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Survival outcome among patients with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest who received cardiopulmonary resuscitation in China: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Abstract

Background: This study aimed to assess the survival outcomes among patients with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (CA) who received cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in China.

Methods: Relevant studies, published between January 1, 2010 and September 5, 2022, were retrieved from databases, including EMBASE, PubMed, Cochrane Library, the China Biology Medicine disk, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, and Wanfang databases. We included clinical studies in which all patients were diagnosed with CA and underwent out-of-hospital CPR, and the outcome variables were at least one of the following: return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC), survival to admission, survival to hospital discharge, 1-month survival, achieved good neurological outcomes, and 1-year survival. Two investigators independently extracted the study data and assessed its quality using a modified Newcastle-Ottawa Scale tool. The data were pooled using random-effects models.

Results: Of the 3620 identified studies, 49 (63,378 patients) were included in the meta-analysis. The pooled ROSC rate was 9.0% (95% confidence interval [CI] 7.5–10.5%, $l^2 = 97\%$), the pooled survival to admission rate was 5.0% (95% CI 2.7-8.0%, $l^2 = 98\%$), and the pooled survival to discharge rate was 1.8% (95% Cl 1.2-2.5%, $l^2 = 95\%$). Additionally, the ROSC rate of patients with bystander CPR was significantly higher than that of those without bystander CPR, and the pooled odds ratio (OR) was 7.92 (95% CI 4.32–14.53, $l^2 = 85\%$). The ROSC rate of participants who started CPR within 5 min was significantly higher than that of those who started CPR after 5 min, and the pooled OR was 5.92 (95% CI 1.92-18.26, $l^2 = 85\%$). The ROSC rate of participants with defibrillation was significantly higher than that of those without defibrillation, and the pooled OR was 8.52 (95% CI 3.72–19.52, $l^2 = 77\%$).

Conclusion: The survival outcomes of out-of-hospital CPR in China are far below the world average. Therefore, the policy of providing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in public places and strengthening CPR training for healthcare providers and public personnel should be encouraged and disseminated nationwide.

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Background

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (CA) is a major public health challenge [1]. In China, there are more than 230 million people with cardiovascular disease, and 550,000 individuals experience CA every year [2]. However, survival after out-of-hospital CA is poor. For example, in Beijing, the capital of China and where medical technology was well developed, only 1.3% of the patients with out-of-hospital CA were discharged alive, and only 1.0% had a favorable neurological outcome in 2012 [3]. The outcomes reported in other cities in China were similar [4, 5]. Therefore, the survival rate of out-of-hospital CA in China is estimated at less than 1%, which has been widely cited in many previous studies [2, 6–11]. Nevertheless, evidence from metaanalysis is still lacking.

In 2016, Gu et al. published a meta-analysis with 57 included studies and reported the pooled "heartbeat recovery rate" in patients with out-of-hospital CA was 17.1% [12]. In 2020, Gu et al. published an updated meta-analysis with 116 studies and reported similar results [13]. However, because of the improper inclusion and exclusion criteria, many low-quality studies were included in these two meta-analyses, and overestimation of the outcomes of out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was inevitable. Moreover, the outcomes of "heartbeat recovery" or "success rate" used in the two studies were confusing.

Using uniform terms and definitions to assess survival outcomes for out-of-hospital resuscitation is the premise to compare the outcomes inter- and intrasystem and drive to quality improvement [14]. In 1991, the international guidelines for reporting and registering the outcomes of out-of-hospital CA were published, namely, Utstein reporting model [14], which was upgraded and simplified twice in 2004 [15] and 2015 [16]. Therefore, a meta-analysis using the international Utstein reporting model is necessary to assess the survival rate of patients with out-of-hospital CA who received CPR in China.

Materials and methods

We performed this meta-analysis according to the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and metaanalyses guidelines [17]. This study was registered in PROSPERO (CRD42022326165) on 29 April 2022.

