Baseline Knowledge and Experience of General Population about Automated External Defibrillator: What Our Society Know About It?

Wendy Wiharja

Introduction: Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can occur unexpectedly. The problem arises when SCA occurred at out-of-hospital setting when there are no medics/paramedics. Emergency management includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of automated external defibrillator (AED). When both of these performed, survival rate is 75% higher than CPR alone. Bystander's adequate knowledge about CPR and AED could save one's life while professional health care workers are on their way. Our study aimed to find out how far our general population knows about AED.

Methods: Online Questionnaire was created using Google Sheet Form, link: https://goo.gl/eQZ0N. This link was broadcasted using LINE, WhatsApp, and BBM application as media. Simple randomized sampling was used. There was a “only for a non-medic society” note inside the questionnaire, for limiting sample bias. There were 303 responders (160 male, and 143 female), age >17 y.o. Majority of responder's last educational level were high school (58%) and undergraduate (38%), others (4%). AED knowledge was tested using 4 questions: 1.) Who are allowed to use AED?; 2.) Have they seen AED in public places?; 3.) Where do they see professional health care workers used AED?; 4.) Does AED may be used directly to unconscious person? We asked them to answer based on their knowledge and daily experiences.

Result: On first question, 198 (65.3%) respondents answered ‘only paramedics are allowed to use AED’. Second, 251 (82.8%) respondents have seen AED in public places. Many of them have seen AED at hospital, airport, and mall. About 261 (86.1%) respondents have seen health care workers used AED. On last question, 190 (62.7%) respondents know that AED should not be used directly to unconscious person.

Conclusion: Expectedly, 198 (65.3%) responders think that they have no authorities for using AED. Many of responders (251/82.8%) has saw AED on public place, this means their awareness and eagerness to know what is AED. A campaign or seminary about utilization of AED for general/non-medic society should be encouraged.