

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

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

A randomised control trial.

Baker PW, Conway J, Cotton C, Ashby DT, Smyth J, Woodman RJ, Grantham H;

Resuscitation. 2008 Nov 3;

Overview: For patients with an ambulance response time of >5 min who are in VF cardiac arrest, is 3 min of CPR before the first defibrillation was more effective than immediate defibrillation in improving survival to hospital discharge?

Conclusion: There was no evidence to support the use of 3 min of CPR before the first defibrillation over the accepted practice of immediate defibrillation for patients in out-of-hospital VF cardiac arrest.