

1 **SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF INTRAVASCULAR TEMPERATURE MANAGEMENT VERSUS**
2 **SURFACE COOLING IN COMATOSE PATIENTS RESUSCITATED FROM CARDIAC ARREST**

3
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ABSTRACT

Objective: To systematically review the effectiveness and safety of intravascular temperature management (IVTM) versus surface cooling methods (SCM) for induced hypothermia (IH).

Methods: Systematic review and meta-analysis. English-language PubMed, Embase and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews were searched on May 27, 2019. The quality of included observational studies was graded using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment tool. The quality of included randomized trials was evaluated using the Cochrane Collaboration's risk of bias tool. Random effects modeling was used to calculate risk differences for each outcome. Statistical heterogeneity and publication bias were assessed using standard methods.

Eligibility: Observational or randomized studies comparing survival and/or neurologic outcomes in adults aged 18 years or greater resuscitated from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receiving IH via IVTM versus SCM were eligible for inclusion.

Results: In total, 12 studies met inclusion criteria. These enrolled 1,573 patients who received IVTM; and 4,008 who received SCM. Survival was 55.0% in the IVTM group and 51.2% in the SCM group [pooled risk difference 2% (95% CI -1%, 5%)]. Good neurological outcome was achieved in 40.9% in the IVTM and 29.5% in the surface group [pooled risk difference 5% (95% CI 2%, 8%)]. There was a 6% (95% CI 11%, 2%) lower risk of arrhythmia with use of IVTM and 15% (95% CI 22%, 7%) decreased risk of overcooling with use of IVTM versus SCM. There was no significant difference in other evaluated adverse events between groups.

Conclusions: IVTM was associated with improved neurological outcomes vs. SCM among survivors resuscitated following cardiac arrest. These results may have implications for care of patients in the emergency department and intensive care settings after resuscitation from cardiac arrest.

120 **Background**

121 Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) affects more than 400,000 individuals in the United States (US)⁽¹⁾ and 624,000
122 individuals in Europe^{(Extrapolated from (2))} annually. Of these, nearly 90% die. Timely restoration of blood flow after the onset
123 of cardiac arrest (CA) is critical to survival but the act of restoring flow is associated with cell injury, termed reperfusion
124 injury.⁽³⁾ Studies in animal models of CA demonstrated that mild therapeutic hypothermia, also referred to as induced
125 hypothermia (IH) or targeted temperature management (TTM), reduces the inflammation and other harmful processes
126 that occur immediately following reperfusion.⁽⁴⁻⁸⁾ Also, briefer time from the onset of arrest or initiation of therapeutic
127 reduction of core body temperature to achieving moderate hypothermia is associated with significantly better
128 outcome.^(5, 9-12) In humans resuscitated from CA, briefer time to target temperature appears to be associated with better
129 survival.⁽¹³⁻¹⁵⁾ Two randomized trials have demonstrated that IH improves outcomes in comatose patients resuscitated
130 from cardiac arrest,^(16, 17) and mild therapeutic hypothermia between 32°C and 36°C is currently recommended by
131 evidence-based practice guidelines for use in post-cardiac arrest care.⁽¹⁸⁻²⁰⁾ However, the optimal dose, duration and
132 method for IH or TTM have not been fully determined.⁽²¹⁾

133 Multiple methods of IH are in clinical use in patients resuscitated from CA. Intravascular temperature management
134 (IVTM), also sometimes referred to as endovascular temperature management, requires insertion of catheters into a large
135 vein. Current commercially available catheters have multiple balloons on their external surface that provide a large
136 surface area in contact with the patient's blood. A console is used to circulate chilled saline in a closed loop, and heat
137 exchange occurs between the surface of the balloons and the blood so as to induce and maintain IH. Surface cooling
138 methods (SCM) require application of ice packs, cooling blankets or gel-adhesive pads to one or more areas of skin so as
139 to induce and maintain IH. Each method has differing capabilities of extracting heat, which translate to different rates of
140 achieving the intended target temperature. Methods of IH may also differ in their ability to maintain a consistent target
141 temperature as well as to control the rewarming phase at the completion of the IH protocol.⁽²²⁾ The different methods of IH
142 may also have distinct types and rates of adverse events. Small randomized trials have compared temperature control
143 and outcomes in patients who received IH via IVTM vs SCM.⁽²³⁻²⁵⁾ However, these trials lacked sufficient power to detect a
144 small but potentially important difference in outcomes. To date, the effectiveness and safety of IVTM vs. SCM of IH in this
145 high-impact population is incompletely defined. Therefore, we conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to assess
146 the effectiveness and safety of IVTM vs. SCM of IH in patients resuscitated from CA. We hypothesized that IVTM would
147 be associated with improved survival and neurological outcome compared with SCM.

