Fifty percent survival of cardiac arrest in Switzerland: an utopian goal?

**INTRODUCTION**

In June 2006 we implemented in Southern Switzerland (2811 km²/320,000 inhabitants) an Early Resuscitation and Defibrillation Program creating a network of “first responders” coordinated by the regional dispatch centre. This is the first program of this kind in Switzerland.

We test the possibility of reaching a survival rate of 50% of witnessed VF/VT within the next years.

**METHODS**

We collected data according to the Utstein style and tested our hypothesis using a linear regression equation.

**RESULTS**

The predicted percentage of patients leaving Hospital increases by 5.1% per year.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The data suggest that it would be statistically possible to attain our survival goal also considering the regression line with the smaller slope. To stabilise the trend for a better survival rate the number of bystander CPR must be improved. To reach this goal, a cultural change in our population is necessary and for this reason we have already implemented an educational program to teach the resuscitation manoeuvres to all teenagers in the last year of compulsory school (fourteen-year-olds).