

Trauma Center Practice Management Guideline

Mayo Clinic –Rochester

Withholding or Termination of Resuscitation in Adult Patients with Prehospital Traumatic Cardiac Arrest

ADULT Practice Management Guideline	Effective: 10/2008
Contact: Trauma Center Medical Director/ Trauma Center Program Manager	Last Reviewed: 10/2012

Purpose

To define the characteristics of adult trauma patients with prehospital traumatic cardiac arrest who are nonsalvageable and in which attempts at resuscitation should not be initiated or continued.

Definition

Vital Signs: Palpable pulse, obtainable blood pressure

Signs of Life (SOL): Pupillary response, respiratory effort, spontaneous movement, organized (narrow complex) ECG tracing, GCS>3.

Policy Statements

1. Adult patients suffering prehospital traumatic cardiac arrest have an extremely poor prognosis for survival and national guidelines exist to define patients who are nonsalvageable and in which resuscitation should be withheld or terminated.
 - a. Pediatric patients (age < 15) are excluded from this policy.
 - b. Drowning, lightning strikes and patients with profound hypothermia are excluded from this policy.
 - c. Medical causes of cardiac arrest (which may result in trauma) are excluded from this policy.
2. Resuscitation should be withheld for adult patients arriving to the emergency department after having suffered prehospital traumatic cardiac arrest in which absence of vital signs or other signs of life **have been confirmed and:**
 - a. CPR has been performed for more than 15 minutes without return of spontaneous circulation.
 - b. CPR has been performed for less than 15 minutes without return of spontaneous circulations **and any of the following:**
 - i. No cardiac motion observed by FAST
 - ii. Cardiac monitoring reveals:
 1. Asystole
 2. No organized cardiac rhythm
 3. Wide complex/idioventricular rhythm
 4. Narrow complex sinus bradycardia with rate < 40 bpm
 - iii. Injuries are obviously incompatible with life (e.g. decapitation)
 - iv. Lividity, rigor mortis or decomposition are apparent

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Resources / Links

Hopson LR, Hirsh E, Delgado J, et al. Guidelines for withholding or termination of resuscitation in prehospital traumatic cardiopulmonary arrest: Joint position statement of the National Association of EMS Physicians and the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2003; 196: 106-112.

Pickens JJ, Copass MK, Bulger EM. Trauma patients receiving CPR: predictors of survival. *J Trauma*. 2005;58:951-958.

Bennett M, Kisson N. Is cardiopulmonary resuscitation warranted in children who suffer cardiac arrest post trauma? *Pediatr Emerg Care*: 2007; 23: 267-272.

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Approvals:
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