148 **Methods**

149 The methods of this review were registered prospectively (PROSPERO 2018 CRD42018112541).⁽²⁶⁾ A Boolean search
150 strategy was applied to the PubMed database (See Online Supplement). In response to a request by a peer-reviewer, this
151 was also applied to the Embase and Cochrane systematic reviews databases. This was supplemented by application of the
152 Cochrane sensitivity- and precision-maximizing search strategy for randomized controlled trials, and modified for clinical
153 studies of hypothermia devices rather than drugs.⁽²⁷⁾

154 Included were observational or interventional studies that described use of IVTM and SCM of IH in adults aged 18 years or
155 greater who were resuscitated from CA, and that reported survival and/or neurologic outcomes for both IVTM and SCM
156 groups. Studies that described only IVTM or SCM without a comparison group were not included. If a study described use of
157 multiple means of achieving IH (IVTM or SCM), these data were aggregated prior to inclusion in the systematic review.

158 Unique citations were reviewed to confirm eligibility by two individuals (GN, TV, EB), and relevant data extracted (GN, EB).
159 The primary author of each included study was asked to confirm that the data had been extracted correctly. The primary
160 author for one study was unable to do so,⁽²⁸⁾ so the data extracted for that study were confirmed by a second a member of the
161 review team (EB). Differences in either study eligibility or data abstraction were resolved by consensus. The methodological
162 quality of included observational studies was assessed independently by two individuals (GN, EB) with differences resolved by
163 consensus using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment form.⁽²⁹⁾ This is scored by a star system along the domains of
164 representativeness of the groups, comparability of the groups and outcomes assessment, with a higher star score indicating
165 better quality. Included randomized trials were evaluated in a similar manner using the Cochrane Collaboration's risk of bias
166 tool.⁽³⁰⁾ This includes seven domains of potential bias and is scored as low, high or uncertain risk of bias.

167 The primary outcome evaluated by this review was survival to hospital discharge. If vital status at discharge was not
168 available, we substituted survival to 28 or 30 days or end of study follow-up. A key secondary outcome was good neurologic
169 outcome at discharge (or 28 or 30 days or end of study follow-up). Good neurologic outcome was defined as Cerebral
170 Performance Category 1 or 2 or modified Rankin score less than or equal to 3. Adverse events of interest included: shivering,
171 temperature overcooling, local or skin injury, deep venous thrombosis (DVT), serious bleeding requiring transfusion,
172 arrhythmias, pneumonia or sepsis (see Online Supplement for definitions). We sought to abstract sufficient information to be
173 able to stratify outcomes by first recorded rhythm. If relevant data were not included in the primary publication, we contacted
174 the primary author to request that they provide the missing information.

175 Results were summarized qualitatively and quantitatively by using standard meta-analytic techniques.⁽³¹⁾ Analyses were
176 performed for the overall results as well as grouped by randomized vs. observational design. Statistical heterogeneity was
177 assessed using τ^2 , inconsistency index I^2 and a test of heterogeneity with the related p value. A random effects model
178 (DerSimonian-Laird) was used to calculate pooled risk differences for each outcome. All planned analyses delineated in the

179 prospectively registered systematic review protocol were performed. Additionally, rate of arrhythmia in IVTM vs SCM was
180 included as a post-hoc analysis. Funnel plots were used to visually check for possible selection or publication bias in
181 combination with a test for funnel plot asymmetry based on a linear weighted regression. Secondary analysis used a fixed
182 effects model (Mantel-Haenszel) to calculate pooled risk differences for survival and neurologic outcome. The level of
183 statistical significance was set *a priori* at alpha = 0.05. Meta-analysis was performed by using jamovi (Version 0.9, retrieved
184 from <https://www.jamovi.org>) with its 'major' package. This was supplemented by using R (Version 3.5.0, retrieved from
185 <https://www.r-project.org/>) with its 'meta' package.

186 **Results**

187 ***Literature Search***

188 The results of the literature search are summarized in Figure 1. On May 27, 2019, 244 unique candidate citations were
189 identified by the search strategy. Four additional candidate citations were identified by the authors of this meta-analysis
190 based on their prior knowledge of the literature.^(22, 24, 32, 33) Of these 248 citations, 15 studies were identified as being
191 eligible for inclusion. After full text review of each eligible article, three studies were excluded. One evaluated use of IH in
192 patients with multiple disorders including but not limited to CA.⁽³⁴⁾ Another applied fever control methods but not active IH
193 to patients who did not receive IVTM.⁽³⁵⁾ Another did not disaggregate outcomes by IVTM vs. SCM.⁽³⁶⁾ Twelve studies
194 (overall n=5,581 patients) were included in the meta-analysis.