Literature retrieval

Relevant studies, published between January 1, 2010 and September 5, 2022, were retrieved from databases, including EMBASE, PubMed, Cochrane Library, the China Biology Medicine disk, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, and Wanfang databases. The English keywords were "Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest," "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation," and "China [Affiliation]." The Chinese keywords were "心脏骤停" and "心肺复苏." In addition, reference lists of the relevant articles were manually checked for other potentially relevant papers.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) the study population was composed of adults (age \geq 18 years); (2) patients with CA that caused by heart problem; (3) patients were diagnosed with CA and underwent out-of-hospital CPR; and (4) the outcome variables were at least one of the following: return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC), survival to admission, survival to hospital discharge, 1-month survival, achieved good neurological outcomes, and 1-year survival. The definition of CA and these outcomes is shown in Additional file 1: Table S1.

The exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) $\geq 20\%$ of patients were children; (2) $\geq 20\%$ of patients with specific causes of CA, such as trauma, myocardial infarction, or drowning; (3) studies in that only specific patients were selected, such as patients with mechanical compression or hands-only CPR; (4) with the absence or ambiguous definitions of CA; (5) with the absence or ambiguous definitions of survival outcomes, such as "successful recovery" or "heartbeat recovery"; and (6) abstract, reviews, case reports, case–control studies, and animal studies.

Two investigators (YW and ZHS) independently screened article titles and abstracts retrieved from the literature search. Full texts of potentially eligible studies were further assessed for final inclusion. A third investigator (GZZ) cross-checked extracted data, and disagreements were resolved through consensus.

Data extraction and quality evaluation

For each paper, the first author, year of publication, country or region of publication, sample size, sex, age, and other patient-related data were extracted. The ROSC, survival to admission, survival to hospital discharge, 1-month survival, and achieved good neurological outcomes were also analyzed as outcome variables. Two investigators (YW and ZHS) independently extracted data from individual studies. Full texts of potentially eligible studies were further assessed for final inclusion. A third investigator (GZZ) cross-checked extracted data, and disagreements were resolved through consensus.

A modified version of Newcastle–Ottawa Scale (NOS) was used to assess the quality of each study. Studies with NOS score of 1–2, 3–4, and 5–6 were considered of low, intermediate, and high quality, respectively. Two investigators (YW and ZHS) independently assessed the methodological quality of a quarter of the studies, and the third investigator (GZZ) independently reviewed those assessments. Disagreements were resolved through consensus.

Statistical analysis

A random-effects model was used to calculate pooled results and a 95% confidence interval (CI). I^2 statistic was used to assess heterogeneity of included studies [18], with

 I^2 > 50% suggesting significant heterogeneity. "Acsine" test was set as a parameter in publication bias detection. All *P*-values were two sided. A *P*-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. This meta-analysis was conducted using the "meta" package in R statistical software version 3.4.3 (Schwarzer, 2007; Team, 2017).

Results

Characteristics of the selected studies

A total of 3620 papers were retrieved. After excluding duplicate and irrelevant papers, a total of 49 studies, including 63,378 patients, were included. The literature retrieval flow chart is shown in Fig. 1.

Of the 49 studies, 42 were from Eastern China, and 7 were from Western China. Additionally, 25 studies included adults, 15 included adults and children, and 9 did not state the age of the participants. Only 20 studies reported information on bystander CPR, and only 6 stated that more than 20 participants received bystander



CPR. For detailed characteristics of study individuals, see Additional file 1: Table S2.

The characteristics of the included papers are shown in Additional file 1: Table S2. The results of the evaluation of the study quality, according to the NOS scale, are shown in Additional file 1: Fig. S1.

Return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC)

A total of 46 studies with 62,751 participants were eligible for the calculation of the ROSC rate, and the pooled rate was 9.0% (95% CI 7.5–10.5%, $I^2 = 97\%$), see Fig. 2. Subgroup analyses showed that the ROSC rate of group with less than 500 participants was significant more than that of group with participants of more than 500, with pooled rate of (14.4%; 95% CI 10.5–18.7%, $I^2 = 96\%$) and (4.2%; 95% CI 3.4–5.1%, $I^2 = 96\%$), respectively. In addition, subgroup analyses also showed differences in the ROSC rate by age of participants and proportion of bystander CPR, however, the 95% CIs were overlapped, See Table 1.

