

Investigation of availability and accessibility of community automated external defibrillators in a territory in Hong Kong

CL Ho, CT Lui *, KL Tsui, CW Kam

ABSTRACT

Objective: To evaluate the availability and accessibility of community automated external defibrillators in a territory in Hong Kong.

Design: Cross-sectional study.

Setting: Two public hospitals in New Territories West Cluster in Hong Kong.

Participants: Information about the locations of community automated external defibrillators was obtained from automated external defibrillator suppliers and through community search. Data on locations of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests from August 2010 to September 2013 were obtained from the local cardiac arrest registry of the emergency departments of two hospitals. Sites of both automated external defibrillators and out-of-hospital cardiac arrests were geographically coded and mapped. The number of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests within 100 m of automated external defibrillators per year and the proportion of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests with accessible automated external defibrillators (100 m) were calculated. The number of community automated external defibrillators per 10 000 population and public access defibrillation rate were also calculated and compared with those in other countries.

Results: There were a total of 207 community

automated external defibrillators in the territory. The number of automated external defibrillators per 10 000 population was 1.942. All facilities with automated external defibrillators in this territory had more than 0.2 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests per automated external defibrillator per year within 100 m. Among all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, 25.2% could have an automated external defibrillator reachable within 100 m. The public access defibrillation rate was 0.168%.

Conclusions: The number and accessibility of community automated external defibrillators in this territory are comparable to those in other developed countries. The placement site of community automated external defibrillators is cost-effective. However, the public access defibrillation rate is low.

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New knowledge added by this study

- The number and accessibility of community automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in New Territories West region are comparable to those in other developed countries.
- All the placement sites of community AEDs in New Territories West region are cost-effective.
- The public access defibrillation (PAD) rate is low in New Territories West region.

Implications for clinical practice or policy

- Central AED registry for optimising placement of AED, education to laypersons, legal support for bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED use might be important for improving PAD rate.

Introduction

The survival rate of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is low in Hong Kong. The reported overall survival-to-admission rate in recent local studies ranged from 12.7% to 14.6%, while the survival-to-discharge rate ranged from 1.25% to 3.0%.¹⁻⁵ In the first few minutes after OHCA, rapid implementation of five critical actions including early access, early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), rapid and

effective defibrillation, early advanced life support, and comprehensive post-cardiac arrest care can strengthen the “chain of survival”.^{6,7} A study including 1737 patients found that, within 4 minutes of collapse, approximately 53% of patients were in ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia.⁸ Many studies have already shown that rapid defibrillation with automated external defibrillators (AEDs) by non-paramedics can improve survival.⁹⁻¹² In public access

在香港一社區內自動體外心臟去顫器的可用性和取用率

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目的：評估香港一社區內自動體外心臟去顫器的可用性和取用率。

設計：橫斷面研究。

安排：香港新界西聯網內的兩間公立醫院。

參與者：從自動體外心臟去顫器的供應商和社區搜索有關擺放社區自動體外心臟去顫器的位置。另外，從兩家醫院急診室的心臟停搏資料庫找出2010年8月至2013年9月期間發生院外心臟停搏的地方。然後把去顫器的分佈地點和發生院外心臟停搏的地方進行地域編碼和映射，分別計算出每年在去顫器位置100米範圍以內所發生的院外心臟停搏的次數，以及院外心臟停搏和去顫器位置100米範圍內的取用比例，亦計算平均每一萬人社區自動體外心臟去顫器的數量和公眾除顫率，並與其他國家的數據比較。

結果：香港新界西聯網內共有207個社區自動體外心臟去顫器。平均每一萬人有1.942個自動體外心臟去顫器。新界西聯網內所有安裝去顫器的設施的100米範圍內，平均每個去顫器有0.2宗院外心臟停搏事件。院外心臟停搏事件中有25.2%均可於100米範圍內取得自動體外心臟去顫器。公眾除顫率為0.168%。

結論：社區自動體外心臟去顫器的數量和取用率與其他發達國家相若。本研究發現社區自動體外心臟去顫器的安置點具成本效益，但公眾除顫率屬偏低。

defibrillation (PAD), laypersons can have access to AED so that defibrillation can be delivered at the earliest before ambulance arrival. The concept of PAD has been well adopted in basic life support (BLS) training. However, the utilisation rate of AED was low in Hong Kong in a previous study.¹³ With the undoubted benefit of PAD on the outcome of OHCA, it is invaluable to explore the reasons behind low PAD rate.

