

Successful bystander use of an publicly mounted AED in the country without official Public access defibrillator (PAD) program



Purpose: Ten sudden cardiac arrests (SCA) occur every day in Slovenia. Up to six victims die immediately, more than 2000 each year⁽¹⁾. Slovenia (20,273 km², 2.038.733 inh.) doesn't have national PAD program.

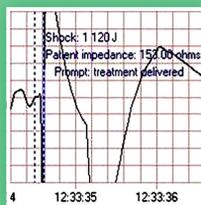
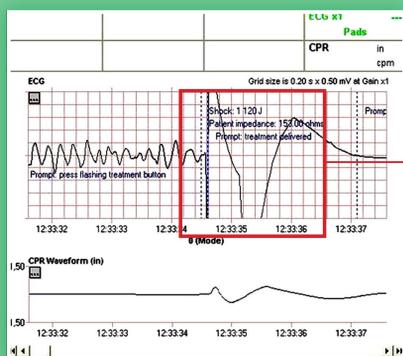
Materials and methods: A few enthusiast EMTs form an expert group inside Heart patients support group led by physician mentor and take over the initiative for PAD program⁽²⁾ in northern Slovenian region of Koroska in 2007 (region of 1041 km², 75.000 inh.) This is the only PAD program in Slovenia so far and it is voluntary based. Thirty-four AEDs were included in the past three Years. Over 1000 people attended free CPR+AED courses. Three out of ten bystanders witnessed SCA, when AED was used were successful, participants of our courses initiated the CPR and use AED prior to EMS arrival.

Results: (8/2009) 68-years old mail collapsed near his house. Bystander initiated CPR; send someone to bring AED mounted 100 meters away, called 112, one shock was delivered prior to EMS arrival, insufficient heart rhythm was established (15-20/min) which deteriorate in to VF, 2nd shock regained pulse 115/min and the patient was transported stable to the nearest hospital.

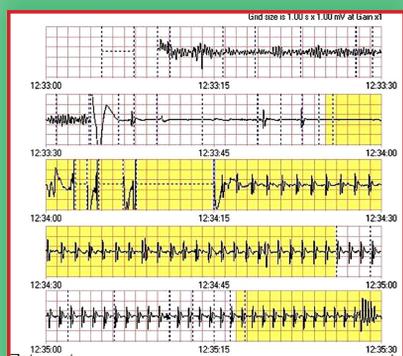
Conclusion: The increasing number of publicly available devices is not the only key to success, but the combination with CPR+AED courses for lay rescuers which has been implemented in the region free of charge for participants. The only time people are obligated to take CPR+AED course provided by Red Cross is when they attempt the driving license course. There is no other formal possibility for people to upgrade their knowledge about new guidelines on resuscitation after that. Despite the fact that there is more than 500 AEDs sold in Slovenia⁽³⁾, there is no successful bystander performing CPR+AED reports other than our few cases.

Peter Kordez, EMT, EMS:

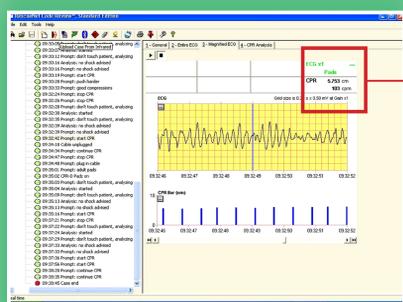
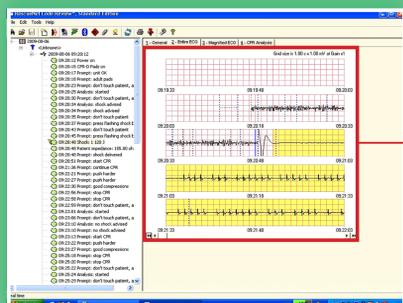
- "Zdravstveno reševalni center Koroska" (ZRCK)
- Koronarni klub Mežiške doline-Heart patient support group
Ob Suhi 11/a, 2390 Ravne na Koroskem, Slovenia



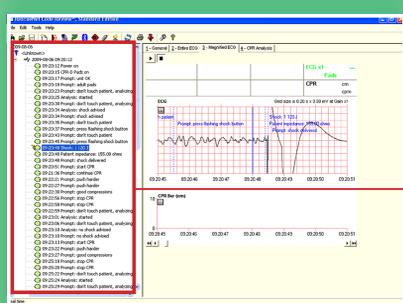
Patient imidiate recovery, Said "AUI!!!", he thought, someone hit him in the chest.



another successful case



From ignition till shock 36 seconds.



- (1) PLOJ Tom, Temeljni postopki oživljanja z uporabo avtomatičnega defibrilatorja, Ljubljana: IATROS, 2006
- (2) <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3011859>
- (3) <http://www.aed-baza.si>

