Childhood Obesity and Survival After In-Hospital Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

WHAT’S KNOWN ON THIS SUBJECT: Childhood obesity is a public health crisis of epidemic proportions. CPR and advanced life support for obese children experiencing cardiopulmonary arrest may be complicated by difficulties with CPR quality and drug dosages.

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS: Childhood obesity is associated with a lower rate of survival to hospital discharge after in-hospital, pediatric CPR.

OBJECTIVE: We hypothesized that childhood obesity would be associated with decreased likelihood of survival to hospital discharge after in-hospital, pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

METHODS: We reviewed 1477 consecutive, pediatric, CPR index events (defined as the first CPR event during a hospitalization in that facility for a patient ≤18 years of age) reported to the American Heart Association National Registry of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation between January 2000 and July 2004. The primary outcome was survival to hospital discharge. A total of 1268 index subjects (86%) with complete registry data were included for analysis. Children were classified as obese (≥95th weight-for-length percentile if ≤2 years of age or ≥95th BMI-for-age percentile if ≥2 years of age), or underweight (<5th weight-for-length percentile if ≤2 years of age or <5th BMI-for-age percentile if ≥2 years of age), with adjustment for gender.

RESULTS: Obesity was noted for 213 (17%) of 1268 subjects and underweight for 571 (45%) of 1268 subjects. Obesity was more likely to be associated with male gender, noncardiac medical illness, and cancer and inversely associated with heart failure. Underweight was more likely to be associated with male gender, cardiac surgery, and prematurity and inversely associated with age and cancer. Self-reported, process-of-care, CPR quality was generally worse for obese children. With adjustment for important potential confounding factors, obesity was independently associated with worse odds of event survival (adjusted odds ratio: 0.58 [95% confidence interval: 0.35–0.76]) and survival to hospital discharge (adjusted odds ratio: 0.62 [95% confidence interval: 0.38–0.93]) after in-hospital, pediatric CPR. Underweight was not associated with worse outcomes.

CONCLUSIONS: Childhood obesity is associated with a lower rate of survival to hospital discharge after in-hospital, pediatric CPR.
Childhood obesity is a public health crisis of epidemic proportions throughout the world, with an estimated prevalence of 10% to 25%.1–3 Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and advanced life support for obese children experiencing cardiopulmonary arrest may be complicated by difficulties with the quality of CPR and problems with drug dosages. Specifically, the obese body habitus may pose distinct difficulties with airway management and effective chest compressions. In addition, pediatric advanced life support medications typically are administered on the basis of body weight but plasma concentrations of highly water-soluble medications may be substantially higher and potentially toxic in obese children when medications are dosed according to weight. Conversely, lipid-soluble medications may not reach adequate concentrations in obese children.4

The relationship of childhood obesity to survival after CPR is not well known. We evaluated the association between obesity and outcomes among children after in-hospital CPR in the American Heart Association National Registry of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (NRCPR), a large, multicenter registry of in-hospital cardiac arrests.5 We hypothesized that obese children would be less likely to survive to hospital discharge after in-hospital, pediatric CPR, compared with nonobese children.