195 ***Included Studies***

196 The characteristics of included studies and their enrolled patients and outcomes are summarized in Table 1. Three
197 studies were randomized trials;⁽²³⁻²⁵⁾ four were prospective cohort studies;^(22, 28, 32, 33) and three were retrospective case-
198 control studies.⁽³⁷⁻³⁹⁾ Two were secondary analyses of randomized trials: one compared two target temperature ranges
199 and another compared two protocols for duration of IH in patients resuscitated from CA.^(40,41) Note that we considered
200 outcomes in each temperature range and IH duration in these articles separately. All studies enrolled patients with OHCA;
201 some also enrolled patients with in-hospital CA. Methodological quality was rated as moderate among included
202 observational studies (Online Supplement). The risk of bias was rated as moderate among included trials.

203 The majority of included studies originated from outside the US. The SCM of IH that were used in each study varied,
204 and consisted of ice packs, fans, tents, non-adherent cooling blankets or gel adhesive cooling pads. Some also
205 administered chilled fluids intravenously. The majority of included studies used a target temperature of 32-34 °C or less,
206 but two randomized trials used a target temperature of 36 °C.^(24, 40) One cohort study used target temperatures of 32, 33,
207 34 or 35 °C, depending on patient characteristics and provider preference.⁽²²⁾ The age and gender distribution of enrolled
208 patients was typical of patients with OHCA. Most studies predominantly enrolled patients with a first recorded rhythm that

209 was shockable. Insufficient information was available about patient characteristics, EMS processes of care, time from
210 activation of emergency medical services to initiation of hypothermia or achievement of target temperature, use of
211 sedation or paralytics to reduce shivering, or rate of rewarming to pool these data to make any inferences about the
212 relationship between these factors and outcomes. As well, there was insufficient information regarding the precision and
213 variability of induced hypothermia in each study to assess the association between these factors and patient outcomes.
214 1,573 patients (28%) received IVTM; 4,008 received SCM (71.8%). Survival data were available for all patients included.
215 Neurological outcomes data were available for 1,514 patients in the IVTM group and 3,962 in the SCM group. Survival
216 was 55.0% in the IVTM group and 51.2% in the SCM group. Good neurological outcome was achieved in 40.9% in the
217 IVTM and 29.5% in the SCM group.

218 ***Pooled Effects***

219 Pooled data from included studies demonstrated that use of IVTM was associated with an absolute 2% (95% CI -1%,
220 5%) greater chance of survival as compared to SCM. There was an absolute 5% (95% CI 2%, 8%) greater chance of
221 good neurological outcome associated with use of IVTM compared to SCM. These results are summarized in Figure 2.

222 There was no significant statistical heterogeneity among studies that reported survival data (p value=0.74) or in those that
223 reported the incidence of good neurological outcome (p value=0.82). There was no evidence of publication bias among
224 studies that reported survival data (regression test for funnel plot asymmetry p value=0.24) or in those that reported the
225 incidence of good neurological outcome (regression test for funnel plot asymmetry p value=0.94).

226 Secondary analysis using a fixed effects model demonstrated that use of IVTM was associated with an absolute 2%
227 (95% CI -1%, 5%) greater chance of survival as compared to SCM (Online Supplement). There was an absolute 5%
228 (95% CI 2%, 8%) greater chance of good neurological outcome associated with use of IVTM compared to SCM using this
229 method of analysis as well.

230 There was a 6% (95% CI 11%, 2%) lower risk of arrhythmia with IVTM versus SCM and an 15% decreased risk of
231 temperature overcooling with use of IVTM versus SCM (95% CI 22%, 7%) (See Online Supplement). There was no
232 significant difference between groups with regards to the risk of shivering, skin injury, clinically significant bleeding, DVT,
233 pneumonia or sepsis.

234 There was no evidence of a differential effect of IVTM upon survival to discharge or neurological outcome at discharge
235 in studies that employed a randomized vs. observational design. There were insufficient data available to evaluate for a
236 differential effect of IVTM as compared with SCM in studies of US vs. ex-US origin, first recorded rhythm, no-flow time
237 (EMS call to sustained restoration of flow in minutes), time to target temperature (EMS call to target temperature in minutes),
238 use of feedback control, precision or overshoot.

239 There were insufficient data available for a post hoc analysis to evaluate the differential effect of IVTM as compared to
240 SCM of IH with target temperature 34°C or less vs. 36 °C.

241 Discussion

242 This systematic review of randomized trials and observational studies from multiple geographically separate locations
243 reported over a decade-long period suggested that IH using IVTM as compared to SCM is associated with a significant
244 and important beneficial effect on neurological outcome in patients resuscitated from OHCA. Treatment of 20 (95% CI 13,
245 50) patients with IVTM as compared to SCM was associated with one more individual with good neurologic outcome. As
246 well, there was a significant decrease in the rate of arrhythmias and of temperature overcooling with use of IVTM as
247 compared to SCM. There was no significant difference in the rate of shivering, skin injury, serious bleeding, DVT,
248 pneumonia, or sepsis between IVTM and SCM. Several of the latter comparisons were limited by sparse data. The overall
249 quality of the included studies was moderate. There was no evidence of statistical heterogeneity or publication bias.

