Training school-children in cardiopulmonary resuscitation: different approaches for a common goal

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Purpose of the study

Purpose of the study: effectiveness of the CPR education's program in school-children in an Italian region (Veneto), following the recommendations of the World-Health-Organization.

Since 2013, the Italian Resuscitation Council (IRC) involved in cardiac arrest awareness with several campaigns[1, 2]. Italy in addition to other 4 countries in Europe have a law system for school-children education's program in CPR, even if the application is not mandatory neither financially supported. These programs are unevenly conducted by the territorial emergency service units in addition to external voluntary contributions.

Tab 1. Pupils and relatives instructed in Belluno

Materials and Methods

Data have been collected in the Veneto's area districts from 2013 to 2017.

Belluno's Emergency Service conducted courses to children (10-11 years old). The instructor taught the CPR skills, then the hands-on-manikin workshop completed the session. The school-children were instructed to teach the CPR protocol to their relatives with self-directed learning programme attached to mini Anne manikins.

Verona's Emergency Service instructed 220 teachers in 41 Secondary schools as "BLS educators".

Veneto's IRC Formation-Centre promoted training sessions to young water polo athletes (8-12 years old).

All the instructors were BLSD IRC certificated.

In July 2017 the Veneto's IRC Formation Center, during a mass training experience involving young water polo athletes (8-12 years old) promoted training sessions for 851 participating, and a chest compression only (CCO) competition that involved 307 children [3].

Results

In the Belluno's area district were instructed 3857 children (10-11 years old), that resulted in the 22,3% of all school-children in that age group. Furthermore they were instructed to teach the CPR protocol to their relatives, calculated in 11571.

In the Verona's area district, the expectations of the BLS educator program for teachers could be calculated in 7000 schoolchildren (16-17 years old) trained for CPR protocol, that means 50 % of all schoolchildren in that age group.

Conclusions

Both the experiences have been successful. Involving the teachers as BLS educators seem to be more effective to get the goal. Better organization and coordination should guarantee greater uniformity in this important cultural implementation.

References

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