Survival to admission

Ten studies with 13,922 participants were eligible for the comparison of the calculation of survival to admission rate, and the pooled rate was 5.0% (95% CI 2.7–8.0%, $I^2=98\%$), see Fig. 3. Subgroup analyses showed differences in survival to admission rate by year of publication, area, proportion of bystander CPR, and number of participants, however, the 95% CIs were overlapped, see Table 1.

Survival to discharge

Eighteen studies with 43,905 participants were eligible for the comparison of calculation of the survival to discharge rate, and the pooled rate was 1.8% (95% CI 1.2– 2.5%, $I^2 = 95\%$), see Fig. 4. Subgroup analyses showed that the survival to discharge rate of group with less than 500 participants was significant more than that of group with participants of more than 500, with pooled rate of (4.3%; 95% CI 2.0–7.4%, $I^2 = 87\%$) and (0.7%; 95% CI 0.4–1.2%, $I^2 = 94\%$), respectively. In addition, Subgroup analyses also showed differences in survival to discharge rate by the year of publication, proportion of males, proportion of bystander CPR and quality of the included studies, however, the 95% CIs were overlapped, see Table 1.

One-month survival and achieved good neurological outcomes

Only two studies with 1,154 participants were eligible for the comparison of calculation of the 1-month survival rate, and the pooled rate was 2.7% (95% CI 0.0–14.5%, $I^2 = 95\%$). Likewise, only three studies with 2267 participants were eligible for the comparison of calculation of achieved good neurological outcomes rate, and the pooled rate was 2.5% (95% CI 0.2–7.0%, $I^2 = 94\%$), see Table 1.

Contributors for ROSC rate

As shown in Table 2 and Additional file 1: Figs. S1–S4, the ROSC rate of participants with bystander CPR was significantly higher than that of those without bystander CPR, and the pooled OR was 7.92 (95% CI 4.32–14.53, $I^2 = 85\%$). The ROSC rate of the participants who started CPR within 5 min was significantly higher than that of those who started CPR after 5 min, and the pooled OR was 5.92 (95% CI 1.92–18.26, $I^2 = 85\%$). The ROSC rate of participants with defibrillation was significantly higher than that of those without defibrillation, and the pooled OR was 8.52 (95% CI 3.72–19.52, $I^2 = 77\%$). However, there was no difference between participants with and without advanced airways, and the pooled OR was 1.12 (95% CI 0.84–1.78, $I^2 = 76\%$).

Publication bias

The funnel plot was symmetrical for the meta-analysis of the incidence of ROSC, survival to admission, and survival to discharge in patients with out-of-hospital CA who received CPR (see Additional file 1: Fig. S5). The "Acsine" test revealed no evidence of publication bias in survival to admission (P=0.1284) and survival to discharge (P=0.0883). However, there was a publication bias in ROSC (P=0.0011).

Discussion

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first meta-analysis to assess survival outcomes among out-of-hospital CPR using Utstein reporting model in China. We found that the pooled ROSC rate was 9.0% (95% CI 7.5–10.5%, $I^2 = 97\%$), the pooled survival to admission rate was 5.0% (95% CI: 2.7–8.0%, $I^2 = 98\%$), and the pooled survival to discharge rate was 1.8% (95% CI 1.2–2.5%, $I^2 = 95\%$).

In 2020, Yan et al. assessed the global survival rate among adult out-of-hospital CPR and found that the pooled ROSC rate was 29.7% (95% CI 27.6–31.7%), the pooled survival to admission rate was 22.0% (95% CI 20.7–23.4%), and the pooled survival to discharge rate was 8.8% (95% CI 8.2–9.4%)[19]. Even in Asia, which has the lowest survival rate, the pooled ROSC rate was 22.1% (95% CI 18.1–26.0%), the pooled survival to admission rate was 15.6% (95% CI 13.2–18.0%), and the pooled survival to discharge rate was 4.5% (95% CI 3.1–5.9%)[19].

