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## ORIGINAL

### SPORTS ACTIVITIES WITH MUSICAL SUPPORT: A NEW WAY TO LEARN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION?

### ACTIVIDADES DEPORTIVAS CON SOPORTE MUSICAL: ¿UNA NUEVA FORMA DE APRENDER REANIMACIÓN CARDIOPULMONAR?

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#### ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to analyse the feasibility of teaching CPR in sports activities with musical support in order to assess if this new methodology of CPR training is as effective as a traditional CPR course. 84 university students with no knowledge of CPR participated. They were distributed in two groups randomly. The first one received an experimental fitness dance class CPR course and the other was given a traditional training CPR course. The following

parameters were obtained: fitness dance class group vs traditional CPR course: Average compression depth (41,64 vs 42,92;  $p= 0,446$ ), Chest Recoil (65,47% vs 72,47%;  $p=0,423$ ), average compression rate (102.50 vs 138.53;  $p<0.001$ ), total number of compressions (202.50 vs 277.95;  $p< 0.001$ ). The two training methods achieved similar results, so CPR teaching in sports activities with musical support can be a new training method.

**KEYWORDS:** Sports activities, cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses, cardiac arrest, teaching CPR, hands-only CPR.

## RESUMEN

El objetivo del estudio fue analizar la viabilidad de enseñar RCP en actividades deportivas con apoyo musical y evaluar si este nuevo enfoque iguala los resultados de un curso tradicional de reanimación cardiopulmonar (RCP). Participaron 84 estudiantes universitarias sin conocimientos de RCP distribuidas en dos grupos de forma aleatoria. El primero recibió formación de RCP sólo manos integradas en una clase de aeróbic y el otro recibió un curso de RCP de manera convencional. Los resultados en la clase coreografiada comparados con el curso tradicional fueron: Profundidad media de compresiones (41,64 vs 42,92;  $p= 0,446$ ), re-expansión correcta (65,47% vs 72,47%;  $p=0,423$ ), frecuencia de compresiones en un minuto (102,50 vs 138,53;  $p<0,001$ ), compresiones totales (202,50 vs 277,95;  $p< 0,001$ ). Los dos métodos formativos alcanzaron resultados similares por lo que la introducción de la enseñanza de RCP en actividades deportivas puede ser un nuevo método formativo.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Actividades deportivas, cursos de reanimación cardiopulmonar, parada cardiorrespiratoria, enseñanza de RCP, compresiones continuas.

## INTRODUCTION

Sudden out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is one of the most frequent causes of death and morbidity in the industrialized nations (1-5). Immediate recognition of the situation, prompt initiation of bystander CPR and early defibrillation (6-9) are essential to improve the victim's outcome, hence doubling or quadrupling the chance of survival (6,10-13).

The rate of bystander CPR varies greatly among communities, from 10% to 65% (14) and the impact of citizen CPR training (14) according to the current international CPR guidelines (6) has been limited because of the difficulties in reaching 100% of the population.

Due to the difficulty in guaranteeing training 100% of the population in CPR, the World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed the "Kids Save Lives" Statement in 2015 (15) a joint statement from the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) and the main societies related to resuscitation and patient safety. This statement

recommends two hours of CPR training annually from the age of 12 in all schools worldwide based on the fact that the highest bystander CPR rates are found in some Scandinavian countries where CPR education in schools has been mandatory for decades. (Hands that help-training children is training for life). They even recommend that the children be encouraged to train friends and family over the two weeks following the course (15-17) to try to increase the percentage of bystander CPR in the adult population.

However, in spite of the statement's recommendation, it is difficult to reach a high percentage of the population and for the CPR skills learned in childhood to be maintained. CPR skills decay within 3 to 6 months after initial training (18), which highlights the importance of periodically refreshing CPR skills (18-21). Frequent training improves CPR skills, responder confidence and willingness to perform CPR (18). This is particularly important in the elderly population who are most likely to witness OHCA at home and who may not be trained and strong enough to correctly apply these skills. This is why new teaching methods and initiatives are needed (16,17,22-27).