The successful delivery of PAD for cardiac arrest patients outside hospitals depends on a chain of factors including adequate number of AEDs in the community, close proximity of the AED to the site of OHCA (satisfactory proximity of site of AED and OHCA), knowledge of bystanders and laypersons in BLS and how to use AED and, eventually, willingness of bystanders to use AED. Minimising mismatch between the site of AED placement and the site of OHCA would maximise the chances of PAD and improve the outcomes of OHCA. A significant association has been demonstrated between the matching and cost-effectiveness of AED placement.¹⁴

The objective of our study was to evaluate the availability and accessibility of AEDs in a territory in Hong Kong. We evaluated the total number of AEDs in the community and their geographical distribution throughout the territory. In addition, we assessed the matching of AED placement site and the site of OHCA.

Methods

Study design and setting

This was a cross-sectional study performed in the New Territories West region of Hong Kong. The region includes urban town area and rural area in the districts of Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, and Tuen Mun. According to data from the 2011 Census, the residential population of the region was 1 066 075¹⁵ and the area of the territory was 223 km².^{16,17} There were only two hospitals with acute emergency services in the territory. All OHCA were delivered to either hospital.

Study population

Data on all OHCA in the territory were obtained from the local cardiac arrest registry which prospectively collects data on all OHCA cases managed in the emergency departments of the two hospitals. All data were recorded in Utstein style. The study period was from August 2010 to September 2013. Patients with traumatic cardiac arrest and deaths with postmortem changes were excluded. A total of 1936 cases were retrieved. Within those, 20 cases were excluded because these were in-hospital cardiac arrests in mental hospitals; 53 cases were excluded because of non-traceable site of arrest; 78 cases were excluded because of incomplete address. Overall, 1785 cases were included in the analysis. For OHCA occurring at home or in institutions, the sites of arrest information were retrieved from the hospital database in the admission office. For OHCA occurring outside home or institutions, data were traced from either the hospital records or ambulance records. Moreover, the PAD rate was retrieved from the registry, and double-checked with the hospital medical records and ambulance record. Public access defibrillation rate was defined as the rate of pre-hospital defibrillations performed by laypersons in patients with OHCA. It was calculated by dividing the total number of PAD cases by the total number of OHCA.

Accessibility of automated external defibrillator in an episode of cardiac arrest

According to the American Heart Association (AHA) recommendation, a community AED is regarded as accessible if it can be transported to the patient by a layperson by brisk walking within 1 to 1.5 minutes.¹⁴ For human beings, the average speed of brisk walking is around 8 km per hour, ie 2.2 m per second. A layperson can travel 200 m within 1.5 minutes. So, an AED is defined as being accessible if it is located within 100 m of a cardiac arrest patient (layperson travels 100 m to get the AED and travels 100 m to save the victim).¹⁸ Accessibility of AED in an arrest episode was also reported with various timeframes from 1 to 5 minutes of brisk walking speed.

Locations of automated external defibrillators

Since there was no AED registry in Hong Kong, obtaining the data on the site of AED was difficult. We exhausted all methods to trace all AEDs in the community throughout the territory. There were two sources of data on the locations of AEDs. Firstly, we searched all AEDs in the community as per the information from the suppliers. All suppliers registered on the Medical Device Control Office of the Department of Health for external defibrillators were contacted for purchase records. Other brands of AEDs were traced from contacts with BLS training centres. Data about the locations of AEDs were obtained from sales registers of suppliers. In total, five brands of AED suppliers were contacted including Cardio Science, Physio-control, Laerdal, Philips, and Metrax. The second source was through community search. Staff at all schools, sport facilities, swimming pools, old-age homes and other hostels, shopping malls, housing estates, and public facilities in the territory were contacted by emails, telephone calls, or personal visits to confirm the existence of AEDs. The list of public facilities was found by Internet search and included government webpages. The information of locations of community AEDs was obtained for the period from September to December 2013.

The numbers of AEDs located in the searched facilities were reported as percentages. For all AEDs located in different facilities, we evaluated the number of OHCA that occurred within 100 m throughout the study period, and calculated the average number of OHCA that occurred around the AED per year.

According to AHA recommendation, AED should be placed where there is likely one cardiac arrest within 100 m in 5 years.¹⁴ In other words, the AED installation was regarded as cost-effective if

there were more than 0.2 OHCA per AED per year within 100 m.