| | Study | Events | Total | | Proportion | 95%-CI | Weight |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|----------------|--------|
| | Cai et al 2019 | 18 | 66 | | 0.273 | [0.170; 0.396] | 1.6% |
| | Cen et al 2019 | 51 | 2424 | + | 0.021 | [0.016; 0.028] | 2.4% |
| | Chang et al 2011 | 17 | 321 | +- | 0.053 | [0.031; 0.083] | 2.2% |
| | Chen et al 2013 | 7 | 190 | + | 0.037 | [0.015; 0.074] | 2.1% |
| | Chen et al 2016 | 6 | 596 | + | 0.010 | [0.004; 0.022] | 2.3% |
| | Chen et al 2019 | 44 | 486 | · · | 0.091 | [0.067; 0.120] | 2.3% |
| | Chen et al 2021 | 118 | 2278 | + | 0.052 | [0.043; 0.062] | 2.4% |
| | Dong et al 2013 | 524 | 18640 | • | 0.028 | [0.026; 0.031] | 2.4% |
| | Feng et al 2017 | 41 | 114 | . | 0.360 | [0.272; 0.455] | 1.9% |
| | Ge et al 2015 | 39 | 1040 | + | 0.038 | [0.027; 0.051] | 2.3% |
| | Hu et al 2010 | 69 | 1432 | + | 0.048 | [0.038; 0.061] | 2.4% |
| | Hu et al 2013 | 45 | 346 | - + | 0.130 | [0.096; 0.170] | 2.2% |
| | Li et al 2014 | 5 | 102 | - 1 - 1 | 0.049 | [0.016; 0.111] | 1.8% |
| | Li et al 2017 | 117 | 5936 | • | 0.020 | [0.016; 0.024] | 2.4% |
| | Li et al 2018 | 39 | 224 | | 0.174 | [0.127; 0.230] | 2.1% |
| | Li LP et al 2019 | 17 | 269 | - | 0.063 | [0.037; 0.099] | 2.2% |
| | Li Y et al 2019 | 139 | 437 | | 0.318 | [0.275; 0.364] | 2.2% |
| | Li et al 2020 | 49 | 189 | | 0.259 | [0.198; 0.328] | 2.1% |
| | Li et al 2022 | 64 | 278 | | 0.230 | [0.182; 0.284] | 2.2% |
| | Liu et al 2010 | 12 | 315 | + | 0.038 | [0.020; 0.066] | 2.2% |
| | Lu et ai 2019 | 14 | 1049 | + | 0.013 | [0.007; 0.022] | 2.3% |
| | Lu et al 2013 | 64 | 1126 | +- | 0.057 | [0.044; 0.072] | 2.4% |
| | Rao et al 2012 | 36 | 60 | | 0.600 | [0.465; 0.724] | 1.6% |
| | Shao et al 2021 | 287 | 5016 | + | 0.057 | [0.051; 0.064] | 2.4% |
| | Shen et al 2021 | 210 | 5558 | + | 0.038 | [0.033; 0.043] | 2.4% |
| | Su et al 2015 | 36 | 167 | — , — | 0.216 | [0.156; 0.286] | 2.0% |
| | Su et al 2015 | 52 | 258 | | 0.202 | [0.154; 0.256] | 2.1% |
| | Sun GM et al 2013 | 14 | 268 | | 0.052 | [0.029; 0.086] | 2.2% |
| | Sun H et al 2013 | 124 | 2430 | + | 0.051 | [0.043; 0.061] | 2.4% |
| | Wang et al 2016 | 28 | 494 | + | 0.057 | [0.038; 0.081] | 2.3% |
| | Wang et al 2015 | 41 | 505 | - | 0.081 | [0.059; 0.109] | 2.3% |
| | Wang et al 2022 | 90 | 1533 | + | 0.059 | [0.047; 0.072] | 2.4% |
| | Wu et al 2015 | 29 | 126 | — • | 0.230 | [0.160; 0.314] | 1.9% |
| | Xu et al 2020 | 168 | 1893 | + | 0.089 | [0.076; 0.102] | 2.4% |
| | Yang et al 2010 | 5 | 129 | | 0.039 | [0.013; 0.088] | 1.9% |
| | Yuan et al 2013 | 24 | 116 | — • | 0.207 | [0.137; 0.292] | 1.9% |
| | Zhang XF et al 2010 | 34 | 1067 | + | 0.032 | [0.022; 0.044] | 2.3% |
| | Zhang M et al 2010 | 103 | 454 | | 0.227 | [0.189; 0.268] | 2.3% |
| | Zhang P et al 2010 | 10 | 297 | + | 0.034 | [0.016; 0.061] | 2.2% |
| | Zhang et al 2013 | 10 | 340 | + | 0.029 | [0.014; 0.053] | 2.2% |
| | Zhang et al 2015 | 73 | 1658 | + | 0.044 | [0.035; 0.055] | 2.4% |
| | Zhang et al 2018 | 52 | 530 | | 0.098 | [0.074; 0.127] | 2.3% |
| | Zheng et al 2013 | 19 | 100 | . | 0.190 | [0.118; 0.281] | 1.8% |
| | Zhou et al 2017 | 32 | 156 | | 0.205 | [0.145; 0.277] | 2.0% |
| | Zhou et al 2019 | 11 | 126 | | 0.087 | [0.044; 0.151] | 1.9% |
| | Zhou et al 2020 | 41 | 1612 | + | 0.025 | [0.018; 0.034] | 2.4% |
| | Random effects model | 2 0 00 | 62751 | | 0.090 | [0.075; 0.105] | 100.0% |
| | Heterogeneity: $I^2 = 97\%$, τ | = = 0.0075 | , p = 0 | 01 02 03 04 05 06 0 | 7 | | |
| F: | | | entited C | | T | | |
| гıg. 2 | Forest plot of the ROSC rate fo | or out-ot-no | spital CA | patients who received CPR in China | | | |

