

**THE ROLE OF SIMULATION TRAINING IN TEACHING HIGH-QUALITY  
CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TO MEDICAL STUDENTS**

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**ABSTRACT****Introduction**

Most medical schools teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to prepare students for first aid in clinical emergencies. Little is known about the optimal way to teach this important skill. Standard mannequins were used to practice practical skill and increase knowledge. In this study, we evaluated the comparative effectiveness of high-fidelity simulation training and standard mannequin training to teach quality CPR instructions to students of the Tashkent Medical Academy as outlined in the International Clinical Guidelines.

**Methods**

During 1 week, 60 4th year students were divided into 2 groups, i.e. simulation training (SIM) and standard training (STD) groups. The SIM team learned high-quality CPR through a three-hour hands-on session based on ERC (European Resuscitation Council) guidelines, which included training in a high-definition simulator and a PowerPoint presentation. The STD group trained using a low-quality Resusci Anne® CPR manikin. Outcomes were assessed based on specific cardiac arrest scenarios.

**Results**

Students in the SIM group performed CPR more closely adhered to ERC guidelines. In this case, the quality level of compression performance was also higher. The mean compression depth was 5.35 centimeters (cm) (95% confidence interval [CI] [5.22–5.82]) for the SIM group and 3.95 cm (95% CI [3, 80-4.32],  $p=0.02$ ) There was no significant difference between the groups in compression rate or chest recoil.

**Conclusion**

High-fidelity simulation training is superior to low-fidelity CPR manikin training for teaching fourth-year medical students the implementation of high-quality CPR for chest compression depth and compression speed.



## Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally, taking an estimated 17.9 million lives each year. CVDs are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease, and other conditions. More than four out of five CVD deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes, and one-third of these deaths occur prematurely in people under 70 years of age.

In 2015, approximately 357,000 people experienced out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) in the United States. Approximately 70%–90% of individuals with OHCA die before reaching the hospital. Approximately 209,000 people are treated for in-hospital cardiac arrest (IHCA) each year. Morbidity: Those who survive cardiac arrest are likely to suffer from injury to the brain and nervous system and other physical ailments. Additionally, nearly half of OHCA survivors suffer psychological distress such as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression.

Although the concepts of CPR are becoming better understood, there remains a large chasm between what we know and how it is performed on patients, in both out-of-hospital and in-hospital settings. Despite the fact that CPR is a critical link in the chain of survival, it is performed with inconsistent quality in both settings. The American Heart Association (AHA) CPR Guidelines emphasize that to close the knowledge-practice gap and save more lives, providers should develop a culture of measuring and ensuring high-quality CPR.

Human patient simulation provides the opportunity to address the knowledge-practice gap in the education, training, and implementation of high-quality CPR. Simulation encompasses any technology or process that re-creates a contextual background that allows a learner to experience success, mistakes, receive feedback, and gain confidence in a learner-oriented environment void of patient risk. The Institute of Medicine, the Educational Technology Section of the Academic Emergency Medicine Consensus Conference, and the public have advocated for increased simulation training to reduce medical errors. Basic life support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) have been recognized as the standard criteria for competency to manage patients in cardiac arrest. This study compares the effectiveness of high-fidelity simulation and conventional low-fidelity manikins on chest compression rate, compression depth, and chest recoil rates in TTA students according to ERC BLS CPR guidelines.

## Materials and Methods

Students participated in practical training conducted by employees with BLS provider certificates based on a specific scenario in the simulation center of TTA.

Both groups received a didactic presentation of the ERC Guidelines for CPR via PowerPoint (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington).

The practical skills part of the study took place immediately after the lecture. The purpose of this training was to train medical students to perform high-quality CPR as specifically defined and emphasized in the ERC guidelines. High-quality CPR components include indicators such as chest compression rate, compression depth, and chest recoil. Students



practiced CPR focusing on these components. During this session, education and training were identical between groups, except for the types of simulator trainers used (high-fidelity vs. low-fidelity). The high-resolution mannequin provided students with real-time feedback on chest compression rate, compression depth, and chest recoil during CPR. A low-resolution mannequin does not provide this kind of real-time feedback. Participants in the control group were given feedback after performing CPR, and because low-resolution mannequins do not provide real-time feedback.

High-fidelity simulation software allows for real-time chest compression rate, compression depth, and chest recoil data collection. The degree of compression accuracy corresponds to the nearest full compression, depth to the millimeter, and rebound to the nearest percent (100% rebound on release indicates that all compressions performed during the cycle were accompanied by adequate chest retraction).