According to the 2014 Eurobarometer survey on sport and physical activity (28) a 41% (22% to 70%) of the European Union population exercise at least once a week whereas 17% seldom exercise. Sports related activities, fitness classes, dance fitness classes, (dance workout, dance exercise classes, Pilates) are highly practised worldwide. Those who do these activities regularly attend classes and do physical exercise over a period of years. CPR skills, especially chest compressions, and sport activities with musical support are both physical activities, they both consist of a sequence of steps and abilities and competences and both are based in the repetition of rhythmic patterns: if CPR skills could be integrated and taught in these sports classes as a part of their routine, it would be possible not only to reach a greater percentage of the population but also to periodically refresh (18) these psychomotor skills with regular training. Even in these classes, like Pilates, the training could be specifically designed to improve the strength needed to deliver chest compressions in the elderly people (20,29,30).

The aim of the study was to analyse the feasibility of teaching CPR in sports activities with musical support and to assess if this new approach equalises the results of a traditional cardiopulmonary resuscitation course (CPR).

## **METHODS**

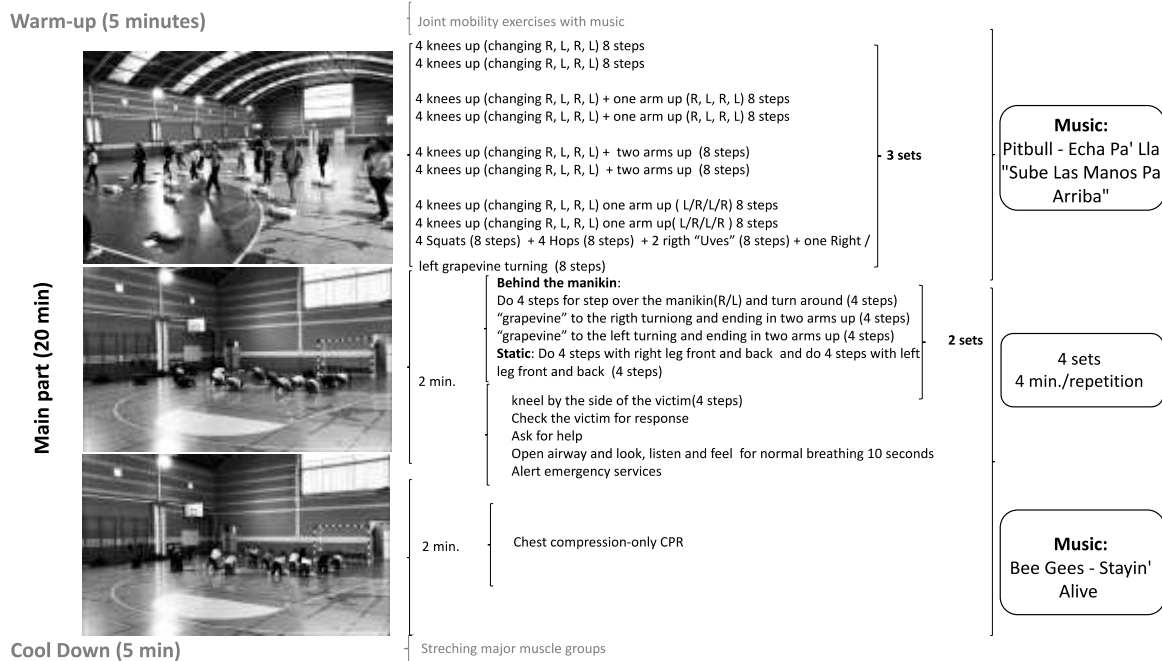
### ***Study Design***

In a quasi-experimental study, students from the Faculty of Teacher Training at the University of Santiago de Compostela, Lugo that had received no prior CPR training and had never participated in fitness classes were simple randomly assigned to two groups according to gender and their number on the class list. Because the small number of male participants finally only females participated in the study. The first group received an experimental fitness dance class CPR course (FDC) and the other was given a traditional training CPR course (TTC).