 Table 1
 ROSC, survival to admission, survival to discharge, achieved good neurological outcomes, and 1-month survival: the overall estimates and subgroup analyses

| | Studies (n) | Participants (n) | Rate (%) | l ² (%) |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ROSC | 46 | 62,751 | 9.0 (7.5–10.5) | 97 |
| Year of publication | | | | |
| 2010–2015 | 24 | 31,487 | 8.8 (7.5–10.5) | 97 |
| 2015–2022 | 22 | 31,264 | 9.3 (7.0–11.8) | 98 |
| Area | | | | |
| Eastern of China | 39 | 59.619 | 8.5 (7.1–10.1) | 97 |
| Western of China | 7 | 3261 | 10.9 (4.9–18.8) | 95 |
| Age of the participants | | | | |
| Adults | 24 | 18.821 | 11.4 (8.9–14.3) | 97 |
| Adults and children | 14 | 26.950 | 5.9 (4.1-8.0) | 96 |
| NS | 8 | 16.980 | 7.9 (5.2–11.0) | 97 |
| Proportion of males | | - , | | |
| Less than 60% | 16 | 14 225 | 109 (77–145) | 97 |
| More than 60% | 24 | 19 387 | 87 (67–108) | 96 |
| NS | 6 | 29139 | 63 (36-98) | 99 |
| Proportion of bystander CPR | 5 | 23,103 | | |
| Less than 20% | 13 | 14 017 | 46 (31-64) | 96 |
| More than 20% | 5 | 9192 | 87 (58–122) | 95 |
| NS | 28 | 39 542 | 11.8 (9.3–14.6) | 98 |
| Participants | 20 | 5,512 | 11.0 (5.5 11.0) | 20 |
| Less than 500 | 27 | 6428 | 14.4 (10.5-18.7) | 96 |
| More than 500 | 19 | 56 3 2 3 | 4 2 (3 4 - 5 1) | 96 |
| Quality | | 50,525 | T.2 (J.T J.1) | 50 |
| Middle | 20 | 27 226 | 00(78 124) | 07 |
| High | 20 | 27,320 | 83(62,106) | 97 |
| Survival to admission | 10 | 13 022 | 5.0 (2.7, 8.0) | 90 |
| Voar of publication | 10 | 13,322 | 5.0 (2.7 - 6.0) | 90 |
| | Λ | 2120 | 2.2 (0.0, 11.2) | 00 |
| 2010-2015 | 4 | 10 792 | 5.2(0.0-11.2) | 90 |
| 2010-2022 | 0 | 10,785 | 0.5 (5.2-10.4) | 90 |
| Eastern of China | 0 | 11 207 | 60(22,07) | 00 |
| Eastern of China | 0 | 2015 | 0.0 (5.2-9.7) | 96 |
| western of china | 2 | 2015 | 1.9 (0.0–9.9) | 90 |
| | 7 | 10.000 | | 00 |
| Adults | / | 10,908 | 6.2 (3.3-9.9) | 98 |
| Adults and children | 2 | 2704 | 4.1 (0.0-24.0) | 99 |
| | I | 190 | 0.5 (0.0–2.1) | - |
| Percentage of males | 0 | 11.454 | | 22 |
| More than 60% | 8 | 11,454 | 6.2 (3.0-10.4) | 98 |
| NS | 2 | 2468 | 1.8 (0.1–5.9) | 89 |
| Bystander CPR | 2 | 2222 | | |
| Less than 20% | 3 | 3330 | 3.3 (0.6–8.0) | 97 |
| More than 20% | 2 | /294 | 2.4 (0.9–4.5) | 95 |
| NS | 5 | 3298 | 8.4 (0.8–23.2) | 99 |
| Participants | | | | |
| Less than 500 | 5 | 1035 | 10.6 (3.2–21.6) | 96 |
| More than 500 | 5 | 12,869 | 1.8 (0.6–3.6) | 97 |
| Quality | | | | |
| Middle | 6 | 5695 | 5.3 (1.3–11.6) | 98 |

