



2020 Korean Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. Part 1. Update process and highlights

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elSSN: 2383-4625

Received: 7 March 2021 Revised: 7 March 2021 Accepted: 22 March 2021

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BACKGROUND

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is one of the growing medical issues in developing and developed countries. The incidence of OHCA ranges from 24 to 186 per 100,000 population, and varies according to ethnic group, country, and region.¹ The annual incidence of OHCA in Korea increased from 21,905 (44.3 per 100,000 population) in 2008 to 30,539 (59.5 per 100,000 population) in 2018.² Considering the demographic structure of Korea, which is entering an aging society, the incidence of cardiac arrest is likely to increase. The survival rate of victims of cardiac arrest is affected by various factors such as the demographic and social characteristics of each country or community, the effectiveness of the emergency medical system (EMS), the rate of bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the public access defibrillation program. Although 60 years have passed since the introduction of modern CPR, the survival rate of victims of cardiac arrest remains low. The survival-to-discharge rate of OHCA in Korea increased from 3.0% in 2008 to 8.6% in 2018, and the rate of favorable neurological outcomes increased from 0.9% in 2008 to 5.1% in 2018.² The survival rate of OHCA in the United States, Europe, and Japan, where research on cardiac arrest started early, CPR education was provided to citizens and public access defibrillation programs were implemented, is over 10%.³-5

Cardiac arrest occurs in locations outside the hospital such as home, street, public places, or sports facilities. Due to the nature of OHCA, witnesses who are not medical personnel play an important role in the process of rescuing a victim of cardiac arrest. The survival of victims of OHCA is affected by the effectiveness of out-of-hospital rescue activities, including the recognition of cardiac arrest by witnesses, bystander CPR, response time of the EMS, and on-site use of



How to cite this article:

Hwang SO, Cha KC, Jung WJ, Roh YI, Kim TY, Chung SP, Kim YM, Park JD, Kim HS, Lee MJ, Na SH, Cho GC, Kim AE; on behalf of the Steering Committee of the 2020 Korean Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. 2020 Korean Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. Part 1. Update process and highlights. Clin Exp Emerg Med 2021;8(S):S1-S7. https://doi.org/10.15441/ceem.21.021

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an automated external defibrillator (AED).⁶ To effectively treat cardiac arrest, it is important that people learn how to handle a cardiac arrest situation, how to perform CPR and use an AED, and how to carry out essential procedures on a victim of cardiac arrest. Therefore, each country or community has a variety of systems in place for effective cardiac arrest treatment and policies to enhance the ability of their citizens to cope with cardiac arrest by educating them on CPR.

The CPR guidelines are a set of medical recommendations for cardiac arrest treatment based on scientific evidence. The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR), a leading international organization that establishes CPR guidelines, publishes the International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Science with Treatment Recommendations (CoSTR) on a 5-year cycle, and has been releasing updates annually since 2015.⁷⁻¹² Based on the results of the ILCOR's review of scientific evidence, each country or community updates or revises their CPR guidelines as appropriate for that country or community, taking into account the epidemiology of cardiac arrest, the EMS, the medical environment, laws, and socio-cultural background of the country or community.

Korea has been updating its CPR guidelines every five years

since the first CPR guidelines were established in 2006 by the Korean Association of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.¹³ This article describes the update process and major changes in the 2020 Korean CPR guidelines.

Update process of the 2020 Korean CPR guidelines

The 2020 CPR guidelines include adult basic life support (BLS), adult advanced life support (ALS), post-cardiac arrest care (PCC), pediatric life support (PLS), neonatal resuscitation (NR), and education/implementation (El). Environment and chain of survival for cardiac arrest is described as a new chapter (Table 1).

A steering committee and taskforces for each field (BLS, ALS, PCC, PLS, NR, and El) were formed for the revision of the guidelines. The members of the taskforces and the evidence reviewers consisted of experts recommended by 15 academic organizations related to the CPR guidelines. The taskforce members and evidence reviewers received instructions on the methodology for revising the guidelines, including literature search, systemic review and meta-analysis, the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) method, and clinical practice guideline development methodologies. To review the evidence, each taskforce developed 'population, intervention, com-