Those individuals who had received previous training were excluded. The teaching experiences were based on a chest compressions-only CPR course according to current guidelines (6). After both courses a CPR skill evaluation was conducted to evaluate skills acquisition and then the performance results were compared. Automated corrective chest compressions feedback manikins (32) could not be used due to the lack of resources. Each participant received verbal explanations and signed an informed consent form. Before the beginning of the study, ethics approval was solicited from the Ethical Committee of the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) respecting the ethical principles of the Helsinki Convention.

### ***Fitness dance class CPR course (FDC)***

This process activity included three weekly (Thursdays) 30-minute classes divided into 3 ten-minute cycles of 5 minutes of fitness activity (warming-up phase), 20 minutes of the main part phase, 3 minutes of fitness-like dance related CPR choreography, 2 minutes including victim evaluation and call for help, and 2 minutes of chest compression-only CPR carried out to the beat of Staying Alive (100 beats per minute to reinforce chest compressions frequency) (see Figure 1). The class ended up in a five-minute cool down and stretching. The specific time devoted to CPR was 12 minutes per class. A mixture of Laerdal (Norway) manikins, Little Anne, Resusci Anne and Mini Anne were used. These classes were designed and taught by a PE teacher Basic Life Support CPR instructor.



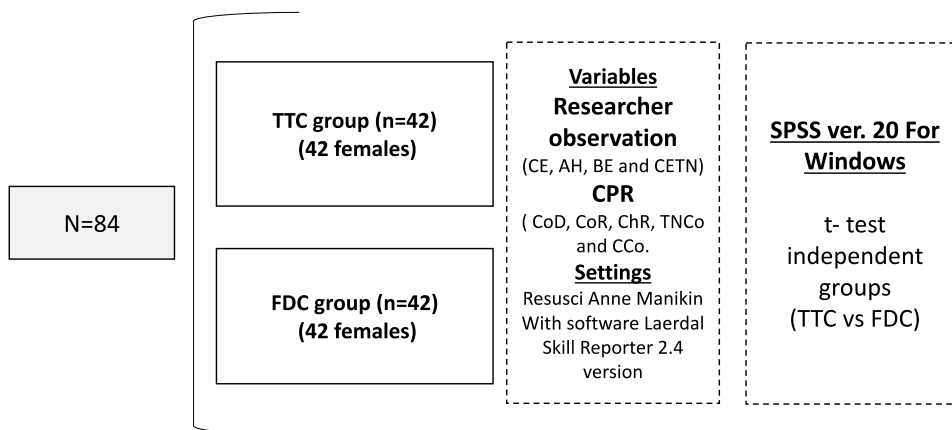
**Figure 1.** Fitness dance class CPR course in motion.

### **Traditional training CPR course (TTC)**

A standard 70-minute, chest compression-only CPR instructor-led course was given to the students in this group by EMS staff, following the structure and instructor-to-pupil ratio recommended by the European Resuscitation Guidelines (18). The length of the course was chosen to coincide with that of the whole fitness course. The theoretical part with audiovisual support (power point) included the chain of survival, recognition of cardiac arrest (check the victim for a response, open the airway head-tilt and chin-lift, look, listen and feel for normal breathing) call for help, chest compressions, and lasted 20 minutes. The practical part included a cardiac arrest simulation that lasted 16 minutes and was attended by two participants that changed positions every two minutes, but first they had to follow every step in cardiac arrest identification. Automated corrective chest compressions feedback manikins could not be used due to the lack of resources.

### **CPR skill evaluation**

A week after the third session of the FDC and immediately after receiving the TTC, a two-minutes chest compression-only CPR skill evaluation was conducted. The CPR manikin used for performance and data gathering was the Laerdal Resusci Anne manikin with Skill reporter software version 2.4; Laerdal medical AS, Norway. A summary of the study design is presented in Figure 2.