Table 1 (continued)

| | Studies (n) | Participants (n) | Rate (%) | l ² (%) |
|--|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| High | 4 | 8227 | 4.3 (1.7–7.9) | 97 |
| Survival to discharge | 18 | 43,905 | 1.8 (1.2–2.5) | 95 |
| Year of publication | | | | |
| 2010–2015 | 5 | 19,540 | 2.4 (0.4–6.0) | 95 |
| 2015–2022 | 13 | 24,365 | 1.7 (1.0–2.6) | 95 |
| Area | | | | |
| Eastern of China | 18 | 43,905 | 1.8 (1.2–2.5) | 95 |
| Age of the participants | | | | |
| Adults | 11 | 13,025 | 1.9 (1.1–2.9) | 92 |
| Adults and children | 2 | 18,974 | 1.8 (0-8.7) | 97 |
| NS | 5 | 11,906 | 2.0 (0.8–3.8) | 95 |
| Percentage of males | | | | |
| Less than 60% | 4 | 6,841 | 0.9 (0.2–2.1) | 85 |
| More than 60% | 10 | 10,020 | 3.6 (2.0–5.6) | 94 |
| NS | 4 | 27,044 | 0.5 (0.2–1.0) | 93 |
| Bystander CPR | | | | |
| Less than 20% | 3 | 4194 | 0.7 (0.1–1.9) | 92 |
| More than 20% | 5 | 7642 | 2.5 (1.0–4.8) | 93 |
| NS | 10 | 32,069 | 2.1 (1.2–3.2) | 95 |
| Participants | | | | |
| Less than 500 | 9 | 1753 | 4.3 (2.0–7.4) | 87 |
| More than 500 | 9 | 42,152 | 0.7 (0.4–1.2) | 94 |
| Quality | | | | |
| Middle | 8 | 22,371 | 3.4 (1.5–6.2) | 97 |
| High | 10 | 21,534 | 1.0 (0.5–1.6) | 92 |
| Achieved good neurological out- comes | 3 | 2267 | 2.5 (0.2–7.0) | 94 |
| One-month survival | 2 | 1154 | 2.7 (0.0–14.5) | 95 |

