPR for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims, not least because it is simple and does not require rescuers to perform unpleasant mouth-to-mouth ventilation. The problem is that for a small, but important, minority of victims (children and those suffering an asphyxial or prolonged arrest) this is suboptimal treatment. The forthcoming guidelines revision process will require a compromise to be reached. The solution proposed is citizen training in two stages: adult compression-only CPR initially, then a second, follow-up stage when ventilation is added to satisfy the needs of minority victims.