

Hypothermia underutilized in cardiac arrest cases treated in US hospitals

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Therapeutic hypothermia has been proven to reduce mortality and improve neurologic outcomes after a heart attack, yet it was rarely used in a sample of more than 26,000 patients, according to a study published in *Therapeutic Hypothermia and Temperature Management*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

Therapeutic [hyperthermia](#) was used in only 0.35% of cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in this study. The authors, Pratik Patel, Sayona John, Rajeev Garg, Richard Temes, Thomas Bleck, and Shyam Prabhakaran, from Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, state that "Continued education, dissemination of evidence-based guidelines to [community hospitals](#), the development of and preferential transport of patients to designated cardiac arrest treatment centers, and enhanced reimbursement may help increase its application in clinical practice." The article is entitled "Therapeutic Hypothermia After Cardiac Arrest is Underutilized in the United States." (<http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1089/ther.2011.0015>)

"This informative study underscores the need to more efficiently target and treat cardiac arrest patients that would benefit from hypothermic therapy. The fact that therapeutic [hypothermia](#) is underutilized at U.S. hospitals emphasizes the need to identify and address barriers to this evidence-based therapy," says W. Dalton Dietrich, PhD, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal and Kinetic Concepts Distinguished Chair in Neurosurgery, Professor of [Neurological Surgery](#), Neurology and Cell Biology and Anatomy, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School

of Medicine.

More information: The article is available at
www.liebertpub.com/ther

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

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