ROSC return of spontaneous circulation, NS not specified, CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation



| Study | Events | Total | | | Proportion | 95%-CI | Weight |
|--|---------|----------|--------------|------|------------|----------------|--------|
| Cai et al 2019 | 4 | 66 | | | 0.061 | [0.017; 0.148] | 2.7% |
| Chen et al 2013 | 1 | 190 +- | <u>:</u> | | 0.005 | [0.000; 0.029] | 4.6% |
| Chen et al 2021 | 31 | 2278 - | | | 0.014 | [0.009; 0.019] | 6.8% |
| Dong et al 2013 | 47 | 18640 | | | 0.003 | [0.002; 0.003] | 7.1% |
| Feng et al 2017 | 16 | 114 | | , | 0.140 | [0.082; 0.218] | 3.7% |
| Li et al 2017 | 11 | 5936 + | | | 0.002 | [0.001; 0.003] | 7.0% |
| Li LP et al 2019 | 13 | 269 | , | | 0.048 | [0.026; 0.081] | 5.1% |
| Li et al 2022 | 23 | 278 | | | 0.083 | [0.053; 0.122] | 5.2% |
| Lu et ai 2019 | 6 | 1049 | | | 0.006 | [0.002; 0.012] | 6.5% |
| Shao et al 2021 | 44 | 5016 + | | | 0.009 | [0.006; 0.012] | 7.0% |
| Shen et al 2021 | 29 | 5558 + | | | 0.005 | [0.003; 0.007] | 7.0% |
| Sun GM et al 20 |)13 8 | 268 - | 1 | | 0.030 | [0.013; 0.058] | 5.1% |
| Wang et al 2010 |) 16 | 334 | — • — | | 0.048 | [0.028; 0.077] | 5.4% |
| Wang et al 2022 | 2 27 | 1533 - | + | | 0.018 | [0.012; 0.026] | 6.7% |
| Zhang et al 201 | 8 17 | 530 | | | 0.032 | [0.019; 0.051] | 5.9% |
| Zhou et al 2019 | 0 | 126 | <u>:</u> | | 0.000 | [0.000; 0.029] | 3.9% |
| Zhou et al 2020 | 3 | 1612 + | | | 0.002 | [0.000; 0.005] | 6.7% |
| Zhu et al 2012 | 8 | 108 | | _ | 0.074 | [0.033; 0.141] | 3.6% |
| Random effect | s model | 43905 _< | > | | 0.018 | [0.012; 0.025] | 100.0% |
| Heterogeneity: $l^2 = 95\%$, $\tau^2 = 0.0023$, $p < 0.01$ | | | | | | | |
| | | 0 | 0.05 0.1 | 0.15 | 0.2 | | |
| Fig. 4 Forest plot of the survival to discharge rate for out-of-hospital CA patients who received CPR in China | | | | | | | |

Table 2 Influence of bystander CPR, start CPR time, defibrillation, and advanced airway on ROSC

| | Studies (n) | Participants (n) | Rate (%) | <i>I</i> ² (%) | OR | <i>l</i> ² (%) |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Bystander CPR | | | | | | |
| Bystander CPR | 6 | 2154 | 23.5 (13.4–35.4) | 91 | 7.92 (4.32–14.53) | 85 |
| No Bystander CPR | 6 | 21,312 | 4.2 (1.7–7.8) | 98 | | |
| Start CPR time | | | | | | |
| Less than 5 min | 6 | 621 | 16.4 (2.5–39.2) | 97 | 5.92 (1.92–18.26) | 85 |
| More than 5 min | 6 | 2114 | 2.9 (1.0-5.6) | 89 | | |
| Less than 10 min | 6 | 2791 | 10.8 (4.9–18.5) | 96 | 2.88 (1.12-7.43) | 80 |
| More than 10 min | 6 | 133 | 3.0 (0.7–6.8) | 86 | | |
| Defibrillation | | | | | | |
| Defibrillation | 4 | 209 | 32.9 (16.5–51.8) | 86 | 8.52 (3.72–19.52) | 77 |
| No defibrillation | 4 | 4940 | 6.0 (2.0–11.9) | 98 | | |
| Advanced airway | | | | | | |
| Advanced airway | 13 | 5975 | 10.6 (7.4–14.2) | 92 | 1.22 (0.84–1.78) | 76 |
| No advanced airway | 13 | 8107 | 9.4 (5.8–13.7) | 97 | | |

ROSC return of spontaneous circulation, OR odds ratio, CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Therefore, our study found very frustrating results; that is, the survival outcomes of out-of-hospital CA in China are far below the world average.