METHODS

Study Design and Population

The NRCPR is a prospective, multisite, in-hospital resuscitation registry sponsored by the American Heart Association, with voluntary, fee-based membership. At each participating institution, certified research coordinators abstract information about each CPR event from hospital medical records. The resulting database contains precisely defined variables derived from the Utstein-style data-reporting guidelines for cardiac arrest.6,7 Case-study methods are used to evaluate data abstraction, the accuracy of entries, and compliance with operational definitions. The 6 major categories of variables are facility data, patient demographic data, pre-event data, event data, outcome data, and quality-improvement data. The data are submitted securely, in compliance with Healthcare Information Portability and Accountability Act regulations, to a central data repository (Digital Innovation, Forest Hill, MD). The American Heart Association oversees the entire process of data collection, analysis, and reporting, through its national center staff, scientific advisory board, and executive database steering committee. The primary purpose of the NRCPR is quality improvement through monitoring of process-of-care standards, compliance, and benchmarking against national and peer standards. This study was approved by the institutional review board at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Data from 167 participating NRCPR hospitals that recorded cardiopulmonary arrests among patients <18 years of age and provided >6 months of data from January 1, 2000, through July 31, 2004, were analyzed. All patients <18 years of age who were treated with CPR at participating institutions were eligible for this study. According to NRCPR operational definitions, a CPR event was any event treated with chest compressions when a unit-wide or hospital-wide emergency response was activated, with the exclusion of events that commenced out of hospital and events involving newborn infants in the delivery suite. An index event was defined as the patient’s first CPR event during the hospitalization. Only index events were eligible for inclusion in the study. Arrests among patients with “do not attempt resuscitation” orders and arrests that were resolved through implantable cardioverter-defibrillator shocks also were excluded.

The NRCPR does not collect data on the height or length of subjects. Therefore, BMI values were calculated on the basis of median height-for-age values adjusted for gender, by using World Health Organization Anthro 2.0.4 and Anthroplus 1.0.2 software (World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland). BMI-for-age percentiles and weight-for-length percentiles, with corresponding z scores, were computed as appropriate.8,9 Weight-for-length percentiles are a well-established growth standard for children <2 years of age,8 whereas BMI-for-age percentiles are considered accurate to describe growth for children ≥2 years of age.9 Children were classified as obese (≥95th weight-for-length percentile if <2 years of age or ≥95th BMI-for-age percentile if ≥2 years of age) or underweight (<5th weight-for-length percentile if <2 years of age or <5th BMI-for-age percentile if ≥2 years of age), with adjustment for gender, on the basis of reference data collected by the World Health Organization.10

The prospectively selected, primary outcome measure was survival to hospital discharge.6,7 Secondary outcome measures included survival of event (defined as return of spontaneous circulation for >20 minutes) and survival with favorable neurologic outcome. The neurologic outcome was determined according to the Pediatric Cerebral Performance Category scale, in which category 1 represents a normal neurologic state, 2 mild disability, 3 moderate disability, 4 severe disability, 5 coma or vegetative state, and 6 death.11,12 Neurologic status before the arrest and at discharge was determined through chart review. A favorable
neurologic outcome was defined by a Pediatric Cerebral Performance Category score of 1, 2, or 3 or no change from baseline scores.\textsuperscript{13}

**Statistical Analyses**

Summary results are presented as means $\pm$ SDs for variables that were distributed normally. Variables that were not distributed normally are presented as medians and interquartile ranges (IQRs). Differences between groups were analyzed through analysis of variance for continuous variables. Posthoc comparisons were performed with regard to the normal-weight group by using the Bonferroni method for multiple comparisons. Variables associated with obesity and underweight in univariate analyses ($P < .20$) were included in stepwise, multivariate, logistic regression analyses to characterize their association with obesity and underweight. Finally, all factors associated with primary and secondary outcomes in univariate analyses ($P < .20$) were included in stepwise, multivariate, logistic regression analyses to characterize the association of obesity and underweight with outcome measures adjusted for confounding factors. Odds ratios (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were reported. All $P$ values are 2-sided, and $P$ values were considered significant at $<.05$.

**RESULTS**

A total of 1477 children experienced index CPR events in 167 participating centers. Of those, 1268 (86%) had complete registry data recorded and were included for further analysis (Fig 1). Obesity was noted for 213 (17%) of 1268 subjects and underweight for 571 (45%) of 1268 subjects. For children $<2$ years of age, the median weight-for-length percentile was 0.4 (IQR: 0.01–29.55), with a median z score of $-2.67$ (IQR: $-4.99$ to $-0.54$). For children 2 years of age and older, the median BMI-for-age percentile was 68.9 (IQR: 63–96.3), with a median z score of 0.51 (IQR: $-1.53$ to 1.79). Infants (age of $\leq 1$ year) were only 22% of the obese group, compared with 34% of the normal-weight group and 72% of the underweight group ($P < .001$).