The availability of AED can be reflected by the AED density and the number of AEDs per 10 000 population. The AED density was calculated by dividing the total number of AEDs by the area of the territory. The number of AEDs per 10 000 population was calculated with the data of residential population from the Census data. We searched the literature to obtain similar data from studies in other countries, including Japan, Singapore, Denmark, Austria, and the US for comparison and illustration.

Methodology for geographical mapping and statistics

Locations of all cardiac arrests in this cluster were geographically coded by the Google Map (<http://maps.google.com.hk>) to longitudes and latitudes. The longitudes and latitudes of the centre of the corresponding building were coded. The precision was up to 6 decimal degrees which implies a maximum error of coordinate of 11.3 cm. For OHCA that occurred in an open area, the geocoding was performed with best achievable precision according to information from the ambulance record or hospital record. The sites of AEDs in this cluster were also located and geographically coded. The distance between each case of OHCA and AED was calculated using the Haversine formula.¹⁸ Geographical mapping was performed using scripts with Google Map.

Statistical analysis was performed with IBM SPSS 20. Categorical variables were shown in proportions and percentages. Continuous variables of distance were presented as medians and interquartile ranges for data with skewed distribution. Categorical data were compared using Chi squared test. Distances were compared with

TABLE 1. Automated external defibrillator in various types of facilities throughout the territory

Type of facility	No. of AEDs	Total no. of facilities in the region	% Of facilities with AEDs	No. of OHCA within 100 m	Average OHCA/AED/year
Community clinics	30	175	17.1%	71	0.747
Housing estates	13	73	17.8%	15	0.364
Hostels or institutions	16	83	19.3%	105	2.072
Train stations	5	5 73*	100% 6.8%	4	0.253
Parks	6	6	100%	4	0.210
Police stations	7	7	100%	7	0.315
Schools	78	163	47.9%	206	0.834
Shopping malls	13	50	26%	35	0.850
Sports stadiums	35	35	100%	98	0.884
Others	4	-	-	3	0.237
Total	207	670	-	548	0.836

Abbreviations: AED = automated external defibrillator; OHCA = out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

* Includes Light Railway stations

independent sample median test. P values of less than 0.05 were regarded as significant.

Ethical considerations

The research was approved by the Cluster Clinical Research and Ethics Committee.

Results

The site of community automated external defibrillator

A total of 674 public facilities were found in the search and enquired for the installation of AED (Table 1). The response rate was satisfactory with only two schools failing to respond to our enquiry. A total of 207 community AEDs were found and located. Among them, 180 were identified from the registers of suppliers and 27 through community search. The geographical location of the AEDs in the territory is shown in Figure a.

The characteristics of community AEDs in various types of facilities are shown in Table 1. Schools possessed most of the community AEDs (n=78), followed by sports stadiums (n=35), community clinics (n=30), and hostels (n=16). All major parks and sports stadiums, and nearly half the schools in the territory had installed AEDs. Less than 20% of housing estates and hostels had been equipped with AEDs.

The number of OHCA occurring per AED per year in various facilities is also shown in Table 1. Hostels or institutions had the most OHCA per AED per year (2.072), followed by sports stadiums (0.884), shopping malls (0.850), and schools (0.834). All facilities with AEDs in the territory had more than 0.2 OHCA per AED per year within 100 m.

The number of automated external defibrillators per population and area

The number of AEDs per 10 000 population was 1.942, and the AED density was 0.928 per km² (Table 2). The number of AEDs per population and density of Singapore, Austria, Japan, Denmark, and the US are also shown in Table 2¹⁹⁻²⁶ for comparison.

Location of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests

The geographical distribution of all OHCA is shown in Figure b. The characteristics of OHCA in various sites of cardiac arrest are shown in Table 3. More than half of OHCA occurred at home (53.0%) while one third occurred in the elderly's home (36.4%) and 8.5% occurred in open areas. More patients with OHCA in open areas and inside other buildings had received pre-hospital defibrillation versus those occurring in other locations. The median distance from the site of cardiac arrest to the nearest AED was lowest for cardiac arrest occurring in open areas. The proportion of OHCA in open areas with

AEDs in reachable distance was higher compared with those occurring in other sites.