Table 1. Topics of the 2020 Korean Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Discipline	Торіс
Environment for cardiac arrest survival and the chain of survival	Prevention of cardiac arrest, CPR education, cardiac arrest treatment system, chain of survival for OHCA, chain of survival for IHCA
Adult basic life support	Algorithms for OHCA and IHCA, checking scene safety and unresponsiveness, calling for help and activating the EMS, assessment of breathlessness and pulselessness, chest compression, opening the airway and artificial ventilation, duration of on-scene resuscitation, automated external defibrillation, relief of foreign body airway obstruction, cardiac arrest as a result of drowning, age definition, legal aspects of resuscitation, ethical issues, and COVID-19 and resuscitation
Adult advanced life support	Advanced life support algorithms, routes of drug administration, drugs during CPR, advanced airway management, defibrillation, mechanical CPR devices, extracorporeal CPR, monitoring during CPR, special resuscitation situations, and COVID-19 and advanced life support
Post-cardiac arrest care	Post-cardiac arrest care algorithm, post-cardiac arrest syndrome, comprehensive post-cardiac arrest care, treatment for neurological recovery, target temperature management, withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, prognostication of neurological outcomes, organ donation after cardiac arrest, cardiac arrest center, and evaluation and rehabilitation of cardiac arrest survivors
Pediatric basic life support	Pediatric chain of survival, algorithms for pediatric OHCA and IHCA, chest compression, airway management, artificial ventilation, compression-only CPR, and treatment of foreign body airway obstruction
Pediatric advanced life support	Algorithms for pediatric advanced life support, advanced airway management, extracorporeal CPR, suction devices, monitoring during resuscitation, routes of drug administration, drugs and fluid during CPR, defibrillation, management of peri-cardiac arrest arrhythmias, special resuscitation situations, post-cardiac arrest care including target temperature management, inter-hospital transfer, family attendance during CPR, termination of resuscitation in pediatric cardiac arrest, and sudden unexplained death
Neonatal resuscitation	Physiologic response before and after birth, first step, positive pressure ventilation, chest compression, drug therapy, post-resuscitation care, withholding or withdrawing resuscitation, and neonatal resuscitation education program
Education and implementation	Core contents and principles of resuscitation education, new educational modalities, re-training periods, quality assessment of CPR education, rapid response team, roles of the emergency dispatcher, rules for termination of resuscitation, and community strategies for CPR education and implementation

CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation; OHCA, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest; IHCA, in-hospital cardiac arrest; EMS, emergency medical system; COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

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parator, outcome' (PICO) questions for items that required revision. Two evidence reviewers were assigned to each PICO question. After the evidence review process was complete, the reviewers reported a draft of the K-CoSTR (Korean Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendation). The results of the evidence review were approved by each taskforce and posted on the website of the Korean Association of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (http://www.kacpr.org/) for an online consensus conference and public hearing. The writing members of each taskforce wrote the 2020 Korean CPR guidelines based on the results of the evidence review (Fig. 1).

The evidence reviews of the PICOs were conducted in three ways. For the PICOs reviewed by ILCOR, a PICO for which no new literature was searched was reviewed by adaptation, whereas a PICO for which new literature was searched was evaluated in the way of a hybrid review. PICOs not reviewed by ILCOR were assessed in the manner of a de novo review. One hundred and thirteen PICOs, including 28 from the BLS taskforce, 19 from ALS, 15 from

PCC, 24 from PLS, 10 from NR, and 17 from El, were reviewed. PubMed (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/), Embase (https://www. embase.com), The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (https://www.cochranelibrary.com), Education Resources Information Center (https://eric.ed.gov/), and KoreaMed (https://koreamed. org/) were utilized for literature search. Only clinical research papers were considered in the literature review. Based on the results of the literature search, either a meta-analysis or scoping review was conducted. Certainty of evidence was evaluated using the GRADE method.¹⁴ The evidence reviewers wrote a draft of the Korean evidence summary and treatment recommendations. The draft contained the evidence summary, the reviewer's comments, treatment recommendations, and related references. The level of evidence and the class of recommendation were based on the definitions developed by the American Heart Association. 15 Level A denotes high quality evidence from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) or meta-analyses of high quality RCTs. Level B-R (randomized) denotes moderate quality evidence from RCTs or meta-anal-

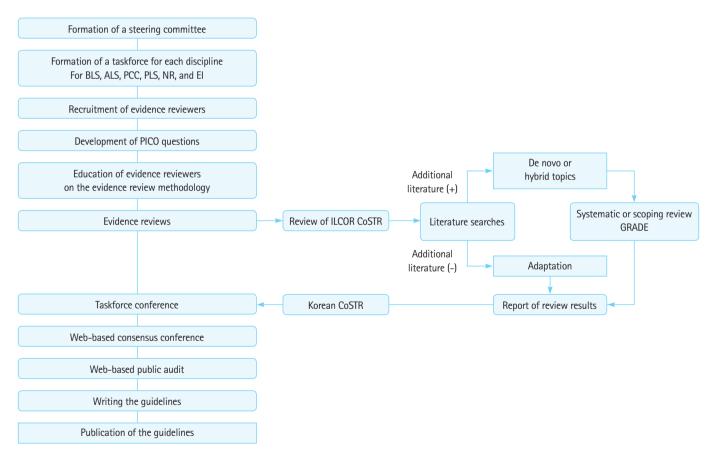


Fig. 1. The process of the guideline update. BLS, basic life support; ALS, advanced life support; PCC, post-cardiac arrest care; PLS, pediatric life support; NR, neonatal resuscitation; El, education and implementation; PICO, population, intervention, comparator, outcome; ILCOR, International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation; CoSTR, Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendations; GRADE, Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation.