The prearrest and arrest characteristics of the patients were compared across all 3 weight categories (Tables 1 and 2). The median ages were 48 months for obese patients, 5 months for underweight patients, and 30 months for the other children ($P < .001$). Both obese and underweight patients were more likely to be male than were the other children ($P < .01$). Obese patients were more likely to have a noncardiac medical illness or trauma, whereas underweight patients were more likely to have undergone cardiac surgery ($P < .001$). Infection, cancer, trauma, and neurologic dysfunction were more common pre-existing conditions among obese patients, whereas congestive heart failure and prematurity were more common among underweight patients. In all 3 weight categories, acute respiratory insufficiency and hypotension were the most-common immediately precipitating causes of arrest. Underweight patients were more likely to have acute respiratory insufficiency as an immediate cause of arrest, compared with obese patients and other children ($P < .001$).

Of the 1268 CPR events, 725 (57%) involved initially pulseless cardiac arrests and 543 (43%) severe bradycardia with pulses. Because 245 of 543 events with initial pulses subsequently became pulseless, a total of 968 (76%) of 1268 patients experienced pulseless cardiac arrests. Obese patients more often were pulseless throughout the event (69% of obese patients, compared with 51% of underweight patients and 60% of other patients; $P < .001$). Obese patients also were more likely to have a first documented electrocardiographic rhythm of asystole (37% of obese patients, compared with 26% of underweight patients and 32% of other patients; $P < .05$). The median number of epinephrine doses during CPR was greatest in the obese group (4

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**FIGURE 1**

Enrollment and outcomes. Underweight indicates 5th weight-for-length percentile (for children <2 years of age) or 5th BMI-for-age percentile (for children $\geq 2$ years of age). Obesity indicates 95th weight-for-length percentile (for children <2 years of age) or 95th BMI-for-age percentile (for children $\geq 2$ years of age). ROSC indicates return of spontaneous circulation.
doses, compared with 3 doses in each of the other groups; \( P < .005 \), and obese patients more often received \( > 2 \) doses of epinephrine (43%, compared with 29% in each of the other groups; \( P < .001 \)). Obese patients were more likely to receive vasopressin, magnesium, lidocaine, and amiodarone, compared with the other 2 groups (\( P < .05 \)), and were less likely to be treated with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy (\( P < .05 \)).

Because both obesity and underweight might have resulted in advanced life support challenges, we analyzed self-reported, process-of-care, quality issues during CPR across weight categories. Overall, the obese group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1 Prearrest Characteristics of Patients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prearrest Characteristic</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR), mo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
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<td>BMI, median (IQR), kg/m²</td>
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<td>BMI-for-age percentile, median (IQR)</td>
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<td>BMI-for-age percentile z score, median (IQR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race or ethnicity, n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown/not documented</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility type, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event location, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inpatient, monitored</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inpatient ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other/unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illness category, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical, cardiac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical, noncardiac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical, cardiac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical, noncardiac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preexisting conditions, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respiratory insufficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypotension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congestive heart failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrhythmia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infection (pneumonia or sepsis)</td>
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<td>Renal insufficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatic insufficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metabolic/electrolyte abnormality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toxicologic abnormality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central nervous system disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prematurity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of discovery of event, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witnessed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitored through electrocardiography</td>
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<td>Monitored through pulse oximetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing interventions in place, n (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vascular access</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arterial catheter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vasoactive infusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dialysis/extracorporeal membrane oxygenation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\* \( P < .001 \), adjusted for posthoc comparisons with normal-weight group.
Immediate factors related to event, n (%)
- Acute respiratory insufficiency
  - Obesity (N = 213): 99 (47)
  - Normal Weight (N = 484): 242 (50)
  - Underweight (N = 571): 348 (61)*
  - P < .001
- Hypotension
  - Obesity: 123 (58)
  - Normal Weight: 298 (62)
  - Underweight: 313 (55)
  - P = .09
- Metabolic/electrolyte disturbance
  - Obesity: 30 (14)
  - Normal Weight: 48 (10)
  - Underweight: 66 (12)
  - P = .27
- Acute pulmonary edema
  - Obesity: 13 (6)
  - Normal Weight: 18 (5)
  - Underweight: 4 (1)
  - P < .001
- Airway obstruction
  - Obesity: 11 (5)
  - Normal Weight: 22 (5)
  - Underweight: 30 (5)
  - P = .86