Matching of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests with community automated external defibrillators

Among all OHCA, 25.2% could have AEDs reachable within 100 m (1.5 minutes); 59.4% could

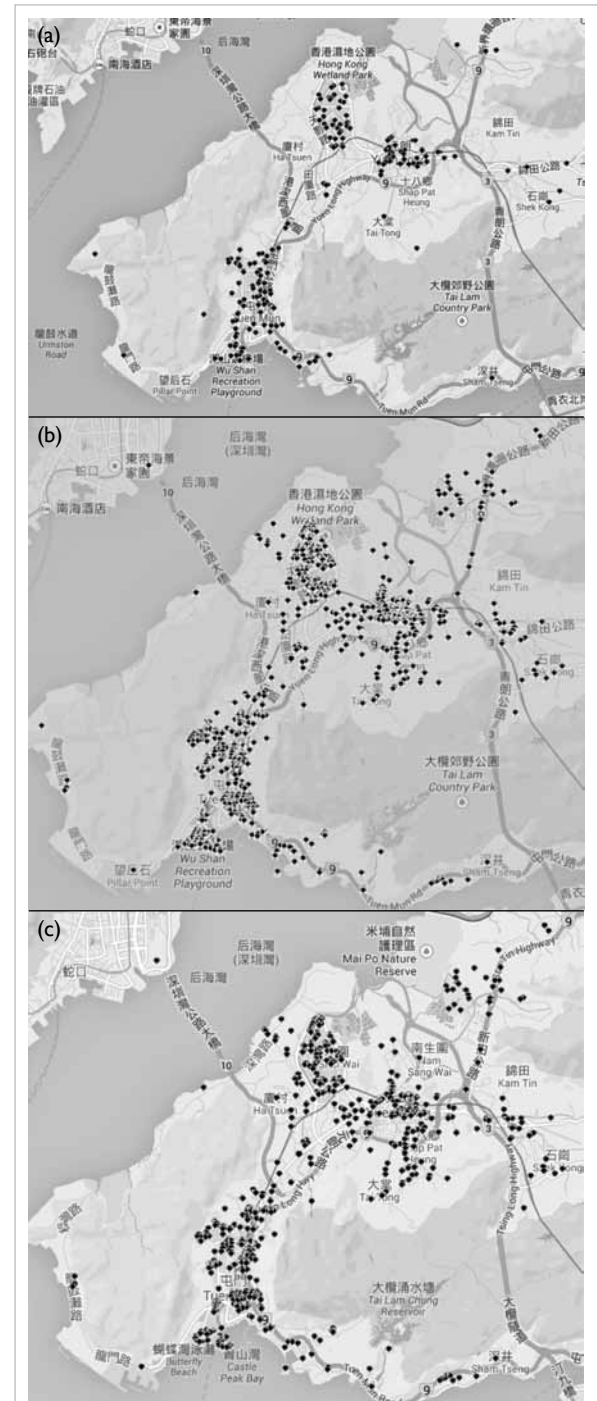


FIG. Mapping of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA) throughout the territory
 (a) Location of AEDs, (b) location of OHCA throughout the study period, and (c) location of OHCA where AED was not accessible within 100 m

have AEDs available within 3 minutes (200 m) [Table 4]. For cardiac arrests occurring in open areas, the proportion of cases with AEDs within reachable distance (100 m) was higher than the arrests happening in buildings (37.7% vs 24.0%). The difference was statistically significant (P<0.001). Figure c illustrates the distribution of OHCA for which AEDs were not accessible within 100 m.

Public access defibrillation rate

From the cardiac arrest registry, 23 out of 1785 OHCA had documented PAD. However, with

confirmation from hospital and pre-hospital records, 20 were performed by ambulance crew or other pre-hospital personnel. Only three (0.168%) out of 1785 had genuine PAD.

Of the 650 OHCA occurring in old-age homes, 81 cases happened in hostels equipped with AEDs. Public access defibrillation was delivered in only one case. A total of 80 (98.8%) cases of cardiac arrest events in hostels equipped with AEDs were not defibrillated. Cases where AED was applied but no shock delivered were not considered for calculating PAD rate.