yses of moderate quality RCTs. Level B-NR (nonrandomized) denotes moderate quality evidence from non-RCTs, observational studies, or registry studies, or meta-analyses of such studies. Level C-LD (limited data) denotes low quality evidence from observational or registry studies or meta-analyses of such studies. Level C-EO (expert opinion) denotes consensus of expert opinion. The class of recommendations was judged based on direction (benefit or harm) and strength (strong or weak) according to the GRADE method, and was divided into the three categories used by the American Heart Association. 14,15 Class I indicates that the benefit of the treatment or intervention is very high relative to the risk (it is appropriate for most physicians to administer the treatment or intervention to most patients). Class IIa indicates that the treatment or intervention is generally useful (it is appropriate for most physicians to perform the treatment or intervention with some exceptions). Class IIb indicates that the treatment or intervention has a positive effect, but the evidence is not clear. Class III (no benefit) indicates that the treatment or intervention has no benefit. Class III (harm) indicates that the treatment or intervention is harmful.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2020 KOREAN GUIDELINES FOR CPR

The major changes in the 2020 Korean guidelines for CPR include: 1) the concept of the environment for cardiac arrest survival and the new chain of survival; 2) the enhanced role of the emergency medical dispatcher in recognizing cardiac arrest and providing CPR through witnesses; 3) modification of priority in the maneuvers for managing foreign body airway obstruction; 4) recommendations for the duration of on-site CPR; 5) new recommendations for advanced airway management, drugs, and pediatric defibrillation energy; 6) new recommendations for target temperature management, emergency coronary angiography, neurological prognostication, and rehabilitation of cardiac arrest survivors; and 7) guidelines for CPR for patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) or suspected to have an infection.

Environment for cardiac arrest survival and the new chain of survival

The environment for cardiac arrest survival includes both medical and non-medical elements in the community that aid the prevention and treatment of cardiac arrest. Since various factors are involved in the process of treating victims of cardiac arrest, a systematic approach is needed to establish an environment for their survival. Most community members, including government officials, education experts, teachers, students, and the general pub-

lic, as well as medical personnel who directly treat patients, should participate in establishing an environment for cardiac arrest survival. In addition, an effective system of care for cardiac arrest, strategies for the prevention of cardiac arrest, and rehabilitation programs for cardiac arrest survivors should be established and implemented. Improvement of the cardiac arrest treatment system can be accomplished by continuous quality assessment and evaluation of system-wide performance. The 2020 CPR guidelines suggest a new chain of survival and the necessity of establishing an environment for cardiac arrest survival. The chain of survival for OHCA consists of early recognition of cardiac arrest and activation of the EMS, bystander (dispatcher-assisted) CPR, defibrillation, ALS, and PCC including rehabilitation. The chain of survival for in-hospital cardiac arrest (IHCA) consists of the detection of early warning signs and a call for a CPR team, high quality CPR, defibrillation, ALS, and PCC including rehabilitation. The environment for OHCA survival includes measures for the prevention of cardiac arrest, dissemination of CPR education, cardiac arrest treatment system, and quality improvement activities. The environment for IHCA survival includes an early warning system and rapid response to IHCA, ALS training for CPR team members, in-hospital system of care, and quality improvement activities.

Enhanced role of emergency medical dispatchers

Emergency medical dispatchers can help the bystander recognize cardiac arrest and perform CPR. Bystander CPR is associated with increased survival of victims of OHCA.^{17,18} The role of emergency medical dispatchers in the treatment of victims of OHCA is not limited to simply receiving calls and dispatching emergency medical technicians to the scene. The 2020 CPR guidelines recommend that emergency medical dispatchers should assist the bystander to recognize cardiac arrest and perform dispatcher-assisted telephone CPR and should use standard protocols that can help the dispatcher determine whether a cardiac arrest has occurred during an emergency phone call. In addition, the EMS should be equipped with a support system for dispatcher-assisted telephone CPR. Emergency medical dispatchers should be trained to provide the bystander with instructions including directions for dispatcher-assisted telephone CPR.

Changes in BLS

The 2020 guidelines for the basic techniques of CPR, including CPR sequence, chest compression methods, rescue breathing methods, and compression/ventilation ratio, are the same as the 2015 guidelines for these techniques. The 2020 guidelines recommend that victims should not be moved from places such as beds

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to the floor to improve the depth of chest compressions during CPR. For a lone rescuer with a mobile phone, it is recommended that CPR should be started immediately after turning on the speaker of the mobile phone or activating the handsfree function and seeking assistance from an emergency medical dispatcher if necessary. In the 2020 guidelines, a back blow is recommended as the first maneuver for a victim with foreign body airway obstruction and ineffective coughing effort.