**NOTE:** Traditional training CPR course = TTC; Fitness dance class CPR course = FDC; Consciousness evaluation = CE; Ask for help =AH; Breathing evaluation = BE; = CETN: Compression depth = CoD; Compression rate = CoR; Chest recoil percentage = ChR; Total number of compressions = TNC0; and Percentage of correct compressions = Cco.

**Figure 2.** Flow chart

### **Data Collection**

The information collected in the questionnaire included the participants' gender, age, height, weight and BMI. The researcher observations (Table 1) were

written down on an observation form with dichotomous responses (Yes-No or Correct-Incorrect) and were evaluated in the fitness dance class (FDC) and in the traditional training course (TTC). The manikin program collected average compression depth (CoD), compression rate (CoR), chest recoil percentage (ChR), total number of compressions (TNC<sub>o</sub>), percentage of correct compressions (CC<sub>o</sub>) and compression rate (CoR).

## Data analysis

Continuous variables were summarized by the mean and standard deviation (SD) and the two CPR teaching methods were then compared. The significance of difference was set at the  $p < .05$  level with the corresponding 95% confidence interval (95%CI). The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to assess normal distribution of the data. The Student's t-test for independent samples was conducted to see whether there was a significant difference between CPR parameters. Pearson's Chi-squared test was used to evaluate the differences between groups about researcher observations. All the data was processed using the SPSS version 20 statistical package for MS Windows (SPSS Inc., IBM, USA).

## RESULTS

The experimental group consisted of a randomized sample of 84 females with a mean age of 20.66 (SD= 1.68): 42 subjects in the fitness dance class group and the same number in the traditional training course group.

### Researcher observations

The observed results can be seen in Table 1. Statistically significant differences were found between both training programs in: Consciousness evaluation ( $p = 0.029$ ); Ask for help ( $p = 0.004$ ); Breathing evaluation ( $p = 0.029$ ) and Call emergency number ( $p = 0.002$ ).

**Table 1.** Results for the descriptive analysis of the variables analyzed. Researcher's observations.

	Training Programs	
	FDC (n=42)	TTC (n=42)
Consciousness evaluation	No	0 (0.0%)
	Yes	42 (100.0 %)
Ask for help	No	6 (14.29%)
	Yes	36 (85.71%)
Breathing evaluation	Incorrect	4 (9.53%)
	Correct	38 (90.47 %)
Call emergency telephone number	No	7 (16.67%)
	Yes	35 (83.33%)

**FDC:** Fitness Dance Class CPR course; **TTC:** Traditional Training Course. **n:** Number of subjects.

## Manikin CPR parameters collected

The Manikin's parameters after training programs can be seen in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Results for the descriptive analysis of the sample segregated according to the training process and comparison of means collected by the manikin programme.

Variable	FDC (n=42)		TTC (n=42)		t-test
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>
Age	20.42	1.30	20.97	1.77	0.827
Height (m)	1.63	0.05	1.66	0.08	0.172
Weight (Kg)	59.88	9.54	60.44	10.87	0.821
BMI (Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	22.30	3.24	21.75	2.52	0.458
Compression depth (mm)	41.64	8.55	42.92	6.71	0.446
Chest recoil percentage (%)	65.47	40.68	72.47	39.00	0.423
Compression rate	102.50	10.68	138.53	12.51	< 0.001
Total number of compressions (2 min)	202.50	38.33	277.97	24.49	<0.001

**M:** Mean; **SD:** Standard Deviation; **FDC:** Fitness Dance Class CPR course; **TTC:** Traditional Training Course; **n:** Number of subjects.

Statistically significant differences were found in the following parameters from among the two CPR training groups: Compression depth: FDC ( $M=102.50$ ,  $SD=10.68$ ); TTC ( $M=138.53$ ,  $SD=12.51$ ), ( $t_{(82)} = -14.19$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ;  $r = .84$ ); Total number of compressions: FDC ( $M=202.50$ ,  $SD=38.33$ ); TTC ( $M=277.97$ ,  $SD=24.49$ ) ( $t_{(82)} = -10.75$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ;  $r = .76$ ).

