

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Could we use abdominal compressions rather than chest compression in patients who arrest after cardiac surgery?

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Overview: Can abdominal cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) could be used instead of external cardiac massage either to protect a recent sternotomy or while chest compressions are not possible whilst a sternotomy is being performed.

Conclusions: There is currently very little evidence to support abdominal only CPR although these studies may support the concept that it may potentially increase the coronary and cerebral perfusion pressure.