WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF EMS RESPONSE?

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Aim Modern EMS provides a range of response options including management by:
1. telephone,
2. management and discharge or
3. referral at scene or transport to hospital.

We used linked data of ambulance records, hospital records and national mortality statistics for all calls to one ambulance service in England in a 6 month period to assess the costs associated with each response option.

Method We calculated costs for each type of EMS response using the linked data and NHS Reference Costs. We then used two risk adjusted indicators measuring:
1. rates of telephone or at scene management attending ED or admitted to hospital within 3 days and
2. rates of patients taken to hospital and discharged from ED without treatment to identify matched cases of correct and incorrect response decisions to compare costs of each decision type.

Results 1 87 387 cases were available. One indicator (mean change in pain score) did not require risk adjustment. For all other indicators age, condition (or call reason) and deprivation performance reflect and assessed what risk factors need to be included.

Conclusion We have created a set of indicators to reflect care for a broad range of EMS callers and care provided. However, a range of factors influence outcome and risk adjusted indicators are needed to provide fair and accurate assessments of performance.

Conflict of interest None

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DEVELOPMENT OF RISK ADJUSTED INDICATORS OF EMS PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY (PHOEBE PROGRAMME)

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Aim Measurement of EMS performance and quality has been confined to response times or a small number of acute conditions and do not account for patient or system factors that may affect outcome. We developed a small set of consensus derived risk adjusted indicators to potentially measure EMS performance reflect and assessed what risk factors need to be included.

Method We developed 5 indicators:
1. mean change in pain score,
2. % accuracy of identification of 16 emergency conditions,
3. % inappropriate decisions to leave patients at scene,
4. % patients transported to ED not needing hospital facilities,
5. % survival to admission and 7 days for 16 emergency conditions.

We also created a linked dataset of ambulance, hospital and mortality data. For each indicator we used a 3 step process to build multivariable statistical models using a range of variables including age, gender, condition, environment (deprivation), health area and treating hospital.

Results 1 87 387 cases were available. One indicator (mean change in pain score) did not require risk adjustment. For all other indicators age, condition (or call reason) and deprivation were included in the final model. Gender was also included in indicators 2, 3 and 4 and hospital had an effect in indicators 4 and 5.

Conclusion We have created a set of indicators to reflect care for a broad range of EMS callers and care provided. Overall, a range of factors influence outcome and risk adjusted indicators are needed to provide fair and accurate assessments of performance.

Conflict of interest None

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RECRUITING LAY-PERSONS TO OUT-OF-HOSPITAL CARDIAC ARRESTS THROUGH A SMARTPHONE APPLICATION BASED RESPONSE SYSTEM

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Aim Despite their lifesaving potential, automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are seldom used in out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCAs). Activating lay-persons to transport AEDs to nearby OHCAs holds the potential to increase bystander defibrillation and improve OHCA survival. The ‘HeartRunner’-system is a mobile-phone position system which activates lay volunteers through a smartphone application to attend in
OHCA resuscitation. We investigated the recruiting process and characteristics of the lay volunteers.

Method From September 1st 2017, lay-persons have been able to download the ‘HeartRunner’-application and register as a lay volunteer in the Capital Region of Denmark comprising 1.8 million inhabitants. Recruiting strategies included advertisements outdoors and in newspapers, e-information, and through nationwide television coverage.

Results During the first four months, 14,935 people registered as lay volunteers (=820/100,000 inhabitants); 52.3% were male and 28.3% were health care professionals. Median age at registration was 36 years (27–48). In total, 278 suspected OHCA were registered and 3029 lay volunteers were alerted (mean of 11 volunteers per alarm). Of all alerted lay volunteers, 51.3% (n=1,554) responded to the alarm and 56.9% (n=884) accepted the mission. Of them, 53.7% were male, 32.0% were health care professionals, and median age was 38 years (27–49). The most effective recruiting strategy was nationwide television broadcast, which recruited nearly 6000 volunteers in one day.

Conclusion Lay-persons can be recruited through a smartphone application based response system, and a high proportion accepts to volunteer as first responder in OHCA resuscitation.

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82 SPATIOTEMPORAL AED OPTIMISATION IS GENERALIZABLE

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Aim Mathematical optimisation of automated external defibrillator (AED) placements has the potential to improve out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) coverage and reverse the negative effects of limited AED accessibility. However, the generalizability of optimisation approaches has not yet been investigated.

Method We examined the performance and generalizability of a spatiotemporal AED placement optimisation methodology, initially developed for Toronto, Canada,1 to the new study setting of Copenhagen, Denmark. We identified all atraumatic treated public OHCA (1994–2016) and all registered AEDs (2016) in Copenhagen, Denmark. We then calculated the coverage loss associated with limited temporal accessibility of registered AEDs, and used a spatiotemporal optimisation model to quantify the potential coverage gain of optimised AED deployment. Coverage gain of spatiotemporal deployment over a spatial-only solution was quantified through 10-fold cross-validation. Statistical testing was performed using χ2 and McNemar’s tests.

Results We identified 2149 public OHCA and 1573 registered AED locations. Coverage loss was found to be 24.4% (1,104 OHCA covered under assumed 24/7 coverage, and 835 OHCA under actual coverage). The relative coverage gain from using the spatiotemporal model over a spatial-only approach was 15.3%. Temporal and geographical trends in coverage gain were similar to Toronto.

Conclusion Without modification, a previously developed spatiotemporal AED optimisation approach was applied to Copenhagen, resulting in similar OHCA coverage findings as Toronto, despite large geographic and cultural differences between the two cities. In addition to reinforcing the importance of temporal accessibility of AEDs, these similarities demonstrate the generalizability of optimisation approaches to improve AED placement and accessibility.

REFERENCE

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FOR OUT-OF-HOSPITAL CARDIAC ARREST (OHCA) AT PUBLIC LOCATIONS COMMUNITY BYSTANDER DEFIBRILLATION RESCUE HAS BETTER IMPACT ON PATIENT OUTCOMES COMPARED WITH DISPATCH-ASSISTED TELEPHONE CPR (DATCPR)

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Aim We compared the outcomes between a community-wide bystander defibrillation rescue program and a DATCPR program in patients after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest at public sites.

Method A prospective 2-year community-wide observational database collected from a metropolitan OHCA Web-based Registry was studied, after a citywide bystander defibrillation rescue program had been launched that public accessed AEDs (automated external defibrillators) were strategically implemented in designated locations and electronically registered; and a DATCPR program had been well run in the dispatch centre. The survival outcomes of OHCA at public locations between the two program interventions were compared. Outcomes included 2-hour sustained ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation) at hospital, survival to hospital discharge, and good CPC (Cerebral Performance Category Scale 1 or 2). All patient prehospital characteristics and outcome relations were evaluated and adjusted by regression analysis.

Results The density of public AEDs distribution increased from 3.96 to 6.24 per square kilometres in the studied 2 years. Among a total of 6,356 OHCA, 627 patients occurred at public locations, including 28 patients (male for 82%, witnessed arrest for 79%) received bystander aid by public AEDs plus CPR rescue and 243 patients (male for 64%, witnessed arrest for 61%) received DATCPR intervention. For these 28 patients, 53.6% (15/28) achieved prehospital ROSC at scene or during transport, 71.4% (20/28) achieved sustained ROSC after resuscitation at hospital, 57.1% (16/28) achieved survival-to-discharge and noticeably all those 16 (100%, 16/16) survival-to-discharge patients achieved excellent neurological outcome of CPC 1 (CPC Scale 1). Their outcomes were