

The Blood Cultures of Patients Developing Fever or Sepsis Like Syndrome Treated in the Coronary Care Unit after Successful Out of Hospital CPR

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Background: Patients hospitalized in the CCU after successful out of hospital CPR frequently develop fever and/or sepsis-like state in the first days after admission. Accordingly, they are frequently treated with broad spectrum antibiotics. This presentation may be due to infection as well as to anoxic brain damage or other metabolic derangement. The objective of this study was the determination of objective evidence of infection in these patients.

Patients and methods: The data of all patients that were hospitalized in the CCU of our institution after successful out of hospital CPR was extracted from electronic database. The bacterial cultures obtained in the first 48 hours after admission were evaluated.

Results: Since July 2003 110 patients were hospitalized after out of hospital CPR. Appropriate cultures were obtained in 52 patients. Sixty three percent had negative and 37% had positive cultures: blood cultures were positive in 7 patients (13.5%), urinary in 6 (11.5%), sputum cultures in 10 (19.2%). Of 7 positive blood cultures in 3 was growth of coagulase negative staphylococcus (most probably contaminant). Of 6 urine cultures 2 showed a mixture of bacteria.

Conclusion: Bacterial infection is an infrequent cause of early fever or sepsis like syndrome in patients hospitalized after out of hospital CPR. The empiric antibiotic treatment should be considered carefully without proven source of infection.