



<b>Title</b>	<b>Hypothermia After Cardiac Arrest</b>
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<b>Reference</b>	VA Technology Assessment Program Brief Overview, April, 2010. <a href="http://www.va.gov/VATAP/docs/HypothermiaCardiacArrest2010.pdf">www.va.gov/VATAP/docs/HypothermiaCardiacArrest2010.pdf</a>

## **Aim**

To review the literature as support for the use of hypothermia after cardiac arrest.

## **Conclusions and results**

Twenty-six articles met the inclusion criteria and were abstracted. Some studies found positive effects of hypothermia on survival and neurologic outcome of comatose survivors of ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest. Studies have concluded that cold intravenous fluids, cooling blankets, and ice packs are sufficient to induce hypothermia.

## **Methods**

VATAP searched the literature for studies published in English between 1990 and 2010 in the following databases: Cochrane Library, EMBASE, INAHTA, and MEDLINE via PubMed and Dialog Information Services. Search terms were: “hypothermia”, “cardiac arrest”, and “resuscitation”. Systematic reviews, HTA, cost-effectiveness or -utility analyses and subsequently published review-eligible studies in adult human patients were included.

## **Further research/reviews required**

Larger studies are needed to analyze subgroups, detect uncommon adverse events, refine patient selection, and calculate consistent statistical significance. How to effectively implement the procedure on a nationwide level also needs to be addressed. Fifteen clinical trials were under way, most due for completion by 2010.