EMD CPR

"The Agony of Agonal Respirations"

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“The Agony of Agonal Respirations”

LAFD dispatchers waste time getting 911 callers to start CPR

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- Article in LA Times
- "Speed is everything," says the report, which was obtained under the California Public Records Act. "Withholding or delaying [CPR] may result in a potentially preventable death!!"

“The Agony of Agonal Respirations”

- Percentage of CC started?
  - 31 %
- Average time to begin CC?
  - 4 minutes and 12 seconds
  - Longest 7 minutes and 30 seconds

“The Agony of Agonal Respirations”

- "Is he breathing?" the dispatcher asks
- "He's breathing," the caller replies.
- "OK, so he lost consciousness for a short period?"
- "Yes he did."
- "OK. Is he breathing completely normal at this time?"
- "Um, he's taking short breaths, we're not really sure his chest is rising or anything," the caller says.
- "What do you mean you don't see his chest rising?" the dispatcher asks.
- "He's not breathing like normally."
- "So either he's breathing or he's not," the dispatcher says. "Is his chest rising at all?"

Agonal Respirations

- Described by callers in a variety of ways:
  - barely breathing
  - heavy, labored breathing
  - gasping
  - snoring, snorting
  - gurgling
  - groaning, moaning
  - breathing every once in awhile

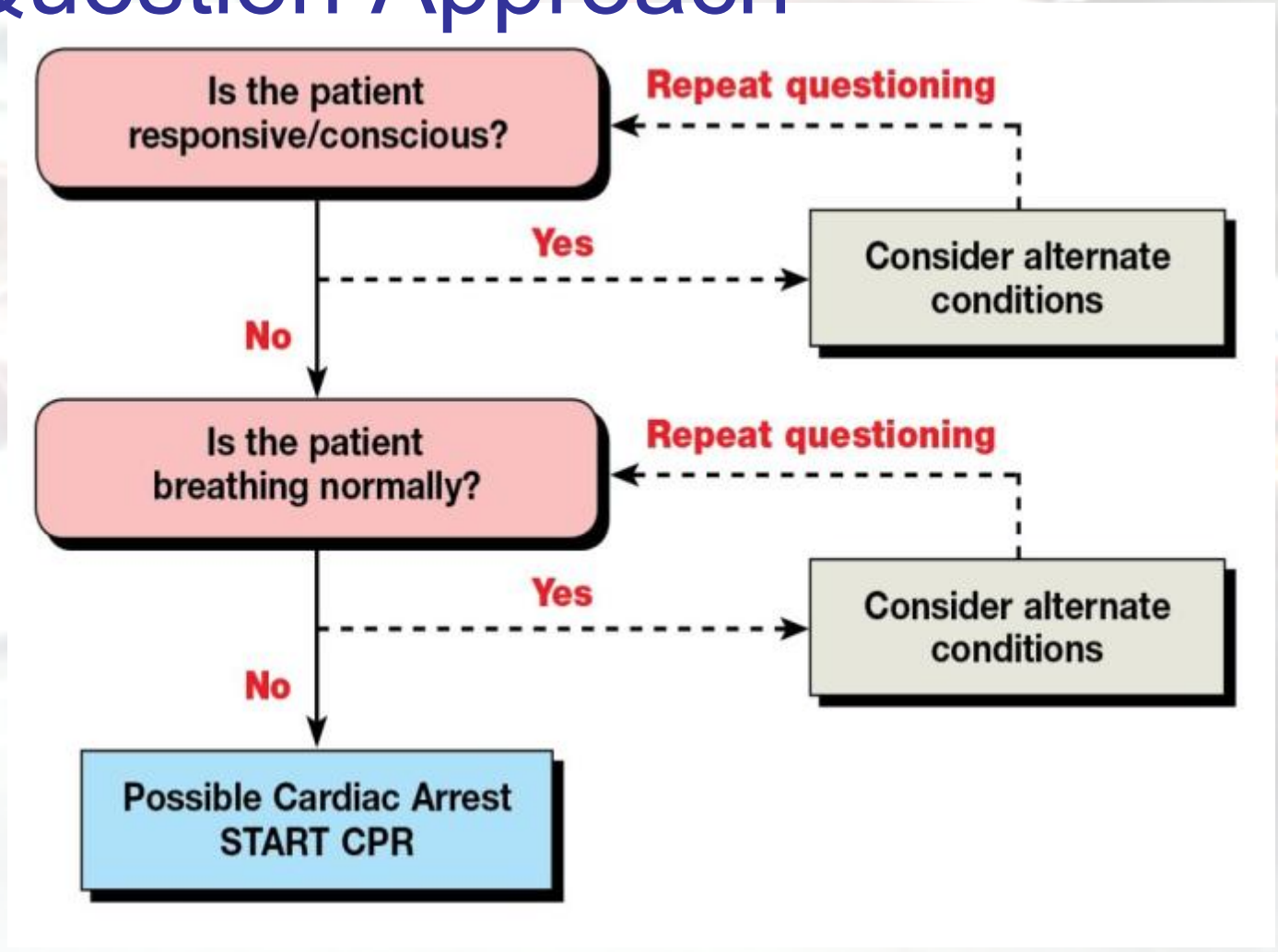
Common Delays in Delivering CPR

- Research showed these common causes of delay to CPR:
  - Unnecessary questions asked
  - Bystander not near patient
  - Omission of “breathing normally”
  - Deviation from protocols

Unnecessary questions cause delays

- How old is the patient?
- Does the patient have a heart history?
- Duplication of questions.
- What is the patient experiencing?

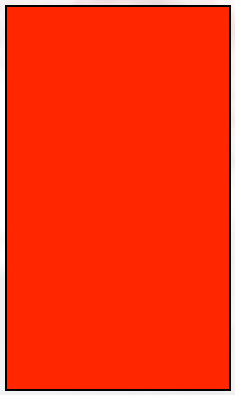
2-Question Approach

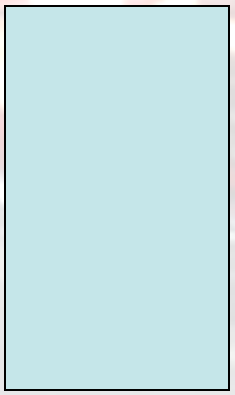


Dispatcher Instructions: Who gets CPR?

Not responsive (not awake/not conscious)

Not breathing *normally*





Minimal risk of major injury
1 : 1000

True Arrest

No Arrest

If patient is not conscious and not breathing - normally do we really need to know medical history?

All we need to know

…<u>the patient is dead</u>.

We need to offer CPR without delay and inform the caller that we will help them – example:

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- Dispatchers should help 9-1-1 callers identify cardiac arrest victims and coach callers to provide immediate CPR.
- If more dispatchers followed these processes, thousands of lives could be saved every year.
- Communities should regularly evaluate 9-1-1 emergency dispatchers' performance and the overall emergency response system, according to a new American Heart Association statement.

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- Dispatchers should assess whether someone has had a cardiac arrest and if so, tell callers how to administer CPR immediately.
- Dispatchers should confidently give Hands-Only CPR instructions for adults who have had a cardiac arrest *not* caused by asphyxia (as in drowning).
- Communities should measure performance of dispatchers and local EMS agencies, including how long it takes until CPR is begun.
- Performance measurements should be part of a quality assurance program involving the entire emergency response system including EMS and hospitals.

EMD CASE 1

EMD Case 2

EMD Case 3

EMD Case 4

EMD Case 5