

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Effects of pre-arrest and intra-arrest hypothermia on ventricular fibrillation and resuscitation.

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Overview: Hypothermia has been shown to improve survival and neurological outcomes for ventricular fibrillation (VF) cardiac arrest. The electrophysiological mechanisms of hypothermia are not well-understood, nor are the effects of beginning cooling during the resuscitation.

Conclusion: Hypothermia slowed the decay of the ECG waveform during prolonged VF. IRH improved ROSC but not short-term survival. It is possible to rapidly induce mild hypothermia during CPR using an IV infusion of ice-cold saline.