Part 11: Pediatric Basic Life Support and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Quality

2015 American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care

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Introduction

This 2015 American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) section on pediatric basic life support (BLS) differs substantially from previous versions of the AHA Guidelines. This publication updates the 2010 AHA Guidelines on pediatric BLS for several key questions related to pediatric CPR. The Pediatric ILCOR Task Force reviewed the topics covered in the 2010 International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Science With Treatment Recommendations and the 2010 council-specific guidelines for CPR and ECC (including those published by the AHA) and formulated 3 priority questions to address for the 2015 systematic reviews. In the online version of this document, live links are provided so the reader can connect directly to those systematic reviews on the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) Scientific Evidence Evaluation and Review System (SEERS) website. These links are indicated by a superscript combination of letters and numbers (eg, Peds 709). We encourage readers to use the links and review the evidence and appendices.

A rigorous systematic review process was undertaken to review the relevant literature to answer those questions, resulting in the 2015 International Consensus on CPR and ECC Science With Treatment Recommendations, “Part 6: Pediatric Basic Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support.” This 2015 Guidelines Update covers only those topics reviewed as part of the 2015 systematic review process. Other recommendations published in the 2010 AHA Guidelines remain the official recommendations of the AHA ECC scientists (see Appendix). When making AHA treatment recommendations, we used the AHA Class of Recommendation and Level of Evidence (LOE) systems. This update uses the newest AHA Class of Recommendation and LOE classification system, which contains modifications of the Class III recommendation and introduces LOE B-R (randomized studies) and B-NR (nonrandomized studies) as well as LOE C-LD (limited data) and LOE C-EO (consensus of expert opinion).

Outcomes from pediatric in-hospital cardiac arrest (IHCA) have markedly improved over the past decade. From 2001 to 2009, rates of pediatric IHCA survival to hospital discharge improved from 24% to 39%. Recent unpublished 2013 data from the AHA’s Get With The Guidelines®-Resuscitation program observed 36% survival to hospital discharge for pediatric IHCA (Paul S. Chan, MD, personal communication, April 10, 2015). Prolonged CPR is not always futile, with 12% of patients who receive CPR for more than 35 minutes surviving to discharge and 60% of those survivors having a favorable neurologic outcome.

Unlike IHCA, survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) remains poor. Data from 2005 to 2007 from the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium, a registry of 11 US and Canadian emergency medical systems, showed age-dependent discharge survival rates of 3.3% for infants (younger than 1 year), 9.1% for children (1 to 11 years), and 8.9% for adolescents (12 to 19 years). More recently published data from this network demonstrate 8.3% survival to hospital discharge across all age groups.

For the purposes of these guidelines:

- Infant BLS guidelines apply to infants younger than approximately 1 year of age.
- Child BLS guidelines apply to children approximately 1 year of age until puberty. For teaching purposes, puberty is defined as breast development in females and the presence of axillary hair in males.
- Adult BLS guidelines apply at and beyond puberty (see “Part 5: Adult Basic Life Support and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Quality” in this supplement regarding the use of the automated external defibrillator (AED) and methods to achieve high-quality CPR).

The following subjects are addressed in this 2015 pediatric BLS guidelines update:

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S519
Pediatric BLS Healthcare Provider Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Algorithms for a single rescuer and for 2 or more rescuers
The sequence of compressions, airway, breathing (C-A-B) versus airway, breathing, compressions (A-B-C)
Chest compression rate and depth
Compression-only (Hands-Only) CPR

Pediatric Advanced Life Support topics reviewed by the ILCOR Pediatric Task Force are covered in “Part 12: Pediatric Advanced Life Support.”

Algorithms
Algorithms for 1- and 2-person healthcare provider CPR have been separated to better guide rescuers through the initial stages of resuscitation (Figures 1 and 2). In an era where cellular telephones with speakers are common, this technology can allow a single rescuer to activate the emergency response system while beginning CPR. These algorithms continue to emphasize the high priority for obtaining an AED quickly in a system while beginning CPR. These algorithms continue to emphasize the high priority for obtaining an AED quickly in a sudden, witnessed collapse, because such an event is likely to have a cardiac etiology.