Duration of on-site CPR

A few observational studies have been conducted to evaluate the effect of the duration of on-scene CPR; however, no large scale randomized study has been conducted on that topic yet.^{19,20} The duration of on-site CPR should be determined considering a variety of factors, including the training level of the emergency medical team providing resuscitation (BLS or ALS level), elapsed time from cardiac arrest, and transport time to the hospital. The 2020 guidelines recommend considering transporting the patient to the hospital if restoration of spontaneous circulation is not achieved after 6 minutes of on-site CPR if the resuscitation team can only perform BLS or after 10 minutes of on-site CPR if resuscitation team can perform ALS.

New recommendations for advanced airway management, drugs, and pediatric defibrillation energy

Regarding the treatment of victims of cardiac arrest, no difference was noted between the resuscitation outcomes of using bag-mask ventilation (BMV) and those of using an advanced airway.21 The 2020 guidelines recommend that emergency medical personnel should choose either a bag-mask or an advanced airway (endotracheal intubation or supraglottic airway [SGA]) during resuscitation. However, when the decision to perform advanced airway management is made, it is recommended that emergency medical personnel who lack sufficient training and experience in endotracheal intubation should use the SGA, and only emergency medical personnel with sufficient training and experience may perform endotracheal intubation. An RCT in which amiodarone and lidocaine as antiarrhythmic drugs for the treatment of refractory ventricular fibrillation (VF) were compared with a placebo demonstrated that there was no difference between the resuscitation outcomes of the patients that received amiodarone and those that received lidocaine.²² Based on the results of that study, the 2020 guidelines recommend the use of amiodarone and lidocaine equally as antiarrhythmic drugs for the treatment of refractory VF. In the 2020 guidelines for PLS, 2 J/kg is recommended as the first defibrillation energy for the treatment of shockable rhythm in children and infants with cardiac arrest.

New recommendations for target temperature management, emergency coronary angiography, neurological prognostication, and rehabilitation of cardiac arrest survivors

The 2020 guidelines recommend that adult victims of non-traumatic OHCA be transferred to a cardiac arrest resuscitation center. A cardiac arrest resuscitation center is a medical institution capable of providing comprehensive PCC, intensive treatment, including 24-hour coronary angiography and target temperature management, and tests for neurological prognostication. Based on the results of a recent trial for victims of OHCA with nonshockable rhythm, the 2020 guidelines recommend performing target temperature management for all victims (irrespective of their initial electrocardiogram rhythm) who are unresponsive after cardiac arrest.²³ In a study of patients without ST-segment elevation on the electrocardiogram immediately after resuscitation from cardiac arrest, no difference was observed between the resuscitation outcomes of the group that underwent emergency coronary angiography and the group that underwent delayed coronary angiography.²⁴ In the 2020 guidelines, emergency coronary angiography is recommended for patients who have ST-seqment elevation on the electrocardiogram immediately after resuscitation, patients with cardiogenic shock, or patients with recurrent ventricular arrhythmias.

The 2020 guidelines recommend evaluating the patient to predict neurological outcomes 72 hours after the patient's body temperature returns to normal (5 days after restoration of spontaneous circulation). It is recommended that a multimodal approach be used for neurological prognostication based on the results of neurological examination, blood biomarker levels, somatosensory evoked potentials, electroencephalogram, and imaging studies (brain computed tomography scan, brain magnetic resonance imaging). The 2020 guidelines also recommend that a structured screening and assessment of physical and psychological disabilities be conducted and a comprehensive, multidisciplinary discharge plan, including rehabilitation treatment, be established for survivors of cardiac arrest.

Guidelines for CPR for persons with COVID-19 or suspected to have an infection

Chest compressions during CPR can cause aerosols from the victim to spread through the air.²⁵ There is the possibility of airborne transmission of the virus during mouth-to-mouth ventilation, endotracheal intubation, or ventilation with a bag-mask.²⁶ Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more likely that healthcare providers will treat victims of cardiac arrest with COVID-19 or suspected infection. The 2020 guidelines provide guidelines for



CPR for patients infected with or at risk of infection with COV-ID-19. The guidelines recommend the use of personal protective equipment to prevent infection, measures to suppress or minimize the formation of aerosols, resuscitation measures to minimize exposure of rescuers to the virus, and treatment algorithms for cardiac arrest, including prioritization of techniques with low aerosol-generating potential.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study was supported by a grant (2020E330300) of the Korean Disease Control and Prevention Agency funded by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea.

We thank Ms. So Yeong Kim (EMT) for her assistance with administrative affairs and Mr. Myung Ha Kim for his assistance with literature searches for updating Korean guidelines for CPR. We also thank the Korean Association of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (KACPR) for supporting the process of proofreading.

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