250 An insufficient number of patients resuscitated from CA (overall n=352) have been randomized to IH vs. normothermia
251 to have sufficient power to detect small but important differences in outcome between the two interventions.^(16, 17) Due to
252 lack of clinicians' equipoise,⁽¹⁸⁻²⁰⁾ a US-based trial of IH vs. normothermia is likely infeasible. In the absence of a larger
253 amount of additional randomized evidence of the effect of IH vs. normothermia in patients resuscitated from CA, this
254 systematic review and meta-analysis could inform ongoing debate among providers about whether IH improves outcomes
255 compared to normothermia in patients resuscitated from CA. Prior randomized trials of IH as compared to normothermia
256 in patients with CA yielded mixed results. Two trials that monitored adherence to IH and achieved target temperature
257 quickly observed improved outcomes with IH vs. normothermia.^(16, 17) In contrast, IH without early achievement of target
258 temperature was not associated with benefit.^(42, 43) These discordant results may be due in part to variation in the time to
259 achieving target temperature between trials or drugs used to reduce shivering.⁽³⁾

260 Due to discordant information about whether a target temperature of 34°C or less is necessary, many providers have
261 adopted target temperature of 36°C. However, multiple large retrospective analyses of data collected for reasons
262 unrelated to IH (overall n=100,085) suggest that among patients resuscitated from CA, a target temperature of 36°C is
263 associated with worse outcomes as compared to a target of 34 °C or less.⁽⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶⁾ Although the present analysis had limited
264 power to detect differences in outcome between different target temperatures, our observation that IVTM is associated
265 with better neurological outcome than SCM of IH could provide indirect evidence that there is an association between
266 active use of IH as opposed to normothermia and better outcomes in patients resuscitated from OHCA.

267 This study has some limitations. First, we considered only citations written in English. This reduced the number of
268 eligible citations and hence the overall number of patients included in the analysis. However, reported effects may be

269 larger in non-English as opposed to English studies,⁽⁴⁷⁾ and restriction to English-language studies is unlikely to bias the
270 results of a systematic review.⁽⁴⁸⁾

271 Second, our strict eligibility criteria reduced the overall number of studies and patients included in our systematic review.
272 While the present analysis was undergoing revision after its initial peer review, another systematic review the effect of
273 different methods of IH was published.⁴⁹ The latter included 22 studies (overall n=8,027). Of these, one study compared
274 IVTM vs SCM and reported survival to discharge but not neurologic outcome in the English language (overall n=69).⁵⁰ A
275 post hoc analysis including this additional study did not suggest that IVTM significantly improved survival vs. SCM (details
276 available from authors). In contrast to the other systematic review, we separated IVTM and SCM groups in trials of mild
277 vs. moderate IH as well as brief vs. prolonged IH, and emphasized random effects rather than fixed effects analysis. Thus
278 our methods avoid underestimating uncertainty (i.e., had wider confidence intervals in effect estimates) than the other
279 analysis. As well, we evaluated differences in adverse events as well as effectiveness outcomes with IVTM vs. surface.
280 Thus we believe that the results of the present study are more robust than those of the other systematic review.

281 Third, the majority of patients included in this analysis were enrolled in observational rather than randomized studies. As
282 such, we can infer association between use of IH and outcomes after OHCA, rather than causation. However, a subgroup
283 analysis of the results of data derived from randomized studies did not demonstrate a significant difference in effects
284 found for either neurological outcomes or overall survival.

285 Fourth, multiple factors are associated with outcome after OHCA. There was insufficient information about time to target
286 temperature in each study to be able to relate it to outcome. The SCM employed in studies included in this analysis were
287 heterogeneous, but we were unable compare the effect of specific SCM. In addition to method of IH, important prognostic
288 factors may include initial rhythm (i.e., ventricular fibrillation versus pulseless electrical activity or asystole),⁽⁵¹⁾ site of
289 initiation of IH (pre-hospital or emergency department),⁽⁵²⁻⁵⁵⁾ duration of IH,⁽⁵²⁾ and concurrent medications to reduce
290 shivering and sedation. Multi-center observational studies and a systematic review suggest that the outcomes of patients
291 resuscitated from OHCA are associated with the components of care administered after transportation to a receiving
292 hospital.⁽⁵³⁻⁵⁶⁾ These include emergency coronary angiography and selective percutaneous coronary intervention, as well
293 as deferred prognostic assessment and withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in addition to IH. Included articles lacked
294 information regarding these components of resuscitation after OHCA so we cannot draw conclusions about their relative
295 contributions to patient outcomes based on the results of this systematic review and meta-analysis.

