

The Knowledge About the Use Of An Automatic External Defibrillator In Cardiac Arrest

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Introduction: According to current policies for early defibrillation, the use and installation of the automatic external defibrillator (AED) is essential to obtain satisfactory results in victims of cardiac arrest (CA)¹. According to Brazilian law, the DEA must be available as a mandatory item in public places of high circulation, means of transport with number ≥ 100 passengers/day and emergency vehicles². The objective of the present study was to evaluate the influence of the realization of practical courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) maneuvers and the handling of the AED in the medical student's learning. Methods: Quantitative and cross-sectional data collection was carried out by conducting an anonymous questionnaire, carried out before and after training in CPR maneuvers and use of the AED, in out-of-hospital CPR. Results: Before the course, 66.67% knew what an AED is and 33.33% did not. Of these, 66.67% did not know how to handle it and of those who did, 33.3% learned in college. Of the total number of participants, 66% declared themselves as not able to act on a victim of CA. After completing the course, 100% of the students declared themselves able to handle an AED and of these, 83.3% considered themselves able to perform a CPR maneuver in an emergency. Among the places where they reported having found an AED, 50% said it was in shopping centers, 16.7 in universities and schools. Conclusion: It was observed that the course was able to provide the knowledge of the handling of the AED, essential in the care of the victim of CA, wherein the end there was a 33.33% increase in knowledge. We emphasize the need for regular CPR training and to equip the high circulation areas with AED so that theoretical knowledge can be combined with emergency practice, enabling increased survival in CA and reducing complications.