Sequence of CPR
C-A-B Versus A-B-C

Historically, the preferred sequence of CPR was A-B-C (Airway-Breathing-Compressions). The 2010 AHA Guidelines recommended a change to the C-A-B sequence (Compressions-Airway-Breathing) to decrease the time to initiation of chest compressions and reduce “no blood flow” time. The 2015 ILCOR systematic review addressed evidence to support this change.

Pediatric cardiac arrest has inherent differences when compared with adult cardiac arrest. In infants and children, asphyxial cardiac arrest is more common than cardiac arrest from a primary cardiac event; therefore, ventilation may have greater importance during resuscitation of children. Data from animal studies and 2 pediatric studies suggest that resuscitation outcomes for asphyxial arrest are better with a combination of ventilation and chest compressions.

Manikin studies demonstrated that starting CPR with 30 chest compressions followed by 2 breaths delays the first ventilation by 18 seconds for a single rescuer and less (by about 9 seconds or less) for 2 rescuers. A universal CPR algorithm for victims of all ages minimizes the complexity of CPR and offers consistency in teaching CPR to rescuers who treat infants, children, or adults. Whether resuscitation beginning with ventilations (A-B-C) or with chest compressions (C-A-B) impacts survival is unknown. To increase bystander CPR rates as well as knowledge and skill retention, the use of the same sequence for infants and children as for adults has potential benefit.

2015 Evidence Summary
No human studies with clinical outcomes were identified that compared C-A-B and A-B-C approaches for initial management of cardiac arrest. The impact of time to first chest compression for C-A-B versus A-B-C sequence has been evaluated. Adult and pediatric manikin studies showed a significantly reduced time to first chest compression with the use of a C-A-B approach compared with an A-B-C approach. Data from 2 of these 3 studies demonstrated that time to first ventilation is delayed by only approximately 6 seconds when using a C-A-B sequence compared with an A-B-C sequence.

2015 Recommendation—New
Because of the limited amount and quality of the data, it may be reasonable to maintain the sequence from the 2010 Guidelines by initiating CPR with C-A-B over A-B-C sequence (Class IIb, LOE C-EO). Knowledge gaps exist, and specific research is required to examine the best approach to initiating CPR in children.

Components of High-Quality CPR
The 5 components of high-quality CPR are
- Ensuring chest compressions of adequate rate
- Ensuring chest compressions of adequate depth
- Allowing full chest recoil between compressions
- Minimizing interruptions in chest compressions
- Avoiding excessive ventilation

The ILCOR Pediatric Task Force systematic review addressed the optimal depth of chest compressions in infants and children. Because there was insufficient evidence for a systematic review of chest compression rate in children, the ILCOR Pediatric Task Force and this writing group reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the ILCOR BLS Task Force regarding chest compression rate so that the recommended compression rate would be consistent for victims of all age groups.

Chest Compression Rate and Depth

2015 Evidence Summary
Insufficient data were available for a systematic review of chest compression rate in children. As noted above, the writing group reviewed the evidence and recommendations made for adult BLS and agreed to recommend the same compression rate during resuscitation of children. For the review of chest compression rate in adults, see “Part 5: Adult Basic Life Support and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Quality.”

Limited pediatric evidence suggests that chest compression depth is a target for improving resuscitation. One observational study demonstrated that chest compression depth is often inadequate during pediatric cardiac arrest. Adult data have demonstrated the importance of adequate chest compression depth to the outcome of resuscitation, but such data in children are very limited. A case series of 6 infants with heart disease examined blood pressure during CPR in relation to chest compression depth and observed a higher systolic blood pressure during CPR in association with efforts to increase chest compression depth. Another report of 87 pediatric resuscitation events, most involving children older than 8 years, found that compression depth greater than 51 mm for more than 60% of the compressions during 30-second epochs...
within the first 5 minutes was associated with improved 24-hour survival.18

2015 Recommendations—New

For simplicity in CPR training, in the absence of sufficient pediatric evidence, it is reasonable to use the adult BLS-recommended chest compression rate of 100/min to 120/min for infants and children (Class IIa, LOE C-EQ). Although the effectiveness of CPR feedback devices was not reviewed by this writing group, the consensus of the group is that the use of feedback devices likely helps the rescuer optimize adequate chest compression rate and depth, and we suggest their use when available (Class IIb, LOE C-EQ; see also “Part 14: Education”).

