This annotated bibliography provides an overview of current publications related to ElevatedCPR™ therapy, often reported in the literature as ‘Head Up CPR’ or ‘gravity assisted CPR.’ It includes current research, commentary, and publications important to understanding the direct benefit and physiology of ElevatedCPR™ therapy, other key topics surrounding ElevatedCPR™ therapy, as well as publications reporting no benefit from ElevatedCPR™ therapy.

The following abbreviations are used throughout this document:

**HUP**: Head Up Position, **SUP**: Supine Position, **CPR**: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, **VF**: Ventricular Fibrillation, **S-CPR**: Standard CPR, **ACD**: Active Compression Decompression, **ITD**: Impedance Threshold Device, **CerPP**: Cerebral Perfusion Pressure, **ICP**: Intracranial Pressure, **BLS**: Basic Life Support

I. **Physiology and Benefits of ElevatedCPR™ therapy**

   **First research article published (first published online in 2014)** comparing results of supine, whole body 30° head down or whole body 30° HUP CPR. Found that CPR performed with the LUCAS device, ITD, and HUP provides better CerPP, oxygenation, and cerebral blood flow compared to supine or whole body 30° head down.

   **EMS article introducing concept to prehospital providers including highlighting early success of Palm Beach County with bundled care of HUP, ITD, ACD-CPR. PBC uses a Pelican case to create a whole body tilt. Authors and researchers caution this full body tilt method because of possible dependent pooling in the lower extremities with prolonged resuscitation.**

Research abstract that highlights Palm Beach County Fire Rescue’s improved survival after implementing new protocols that include HUP CPR. This agency took early research on HUP CPR and applied it with other tested methods resulting in a doubling of survival to hospital.


Research showed that elevating head and shoulders during prolonged HUP ACD+ITD CPR but not during prolonged conventional standard CPR improves cerebral and coronary perfusion.


Examines both cerebral and coronary blood flow for supine, head up, and head down positions at various angles initially to optimize resuscitation. Found that HUP 30 degrees optimizes cerebral and coronary perfusion in this porcine model using LUCAS 2 and ITD.


Research uses microspheres to measure blood flow to brain and other organs during prolonged (greater than 15 minutes) SUP and HUP ACD+ITD CPR. Showed doubling of blood flow to brain with HUP ACD+ITD CPR (head and shoulders raised) versus SUP CPR. Time to first gasp was also found to be shorter in the HUP ACD+ITD group. Gasping may be used as a clinical indicator of improved blood flow to the brain.

Prehospital journal article highlighting the bundle of care including HUP CPR and ITD used by Rialto California EMS to double survival rates in their community.


This research developed and validated a human cadaver model to assess the physiology of HUP CPR. It shows consistent, reproducible and significant decreases in ICP and rise in CerPP with HUP CPR across the VF porcine model, cadaveric porcine model and human cadaveric model. Standard and ACD CPR plus an ITD were studied in all three models.


Abstract presented at American Heart Association 2018 Resuscitation Science Symposium. Scientific evidence showing that controlled, progressive elevation of head and thorax during resuscitation is key to this therapy.

II. Key Topics Related to ElevatedCPR™ therapy


Comprehensive review of the physiology of resuscitation. Discusses components of S-CPR, identifying common errors and limitations. Introduces improvements to S-CPR with good technique and technology including use of the ITD, ACD, and HUP.

Multicenter, randomized, controlled study. Examined prognostic value of gasping during cardiac arrest. Found that gasping during cardiac arrest, regardless of presenting rhythm, was associated with positive 1-year survival with good neurological outcome.


Using a formula similar to that for the economic burden of motor vehicle deaths, the cost of OHCA was assessed. Examining both direct and indirect cost to society they show the cost benefit of improving OHCA care.


Commentary emphasizing need for bundled care approach to a multimodal problem. Likens cardiac arrest care to care of any other complex disease. Both require new approaches, advanced technology and pharmacology that individually offer limited gains, but together have an exponential effect on outcomes.

III. Editorials, Commentaries and Special Reports: Including Those Showing No Benefit of ElevatedCPR™ therapy


EMS commentary on Debaty (2015) research as it applies to EMS. Presents HUP CPR as a simple, novel approach that should be considered for incorporation into EMS protocols.

Published only as an abstract to date. Used a model of HUP CPR with a whole body tilt with poor outcomes. Highlights potential safety issues when HUP CPR is performed incorrectly. Shows that HUP CPR is ineffective unless circulatory enhancers such as the ITD and/or ACD CPR are used concurrently.


Researchers aimed to study the effect of head elevation in BLS CPR. The study definition of BLS does NOT include the use of an ITD for circulatory support. Study concluded that although HUP CPR decreased ICP and improved CerPP, it did not improve cerebral oxygenation. These findings are similar to work of Ryu et al (referenced above) showing that HUP CPR is not effective unless circulatory enhancers such as the ITD and/or ACD CPR are used currently. Commentaries to this article are listed below.


Commentaries on 2018 Putzer et al article in Resuscitation. Moore describes what is required for successful HeadUP CPR and what should and should not be done to get the benefit from this new approach. Moore suggests that lack of ITD therapy in the Putzer study could be a critical compounding factor for the neutral finding of improved CerPP without improved cerebral oxygenation. Putzer rebuts that CerPP should not be the only measure and does concede that a bundled care approach to cardiac arrest is necessary especially in light of emerging technologies.


Editorial addressing study by Moore, et al. in the same issue of Resuscitation. Strobos recognized that the traditional approach of “lay the patient flat” may be wrong and credits Moore et al. for “Debunking another CPR myth.” She discusses the challenges of translating CPR research to cadavers. Strobos further recognizes that HUP CPR is more than just raising the head during resuscitation. She notes this should not be done cavalierly. It is only beneficial when combined with ACD CPR and ITD in a complete device-assisted head up CPR manner.


Discusses recent advances that point toward the changing horizon of resuscitation including prognostic indicators, CPR training and techniques such as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and head up positioning and resuscitation end-point decision making.