TABLE 2. Automated external defibrillator per population and automated external defibrillator density in various countries

	Year	No. of AEDs	Population (x 10 ⁶)	AED/10 000 population	Area (km ²)	Density AED/km ²
New Territories West region of Hong Kong	2013	207	1.066	1.942	223	0.928
Japan ¹⁹	2007	8 826 520	12 720	6.978	37 800 020	0.234
Singapore ²⁰⁻²²	2013	106421	5.39922	1.971	682.323	1.559
Copenhagen ²³	2011	55 224	0.60024	9.200	9724	5.691
Austria ^{24,25}	2004	186 525	8.4126	2.218	8 400 026	0.022
Metropolitan area in the US ²⁶	2006	173 927	2.527	6.956	517 827	0.336

Abbreviation: AED = automated external defibrillator

TABLE 3. Cardiac arrests occurring in various sites during the study period

Site of arrest	No. (%)	Pre-hospital defibrillation delivered	Median distance (m) from site of arrest to the nearest AED (IQR)	AED accessible within 100 m
Home	946/1785 (53.0%)	139/946 (14.7%)	167.3 (198.1)	238/946 (25.2%)
Old-age home	650/1785 (36.4%)	30/650 (4.6%)	181.0 (153.4)	142/650 (21.8%)
Inside other buildings	38/1785 (2.1%)	17/38 (44.7%)	149.4 (180.3)	12/38 (31.6%)
Open areas	151/1785 (8.5%)	48/151 (31.8%)	132.1 (162.2)	57/151 (37.7%)
			P=0.02*	P<0.001†

Abbreviations: AED = automated external defibrillator; IQR = interquartile range

* Independent sample median test

† Chi squared test

TABLE 4. Matching between location of automated external defibrillator and out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

Distance	Reachable time limit at 8 km/h	Case with AED nearby (%)			P value
		All OHCA	OHCA in open areas	OHCA in buildings	
Median distance from the nearest AED (IQR)		167.3 (172.0)	132.1 (154.0)	170.4 (169.6)	0.007*
333 m	5 Minutes	1471/1785 (82.4%)	126/151 (83.4%)	1345/1634 (82.3%)	0.729†
267 m	4 Minutes	1310/1785 (73.4%)	119/151 (78.8%)	1191/1634 (72.9%)	0.115†
200 m	3 Minutes	1060/1785 (59.4%)	105/151 (69.5%)	955/1634 (58.4%)	0.008†
133 m	2 Minutes	616/1785 (34.5%)	77/151 (51.0%)	539/1634 (33.0%)	<0.001†
100 m	1.5 Minutes	449/1785 (25.2%)	57/151 (37.7%)	392/1634 (24.0%)	<0.001†
66.7 m	1 Minute	222/1785 (12.4%)	45/151 (29.8%)	177/1634 (10.8%)	<0.001†

Abbreviations: AED = automated external defibrillator; IQR = interquartile range; OHCA = out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

* Independent sample median test

† Chi squared test

Discussion

The number of AEDs per 10 000 population in our study (1.942) was comparable to that in Singapore (1.971) and Austria (2.218), but far behind that in Copenhagen (9.200), Japan (6.978), and the US (6.956).

More than half of the schools were equipped with AEDs. The high equipment rate was because of the ‘Heart-safe School’ project organised by the Hong Kong College of Cardiology. The project aimed to install AEDs in over 1000 primary, secondary, and special schools in Hong Kong. It also provided training on CPR and the operation of AEDs to school staff.²⁷ In our community survey, among schools not equipped with AEDs, at least 12 had joined the project and would receive AED installation in coming years. Thus, in the coming years, most of the schools would be equipped with AEDs.

All facilities with AEDs in this territory had more than 0.2 OHCA per AED per year within 100 m (Table 1). Thus, the cost-effectiveness of AEDs located in various types of facilities was satisfactory.

More patients with OHCAs in open areas and inside other buildings had pre-hospital defibrillation, ie shockable rhythm (Table 3). The median distance from the site of arrest to the nearest AED was lowest for cardiac arrests occurring in open areas and the proportion of OHCAs in open areas with AEDs within reachable distance was higher. It implies that the accessibility of AEDs in OHCAs occurring in open areas was higher. This group of patients should benefit most from community AEDs.

The average number of OHCA events per AED was highest in old-age homes installed with AEDs (more than two events per AED per year), which was far higher than the recommended threshold of cost-effective AED by AHA (0.2 event per AED per year). However, only 16 (19.3%) out of 83 old-age homes in our study were installed with AEDs. Although there was high incidence of OHCAs, the proportion of patients with shockable rhythm in pre-hospital stage remained low (4.6%) [Table 3]; consequently, the cost-effectiveness of placement of AEDs in old-age homes could not be concluded. In old-age homes with AED equipment, old-age home staff may be unable or reluctant to use AEDs. In our study, 98.8%

of cardiac arrests in old-age homes equipped with AEDs received no PAD. This suggests that apart from installing AEDs, BLS training and education should be provided to the old-age home staff to increase the PAD rate.