It is reasonable that for pediatric patients (birth to the onset of puberty) rescuers provide chest compressions that depress the chest at least one third the anterior-posterior diameter of the chest. This equates to approximately 1.5 inches (4 cm) in infants to 2 inches (5 cm) in children (Class IIa, LOE C-LD). Once children have reached puberty, the recommended adult compression depth of at least 5 cm, but no more than 6 cm, is used for the adolescent of average adult size (Class I, LOE C-LD).16

Compression-Only CPR

The 2015 ILCOR pediatric systematic review addressed the use of compression-only CPR for cardiac arrest in infants and children. Compression-only CPR is an alternative for lay rescuer CPR in adults.

2015 Evidence Summary

In a large observational study examining data from a Japanese national registry of pediatric OHCA, the use of compression-only CPR, when compared with conventional CPR, was
associated with worse 30-day intact neurologic survival.\textsuperscript{10} When analyzed by arrest etiology, although the numbers are small, in patients with presumed nonasphyxial arrest (ie, a presumed arrest of cardiac etiology), compression-only CPR was as effective as conventional CPR. However, in patients with presumed asphyxial cardiac arrest, outcomes after compression-only CPR were no better than for patients receiving no bystander CPR.

A second large observational study using a more recent data set from the same Japanese registry examined the effect of dispatcher-assisted CPR in pediatric OHCA. In this study, the use of compression-only CPR was associated with worse 30-day intact neurologic survival compared with patients who received conventional CPR.\textsuperscript{11} Although not stratified for etiology of arrest, outcomes after compression-only CPR were no better than for patients who received no bystander CPR.

**2015 Recommendations—New**

Conventional CPR (chest compressions and rescue breaths) should be provided for pediatric cardiac arrests (Class I, LOE B-NR). The asphyxial nature of the majority of pediatric cardiac arrests necessitates ventilation as part of effective CPR. However, because compression-only CPR is effective in patients with a primary cardiac event, if rescuers are unwilling or unable to deliver breaths, we recommend rescuers perform compression-only CPR for infants and children in cardiac arrest (Class I, LOE B-NR).

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Figure 2. BLS Healthcare Provider Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Algorithm for 2 or More Rescuers—2015 Update.

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## Disclosures

### Part 11: Pediatric Basic Life Support and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Quality: 2015 Guidelines Update Writing Group Disclosures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing Group Member</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Research Grant</th>
<th>Other Research Support</th>
<th>Speakers' Bureau/ Honoraria</th>
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<th>Ownership Interest</th>
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This table represents the relationships of writing group members that may be perceived as actual or reasonably perceived conflicts of interest as reported on the Disclosure Questionnaire, which all members of the writing group are required to complete and submit. A relationship is considered to be “significant” if (a) the person receives $10,000 or more during any 12-month period, or 5% or more of the person’s gross income; or (b) the person owns 5% or more of the voting stock or share of the entity, or owns $10,000 or more of the fair market value of the entity. A relationship is considered to be “modest” if it is less than “significant” under the preceding definition.

*Modest.
†Significant.
## 2015 Guidelines Update: Part 11 Recommendations

<table>
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<th>Year Last Reviewed</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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The following recommendations were not reviewed in 2015. For more information, see the 2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC, "Part 13: Pediatric Basic Life Support."
Avoid excessive ventilation (Class III, LOE C); use only the force and tidal volume necessary to just make the chest rise.

References


**Key Words:** automated external defibrillator ▪ cardiopulmonary resuscitation ▪ pediatrics


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