296 Fourth, there was a significant difference in neurologic outcome but not survival with IVTM vs. SCM. It is possible that
297 the latter may be attributable to a lack of survival benefit from IH. Alternatively, the lack of significant survival benefit may
298 reflect that effective post-resuscitation care has several necessary elements, and that the included studies generally did

299 not try to mitigate the competing risk of premature prognosis assessment and withdrawal of life sustaining treatments
300 upon survival.⁽⁵⁷⁾

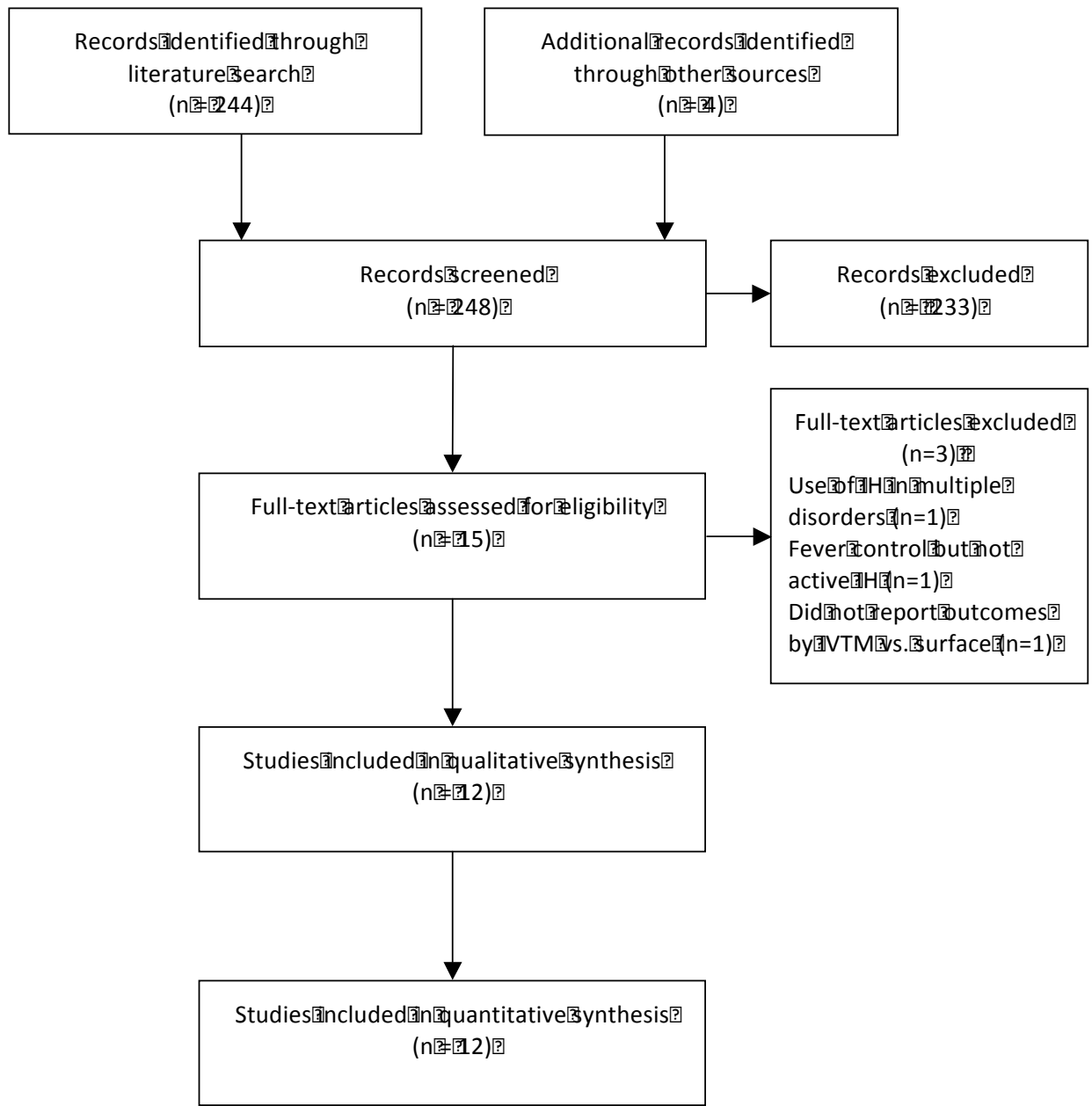
301 This study has some strengths. First, to the best of our knowledge, the overall sample size of the present study is larger
302 than any prior controlled assessments of use of IH in individual patients with CA. This yields more precise effect estimates
303 than previous studies. Second, treatment effects were pooled using a random-effects statistical model. Meta-analyses
304 commonly use a fixed effect or a random-effects model. The former assumes all studies are estimating the same (i.e.,
305 fixed) treatment effect, whereas the latter allows for differences in the treatment effect from study to study.⁽⁵⁸⁾ Although
306 both methods are criticized,⁽⁵⁹⁾ random-effects models are less likely to overstate certainty (i.e., underestimate confidence
307 interval around the pooled treatment effect).

308 Third, included studies were widely separated by geography, time and method of IH. Ordinarily, this would be expected
309 to attenuate differences between treatment and outcome. Instead, we observed significant differences. We therefore infer
310 that the observed differences are likely generalizable to other settings.