State of pulse during event, n (%)
- Pulse absent throughout event
  - Obesity: 148 (69)*
  - Normal Weight: 289 (60)
  - Underweight: 280 (51)*
  - P < .001
- Pulse initially present and later absent
  - Obesity: 33 (15)
  - Normal Weight: 88 (19)
  - Underweight: 124 (22)
  - P = .11
- Pulse present throughout event
  - Obesity: 34 (16)
  - Normal Weight: 107 (22)
  - Underweight: 157 (27)
  - P < .001

First documented pulseless rhythm, n (%)
- Asystole
  - Obesity: 78 (37)
  - Normal Weight: 155 (32)
  - Underweight: 151 (26)
  - P < .001
- Pulseless electrical activity
  - Obesity: 48 (20)
  - Normal Weight: 88 (18)
  - Underweight: 90 (16)
  - P = .09
- Vf/pulseless VT
  - Obesity: 29 (14)
  - Normal Weight: 64 (13)
  - Underweight: 48 (9)
  - P < .001
- Unknown/not documented
  - Obesity: 21 (10)
  - Normal Weight: 60 (12)
  - Underweight: 102 (18)
  - P < .005

Pulse rhythm (when pulse present), n (%)
- Bradycardia
  - Obesity: 48 (23)*
  - Normal Weight: 150 (31)
  - Underweight: 230 (40)*
  - P < .001
- Sinus (including sinus tachycardia)
  - Obesity: 9 (4)
  - Normal Weight: 18 (4)
  - Underweight: 23 (4)
  - P = .94
- Ventricular tachycardia, with pulse
  - Obesity: 1 (0)
  - Normal Weight: 10 (2)
  - Underweight: 3 (1)
  - P < .001
- Ventricular fibrillation
  - Obesity: 8 (4)
  - Normal Weight: 13 (3)
  - Underweight: 21 (4)
  - P = .02
- Interval to initiation of CPR, median (IQR), min
  - Obesity: 0 (0–0)
  - Normal Weight: 0 (0–0)
  - Underweight: 0 (0–0)
  - P = .5
- Duration of CPR, median (IQR), min
  - Obesity: 25 (9.5–43)
  - Normal Weight: 21 (8.25–40)
  - Underweight: 20 (8–36)
  - P = .14

Arrest Characteristics of Patients

No. of epinephrine doses
- Median (IQR)
  - Obesity: 4 (2–7)*
  - Normal Weight: 3 (2–5)
  - Underweight: 3 (1–5)
  - P < .005
- 0, n (%)
  - Obesity: 21 (10)
  - Normal Weight: 80 (17)
  - Underweight: 116 (20)
  - P < .005
- 1 or 2, n (%)
  - Obesity: 41 (19)
  - Normal Weight: 104 (21)
  - Underweight: 159 (28)
  - P = .14
- >2, n (%)
  - Obesity: 91 (43)*
  - Normal Weight: 141 (29)
  - Underweight: 168 (29)
  - P < .001
- Unknown/not documented
  - Obesity: 60 (28)
  - Normal Weight: 159 (33)
  - Underweight: 157 (29)
  - P = .14