It should be pointed out that almost all the included studies were from large or medium cities, irrespective of the eastern or western regions. Currently, few studies from small cities or rural areas in China have been published. Moreover, our subgroup analysis found that survival rates were affected by the number of participants in our meta-analysis, and the group with participants more than 500 was lower than that of group with participants less than 500. Large sample studies usually have better research designs and provide more reliable results [4, 20, 21]. Therefore, the actual survival outcomes in China may be lower than that of our pooled results. More pessimistically, our subgroup analysis showed no difference in the survival outcomes between the 2010–2015 and 2016–2022 groups, which means that the survival rate of out-of-hospital CA might not have increased in the past 12 years.

Our meta-analysis revealed that the ROSC rate of those who started CPR within 5 min was 5.92 times that of those who started CPR after 5 min. In addition, the ROSC rate of those with bystander CPR was 7.92 times that of those without bystander CPR. Our results support that early bystander CPR is a key determinant of survival [22-25]. However, the implementation rate for bystander CPR in China is low (11.4% in Beijing [3, 26], 8.83% in Zhenzhou [27], and 0.59% in Hefei [4], vs. 39.4% in the United States [28] and 39% in Australia [29]) since the prevalent training rate in China is less than 1% and skill retention training is also rare [2]. Our meta-analysis also revealed that the ROSC rate of those with defibrillation was 8.52 times that of those without defibrillation. Recently, the Chinese government has begun to attach importance to out-of-hospital CA. Provision of automated external defibrillators in public places and financial support for public training provide the possibility to improve the survival rate in the future.

In Gu et al.'s meta-analysis [12, 13], unclear outcomes of "heartbeat recovery" or "success rate" were used, which reflected that researchers were unfamiliar with Utstein reporting model. In fact, we conducted a survey on the perception of Utstein model among Chinese healthcare providers in 2017 [30]; 41.2% of 10,224 participants reported that they had not heard of Utstein model. In addition, Chinese healthcare providers always use "successful resuscitation" to assess the outcome of CPR. However, the understanding of the term is confused in China. In the survey, 40.9%, 23.1%, and 21.6% of Chinese medical staff considered the recovery of spontaneous rhythm, pulse, and breathing as "successful resuscitation," respectively. Therefore, it is urgent to strengthen the perception training and application of Utstein registration model in China.

Limitation

The meta-analysis had several limitations. First, most included studies were from large or medium cities. Second, most included studies were retrospective observational studies. Third, while obvious heterogeneity was present in several groups, subgroup analyses were not possible to identify the source of heterogeneity.

Conclusion

The survival outcomes of out-of-hospital CA in China are far below the world average. Therefore, providing AED in public places and strengthening CPR training for healthcare providers and public personnel should be encouraged and disseminated nationwide.

Abbreviations

AED: Automated external defibrillator; CA: Cardiac arrests; CPR: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation; CI: Confidence interval; NOS: NEWCASTLE–Ottawa Scale tool; OR: Odds ratio; ROSC: Return of spontaneous circulation.

Supplementary Information

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Additional file 1: Table S1. Definition of survival outcomes. Table S2. Detailed individual study characteristics. Figure S1. The quality of included studies. Figure S2. Forest plot of the odds ratio of ROSC rate with bystander CPR vs. without bystander CPR. Figure S3. Forest plot of the odds ratio of ROSC rate in start CPR time within 5 minutes vs. more than 5 minutes. Figure S4. Forest plot of the odds ratio of ROSC rate with defibrillation vs. without defibrillation. Figure S5. Forest plot of the odds ratio of ROSC rate with advanced airway (AA) vs. without advanced airway. Figure S6 Funnel plot of ROSC rate, survival to admission rate and survival to discharge rate ROSC rate (A), survival to admission rate (B), and survival to discharge rate (C).

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Author contributions

GZZ, YW, ZZW, and CS initiated the project and were responsible for protocol design. GZZ, YW, and ZHS performed the literature review, collected the data, assessed the quality of studies, and analyzed the data. MQY, YLM, QXW, CYW, and JX interpreted the data. GZZ and CS wrote the initial draft of the manuscript. All the authors were responsible for critical revision of the manuscript and provided important intellectual input. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials

Data may be made available by contacting the corresponding author.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Ethical approval was not required for this systematic review.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that this study was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential competing interests.

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