311 **Conclusions**

312 Temperature management following CA using IVTM as compared to SCM is associated with a significant and important
313 beneficial effect on neurological outcome but not on overall survival. Our findings suggest that use of IVTM may be
314 preferable to use of SCM to reduce morbidity in this population. Future research on induced hypothermia after cardiac
315 arrest should report cooling method(s) used, characteristics of cooling (including time to target temperature, temperature
316 precision and duration of cooling) as well as the characteristics of EMS and in-hospital care.
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Figure 1: PRISMA Flow Diagram of Included and Excluded Studies

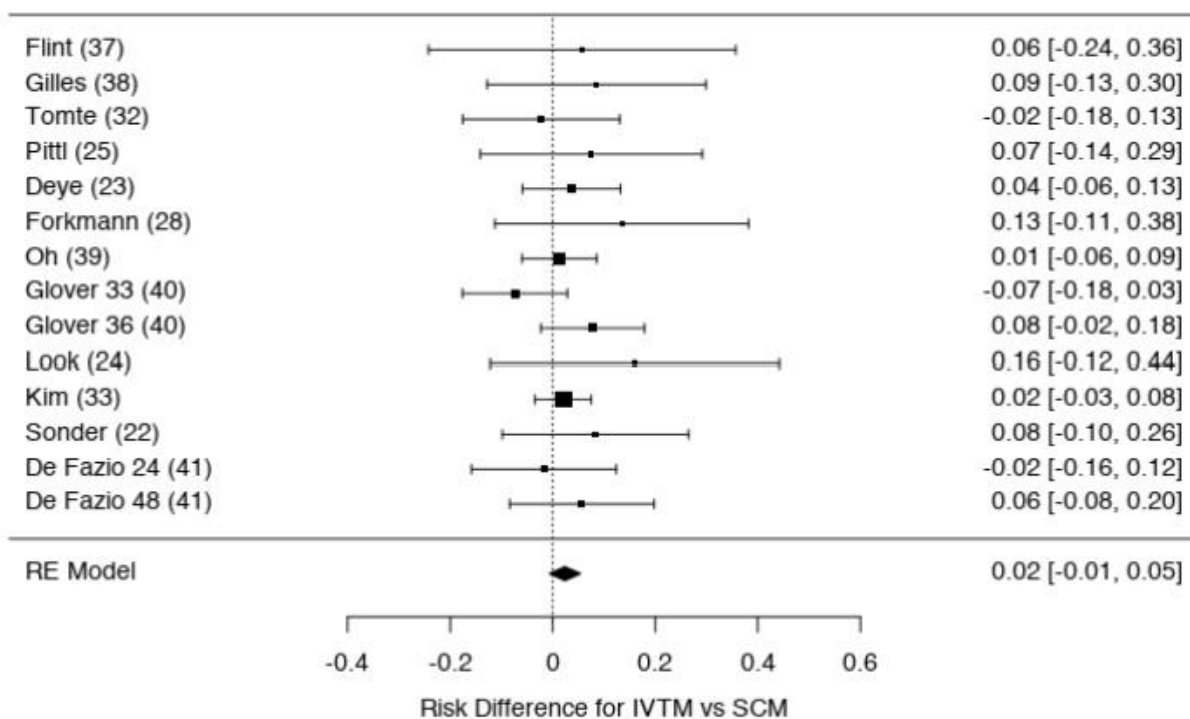


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Figure 2: Random-Effects Forrest Plots for Risk Difference in Survival and Good Neurologic Outcome

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A) Survival



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Random-Effects Model (k = 14)