We defined performance metrics prior to study implementation. Compression rate was defined as the number of chest compressions delivered per minute. Compression depth was defined as the depth of chest compression from the neutral position of the sternum in centimeters. We defined chest recoil as allowing the sternum to fully (100%) return to its neutral position before the next chest compression. Compression fraction was defined as the proportion of time CPR was delivered while the patient was without a perfusing rhythm. The total time measured for the absence of a perfusing rhythm began with the initiation of ventricular fibrillation and ended with the completion of the tenth cycle of CPR. For those subjects who chose the hands-only CPR methods, the end time was marked when they delivered 150 compressions. This allowed measurement of their performance after the same 150 compressions delivered in the 5-cycle CPR group.

Human resources used for the evaluation scenarios consisted of a full-time simulation specialist, a researcher to oversee the correct implementation of the study protocol, and a confederate in the scenario to provide ancillary support.

Utilizing standardized data abstraction sheets, data was entered. The definitions of the performance measures and instructions for entering data into collection sheets were covered in a training workshop for data abstractors. To reduce random data abstraction errors, we used double data entering. Reviewing the original data in the recordings to confirm abstraction accuracy helped to clear up discrepancies. All information is entered into a main spreadsheet file.

### **Results**

High quality rate was defined as  $\geq 100$  compressions/minute, depth  $\geq 5$  centimeters (cm), allowing full (100%) chest recoil, and a compression fraction that approached 100%. All outcome data were obtained during a high-fidelity cardiac arrest simulation scenario.

### **Analysis**

Data from the master data collection sheet were converted to Stata file format and analyzed with Stata (version 12.0; StataCorp, College Station, Texas). We reported continuous variables as means with 95% confidence intervals (CI) using the Kruskal-Wallis rank sum



test. A two-tailed alpha  $<0.05$  represented statistical significance. Our sample size calculations were based on effect size (difference in means) of a 5-millimeter (mm) difference in compression depth between the two groups. With a two-tailed alpha ( $\alpha$ ) of  $<0.05$ , and a beta ( $\beta$ ) of 0.2, we needed 34 subjects per group to detect a difference between groups with a power of 0.8.

For our main outcome, the mean compression depth was 5.35 cm (95% CI [5.22–5.82]) for the SIM group and 3.95 cm (95% CI [3.80–4.32]) for the standard (STD) groups,  $p = 0.02$ . The mean compression rate was 112.7 per minute (95% CI [106.8–118.5]) for the simulation group (SIM) and 117.5 per minute (95% CI [110.9–122.1]) for the STD group,  $p = 0.06$ . The mean percentage of chest compressions that were accompanied by full chest retraction was 0.965 (95% CI [0.935–0.983]) for the SIM group and 0.862 (95% CI [0.845–0.963]) for the STD group,  $p = 0.83$  (Table).

**Table** Main outcome variables according to the teaching method.

Variable	Teaching method	Mean	95% CI	P value
Compression rate/min	STD	117.5	109.9–121.2	.06
	SIM	112.7	106.8–118.5	
Depth (cm)	STD	3.95	3.80–4.32	.02
	SIM	5.35	5.22–5.82	
Recoil proportion	STD	0.862	.874–.985	.83
	SIM	0.965	.925–.978	

*SIM*, simulation training group; *STD*, standard training group; *CI*, confidence interval; *cm*, centimeter; Compression rate/min = a number of chest compressions delivered per minute; recoil proportion = proportion of compressions accompanied by 100% chest recoil.

## DISCUSSION

In our prospective, randomized, parallel-group study evaluating the comparative effectiveness of high-fidelity simulation training vs. standard training, we found that high-fidelity simulation training yielded CPR performance that more closely adhered to the ERC CPR guidelines.

Our findings that simulation results in student performance that adheres more closely to ERC standards are in accordance with a growing body of literature that supports the use of simulation in resuscitation research and teaching. High-fidelity simulation has also been demonstrated to aid in the learning, retention, and acquisition of CPR knowledge and abilities.

## CONCLUSION

In our prospective, randomized, parallel-group study evaluating the comparative effectiveness of high-fidelity simulation training vs. standard training, we found that high-fidelity simulation training yielded CPR performance that more closely adheres to ERC



CPR guidelines. Further research is needed to evaluate the most effective teaching methods for cardiac arrest care.

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