Pharmacologic interventions, n (%)
- Fluid bolus
  - Obesity: 99 (46)
  - Normal Weight: 192 (40)
  - Underweight: 190 (33)
  - P = .14
- Dextrose with insulin
  - Obesity: 2 (1)
  - Normal Weight: 12 (2)
  - Underweight: 21 (4)
  - P = .10
- Atropine
  - Obesity: 92 (43)
  - Normal Weight: 187 (39)
  - Underweight: 224 (39)
  - P = .51
- Sodium bicarbonate
  - Obesity: 142 (67)
  - Normal Weight: 293 (61)
  - Underweight: 333 (58)
  - P = .10
- Calcium
  - Obesity: 97 (46)
  - Normal Weight: 220 (45)
  - Underweight: 267 (47)
  - P = .90
- Vasopressin
  - Obesity: 12 (6)
  - Normal Weight: 29 (6)
  - Underweight: 12 (2)*
  - P < .005
- Magnesium sulfate
  - Obesity: 20 (8)
  - Normal Weight: 28 (6)
  - Underweight: 27 (5)
  - P = .05
- Amiodarone
  - Obesity: 21 (10)
  - Normal Weight: 34 (7)
  - Underweight: 17 (3)
  - P < .001
- Lidocaine
  - Obesity: 37 (17)
  - Normal Weight: 73 (15)
  - Underweight: 56 (10)
  - P = .01
- Nonpharmacologic interventions, n (%)
  - Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy
    - Obesity: 8 (4)
    - Normal Weight: 27 (6)
    - Underweight: 48 (8)
    - P < .005
  - Pacemaker
    - Obesity: 14 (7)
    - Normal Weight: 45 (9)
    - Underweight: 47 (8)
    - P = .48

VF indicates ventricular fibrillation; VT, ventricular tachycardia.
* P < .001, adjusted for posthoc comparisons with normal-weight group.
* Data were not available for 147 patients.

The factors significantly associated with obesity and underweight during in-hospital, pediatric CPR, with controlling for duration of CPR, in stepwise, multivariate logistic regression analyses are shown in Table 3. Obesity was more likely to be associated with male gender, noncardiac medical illness, and cancer and was less likely to be associated with congestive heart failure. Underweight was more likely to be associated with younger age, male gender, cardiac surgery, and prematurity and was less likely to be associated with cancer.

With controlling for confounding factors (age, gender, facility type, event time, monitored/witnessed event, arrest rhythm, advanced cardiac life support medications, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy, and duration of CPR), data for 147 patients were excluded in this analysis because the exact duration of CPR was not documented.
location, illness category, preexisting conditions, interventions in place at the time of the event, immediate precipitating causes, monitored/witnessed event, arrest rhythm, advanced cardiac life support medications, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy, and duration of CPR. The variables included in the model were age, gender, facility type, event location, illness category, preexisting conditions, interventions in place at the time of the event, immediate precipitating causes, monitored/witnessed event, arrest rhythm, advanced cardiac life support medications, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy, and duration of CPR. Data for 147 patients were excluded in this analysis because the duration of CPR was not documented.

Why was obesity associated with worse outcomes after in-hospital, pediatric CPR in our study? First, it is possible that providers have more difficulty attaining adequate force and depth of compressions with obese children, compared with thinner children. The effectiveness of chest compression force and depth with respect to blood flow during CPR may be attenuated because of anatomic and physiologic effects of obesity. For example, obesity is associated independently with increased abdominal pressure, low lung volumes with atelectasis, low lung compliance, and low chest wall compliance, all of which may attenuate blood flow during CPR. Second, the dosing of pediatric advanced life support medications on the basis of actual weight is potentially hazardous for obese children. Although there is a paucity of data regarding optimal dosing of resuscitation medications for children of any weight, plasma concentrations of highly water-soluble medications with small volumes of distribution, such as epinephrine, may be substantially higher in obese children and therefore potentially toxic. Conversely, highly lipid-soluble medications, such as amiodarone, have larger volumes of distribution in obese patients, and much higher doses may be needed to attain comparable effects in obese patients. Third, because defibrillation doses for children also are weight-based (ie, 2 J/kg), much higher doses may be provided to obese children, compared with other children the same length or age. It is possible that higher doses result in greater postresuscitation myocardial dysfunction. Alternatively, it is plausible that obese subjects require greater defibrillation energies than the weight-based doses for successful resuscitation. Fourth, the processes of care and resuscitation team dynamics during CPR tended to be more difficult for obese children, which might have been a significant determinant of poor outcomes.