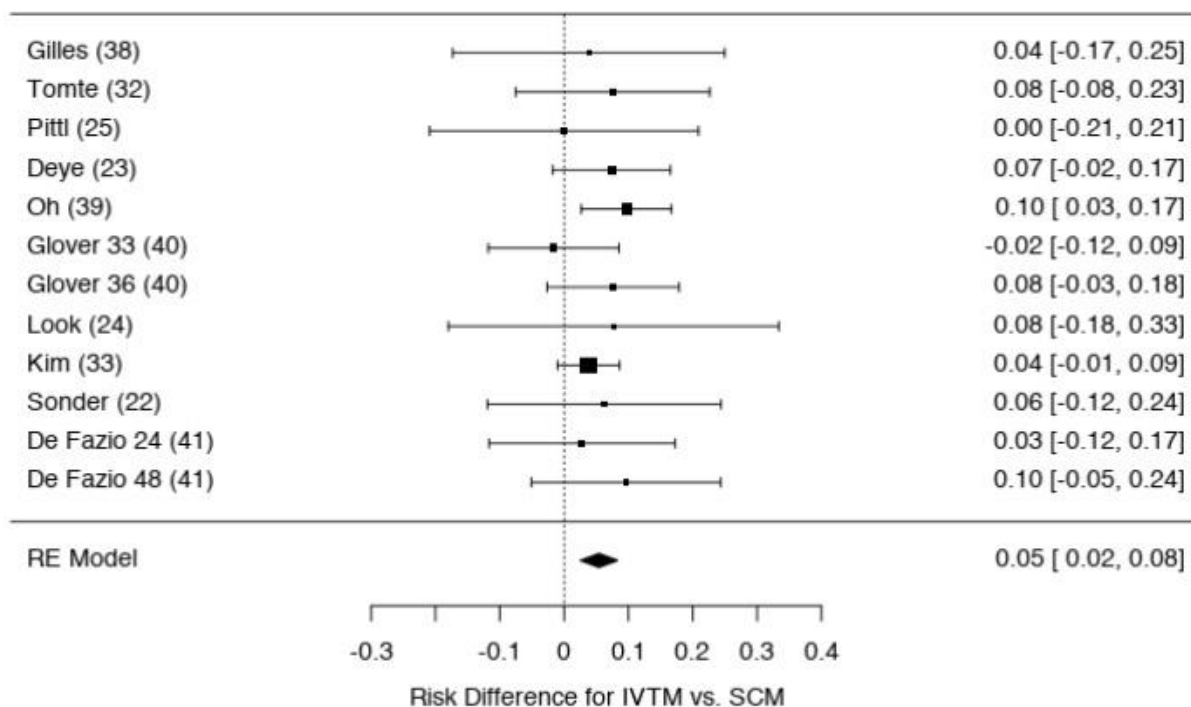
	Estimate	se	Z	p	CI Lower Bound	CI Upper Bound
Intercept	0.0238	0.0155	1.53	0.126	-0.007	0.054

Note. Tau² Estimator: DerSimonian-Laird

Heterogeneity Statistics

Tau	Tau ²	I ²	H ²	R ²	df	Q	p
0.000	0 (SE= 0.0015)	0%	1.000	.	13.000	8.328	0.822

326

B) Good Neurologic Outcome

327

Random-Effects Model (k = 12)

	Estimate	se	Z	p	CI Lower Bound	CI Upper Bound
Intercept	0.0541	0.0149	3.64	<.001	0.025	0.083

Note. Tau² Estimator: DerSimonian-Laird

Heterogeneity Statistics

Tau	Tau ²	I ²	H ²	R ²	df	Q	p
0.000	0 (SE= 0.0013)	0%	1.000	.	11.000	4.898	0.936

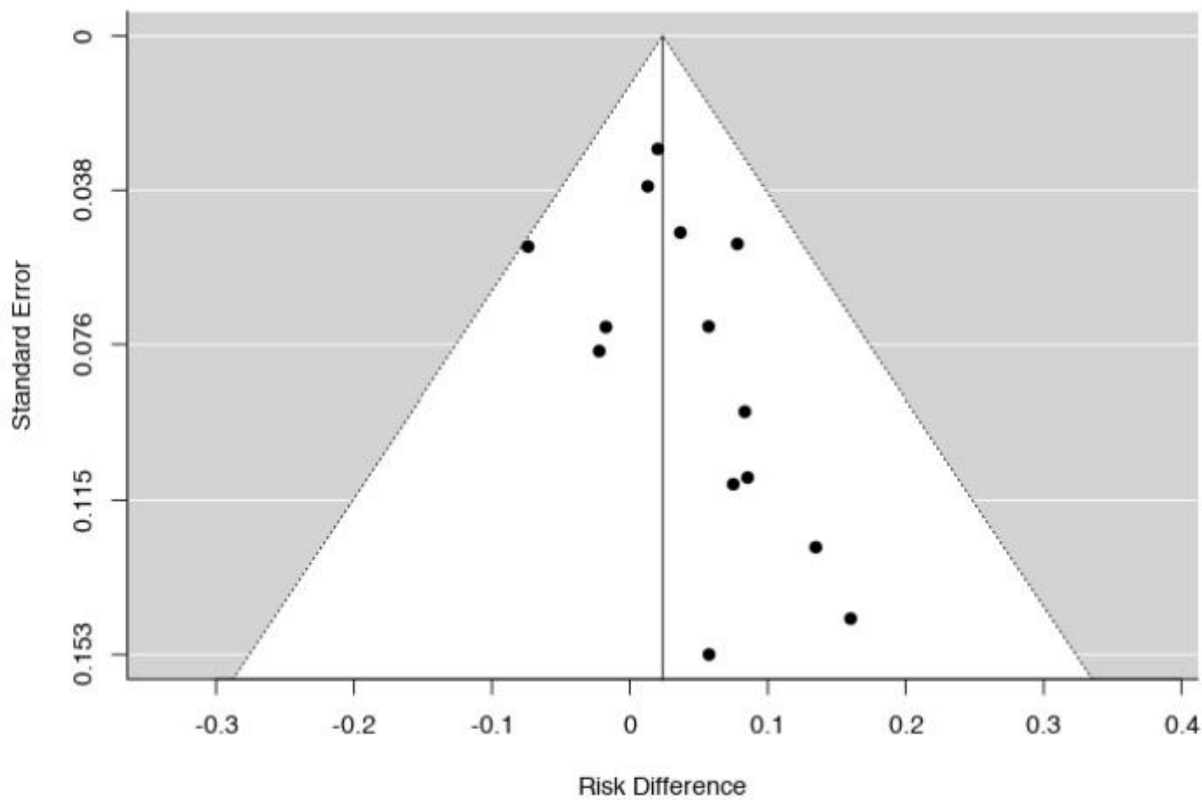
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331 **Figure 3: Funnel Plots for Survival and Good Neurologic Outcome**