No statistically significant differences were found in compression depth: FDC=41.64, TTC=42.92 ( $p=0.446$ ); chest recoil percentage (FDC=65.47, TTC=72.47 ( $p=0.423$ )).

## DISCUSSION

This study shows that the teaching of CPR incorporated into sports classes is feasible, and the learning of CPR skills in the short-term is promising, although only a small percentage of the participants, mostly young females, reached the parameters recommended by current guidelines. When the FDC short-term experience was compared to a TTC in a group of similar characteristics and with an equivalent duration, the results were similar, even though an inferiority margin would be expected due to the newness of the teaching model.

The strong point of the study is the innovation of the idea of being able to integrate CPR in sports activities that could reach a large part of the population practising sports, and being able not only to learn but also to continuously refresh skills. However, the design of FDC was new and probably not sufficiently-well tested: the sample was limited and only short-term results were evaluated.

No similar studies integrating CPR into sports activities (Sports CPR) have been found to make a direct comparison. Although the experience was designed for long-term skills acquisition, the results shown in the study are short-term. For this reason and, due to the heterogeneous results of published studies (32), it is difficult to establish firm conclusions when comparing Sports CPR to other teaching approaches (16,17,22-27,31). Sports CPR shares with video self-instruction (33) the possibility for the participant to carry out periodical training sessions and the theoretical advantage of traditional courses (33), where a teacher is present to ensure that those taking part learn the correct techniques. In addition, the use of music at 100 beats per minute improves the compression ratio per minute by acting as a metronome as in other studies (34).

The modest results of both groups could be explained by the prevalence of females with low mean height (35) and BMI (less than 25) (36), and because the study was designed to include participants without any previous experience in both fitness and CPR, and they had to acquire both skills. Previous to the study PE teachers taught sports CPR to two small groups of trained participants (PILATES and circuit training) with better results, probably due to the better physical condition and the previous knowledge of sports abilities that made the CPR skills the only ones to learn.

Sports CPR shares with video self-instruction (31) the possibility for the participant to carry out periodic training sessions and the theoretical advantage of traditional courses (31) where a teacher is present to ensure that those taking part learn the correct techniques.

The teaching of CPR in sports activities allows for a large percentage of the adult population to be trained and allows for the continued maintenance of skills, and for them to be updated according to future guidelines, following the physical activity practice data of the 2014 Eurobarometer survey on sport and physical activity (28). It can be adapted to the needs of different age groups, can be used to train beginners or to refresh skills previously attained (e.g. a traditional CPR course), and allows for the continued maintenance of skills, and for them to be updated according to future guidelines. From a sports point of view, promoting CPR in sports would lead to a change in the way society consider CPR, which would no longer be a healthcare skill, but become an integral part of sports education and healthy habits. To guarantee scientific support of CPR knowledge and skills, training in sports CPR should be led by the current scientific CPR-related societies in collaboration with sports organizations.

However, this study only shows the short-term results of one single experience. More studies are needed to evaluate the long-term results and to better know how to introduce these skills into different sports activities.

The main limitations which were found in the study are that the participants were evaluated by practicing the skills acquired on a manikin in a simulated situation, so their abilities in a real situation of resuscitation are unknown. The sample was limited, and only short-term results have been evaluated. These classes were designed and taught by a PE teacher Basic Life Support CPR



instructor and they were intended to be the initial phase of a long term experience, a monthly class during the following 6 months and then a refresher class every 3-6 months (18). The length of the traditional training CPR course was chosen to coincide with that of the whole fitness course, but less than 50% of the time in the Fitness course was devoted to CPR.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Teaching CPR in sports classes (FDC) is feasible, and the learning of CPR skills in the short-term is promising and similar to the traditional CPR course, although only a small percentage of the participants reached the parameters recommended by the guidelines. A long-term follow-up of these groups should be carried out to evaluate the progress of the participants.

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