The lack of an association between underweight and worse survival outcomes is somewhat surprising. Studies with critically ill adults observed associations of low BMI values with higher mortality rates and worse functional status at hospital discharge. In the present study, underweight children were generally younger, more likely to receive care in pediatric facilities, and more likely to be in the hospital for cardiac surgery, each of which might have favorably influenced outcomes. Low BMI values often were associated with a malignancy in the adult studies, whereas the underweight children in our study were less likely to have a malignancy than were either the obese children or the normal-weight children.

As hypothesized, factors associated with CPR and advanced life support for obese children had adverse effects on survival outcomes. The present study examined all index CPR events, including those with no loss of pulses during the event. When we analyzed outcomes exclusively for patients who experienced pulseless cardiac arrest (n = 725), obesity continued to be associated with worse odds of event survival.

### TABLE 4 Weight and Outcomes of CPR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Obesity vs Normal Weight</th>
<th>Underweight vs Normal Weight</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary outcome, survival to hospital discharge</td>
<td>Rate, % 23 vs 34</td>
<td>Adjusted OR (95% CI) 0.62 (0.38–0.93) 39 vs 34 1.16 (0.79–1.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary outcomes</td>
<td>Survival of event (return of spontaneous circulation for &gt;20 min) Rate, % 53 vs 66</td>
<td>Adjusted OR (95% CI) 0.58 (0.35–0.76) 70 vs 66 1.23 (0.84–1.62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survival with favorable neurologic outcome Rate, % 15 vs 20</td>
<td>Adjusted OR (95% CI) 0.69 (0.33–1.24) 27 vs 20 1.44 (0.93–2.06)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ORs were adjusted for factors associated with each outcome measure in multivariate logistic regression analyses. The variables included in the model were age, gender, facility type, event location, illness category, preexisting conditions, interventions in place at the time of the event, immediate precipitating causes, monitored/witnessed event, arrest rhythm, advanced cardiac life support medications, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy, and duration of CPR. Data for 147 patients were excluded in this analysis because the duration of CPR was not documented.
based certification, detailed periodic reabstraction, and large sample size. Sampling bias was minimized through the use of strict inclusion and exclusion criteria, comprehensive methods to verify data completeness, large sample size, and multicenter design. However, it is possible that the existing NRCPD data elements fail to capture unmeasured confounders of outcomes.

Although this is the largest registry of in-hospital, pediatric cardiac arrests, the number of events may lack power for some important comparisons. For example, the underweight group had an adjusted OR of 1.18 for survival to hospital discharge, compared with the normal-weight group, but the 95% CI was 0.79 to 1.67. Perhaps these differences would be statistically significant with larger numbers. Similarly, the obese group tended to have worse rates of survival with favorable neurologic outcomes but this did not achieve statistical significance, despite trends for this important secondary outcome that paralleled our primary outcome (survival to hospital discharge).

The implications of these findings are important in the context of the growing epidemic of childhood obesity. Providers need to recognize obese children and the associated comorbidities that predispose such children to worse outcomes after cardiac arrest. Further investigation is necessary to determine the effectiveness of weight-based medication and defibrillation dosing for obese children and to determine the effectiveness of standard chest compression techniques for such children. Perhaps CPR and advanced life support should be somewhat different for obese children. In addition, CPR and advanced life support training programs may need modification to address the special needs of obese children.

CONCLUSIONS
Childhood obesity is associated with a lower rate of survival to hospital discharge after in-hospital, pediatric CPR. Future pediatric CPR investigations and guidelines may need to address potential differences in CPR and advanced life support for obese children.

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