332 **A) Survival**



333

Fail-Safe N Analysis (File Drawer Analysis)

Fail-safe N	p
5.000	0.029

Note. Fail-safe N Calculation Using the Rosenthal Approach

Rank Correlation Test for Funnel Plot Asymmetry

Kendall's Tau	p
0.253	0.233

Regression Test for Funnel Plot Asymmetry

Z	p
1.165	0.244

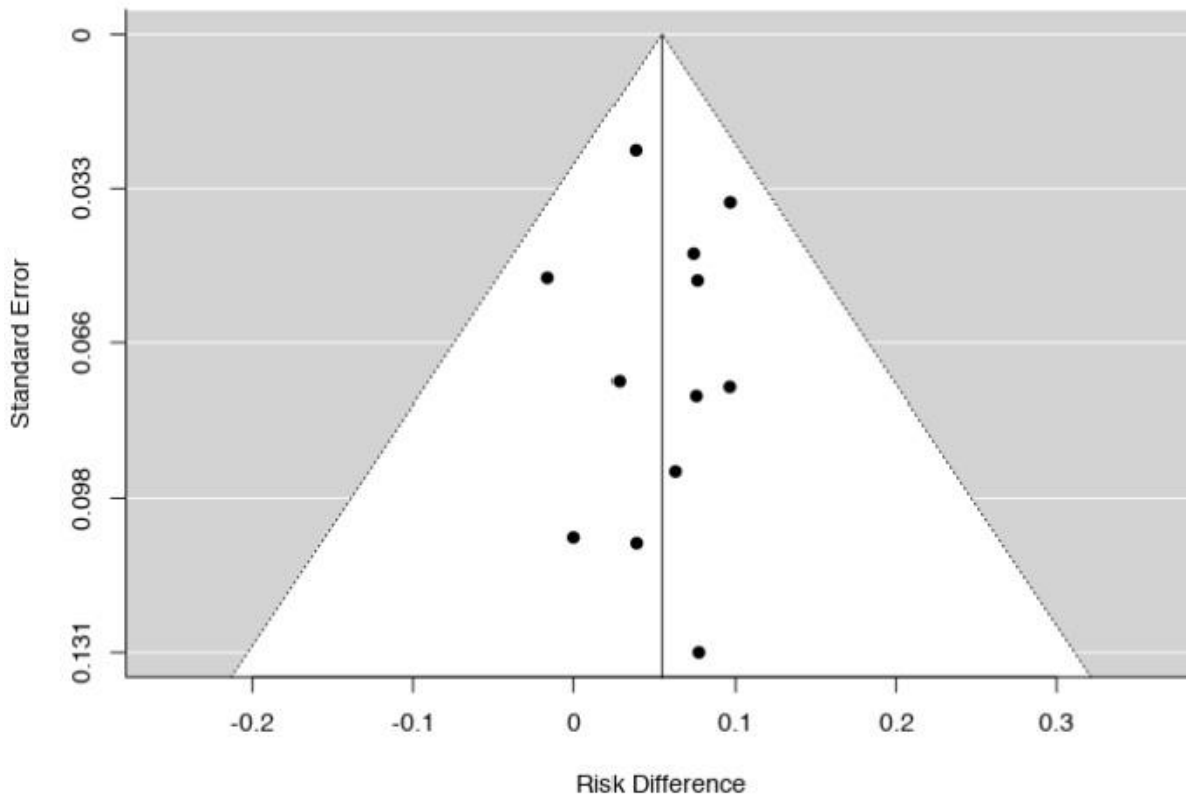
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B) Good Neurologic Outcome



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Fail-Safe N Analysis (File Drawer Analysis)

Fail-safe N	p
35.000	<.001

Note. Fail-safe N Calculation Using the Rosenthal Approach

Rank Correlation Test for Funnel Plot Asymmetry

Kendall's Tau	p
-0.121	0.638

Regression Test for Funnel Plot Asymmetry

Z	p
0.070	0.944

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343 **Table 1: Characteristics of Included Studies and Patients**

344 **(See attached)**

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346 **Table 2: Outcomes**

347 **(See attached)**

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