In our study, most OHCAs (53%) occurred at home. However, OHCAs within coverage of AEDs (100 m) in housing estates was 0.364 event/AED/year, which was lower than that in schools, shopping malls, and sports stadiums. This was related to the large area of the housing estates versus that in hostels or other public facilities. To improve the AED coverage, more AEDs are required to be installed in housing estates. Another alternative would be consideration of home AEDs in families with high-risk residents. However, the benefit of home AEDs remains doubtful. A randomised controlled trial from 2003 to 2005 has shown that home AEDs offered no benefit to high-risk residents.²⁸ The study recruited 7001 survivors of anterior myocardial infarction who were not candidates for an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator. They were randomised to either calling emergency medical services (EMS) and performing CPR, or using AEDs, calling EMS and performing CPR. It was found that there was no significant reduction in mortality in the AED group despite most of the arrests occurring at home. The authors concluded that it was due to low event rate, high proportion of unwitnessed events, and underuse of AEDs.

Only 13 (26%) of 50 shopping malls were equipped with AEDs, while the average event/AED/year was high (0.850) for AEDs installed in this location. This implied that more AEDs should be installed in these buildings. With surge in tourism and increase in people flow in shopping malls, the incidence of OHCAs in shopping malls would be expected to be increased over time. Shopping malls should be encouraged to install AEDs and the staff should be provided with relevant training and education.

For the matching of locations of AEDs and OHCAs, 25.2% of OHCAs occurred with accessible AEDs within 100 m. This was slightly lower than that observed in a study in Copenhagen in 2011 (28.8%) with the same definition.²³ With the timeframe of

TABLE 5. Public access defibrillation rate in various countries

	Year	No. of PADs delivered	No. of OHCAs	PAD rate
New Territories West region of Hong Kong	2010-2013	3	1785	0.168%
Japan ¹⁹	2005-2007	462	312 319	0.148%
Metropolitan area in the US ²⁶	2006	26	1231	2.11%
Copenhagen ²⁹	1994-2005	0	4828	0%
North America ³⁰	2005-2007	163	14 420	1.13%

Abbreviations: OHCA = out-of-hospital cardiac arrest; PAD = public access defibrillation

3 minutes, up to nearly 60% of OHCA events had AEDs within accessible distance of around 200 m.

However, the PAD rate in our cluster was extremely low (0.168%). The PAD rate is low all over the world; it is at most 2.11% in previous studies (Table 5).^{19,26,29,30} A study in Copenhagen found that no AED was ever used during the study period from 1994 to 2005.²⁹ The authors attributed this to the recent installation of AEDs (predominantly in 2005) and low annual incidence of cardiac arrests near AEDs. There is no local study on this issue. The low usage rate might have several reasons. People might not know there is an AED nearby. There is no central registration of community AEDs in Hong Kong. Automated external defibrillators could be accessible but might not be visible. It is difficult for a bystander to find a community AED if he/she is not a staff of that community facility. Certainly, central registration of community AEDs could improve the problem. Bystanders could be informed how to access the nearest community AED after calling 999 if all community AED sites were registered. A study in the US showed that such emergency dispatch systems could improve the PAD rate.³¹ With sophistication in mobile technology, it is not difficult to develop softwares or Apps in mobile devices which could firstly provide the current location of the BLS provider by GPS (Global Positioning System), and then automatically locate the nearest reachable AED. The location of AEDs in the territory could be continuously updated with the central AED registry through the Internet. Furthermore, central mandatory AED registry could facilitate researches and auditing, which could provide insight on the PAD situation throughout the Hong Kong territories.

People may be reluctant to use community AEDs even if these are available. In a survey conducted in a shopping mall with AEDs in the US in 2001, it was found that the most common concern with using community AEDs was 'fear of using the machine incorrectly'. The second most common concern was 'fear of legal liability'.³² Education of the public and providing legal support may help to change their belief. Lo et al³³ suggested that a law offering 'Good Samaritan' protection against liability rescuers in Hong Kong could alleviate the uncertainties and increase the benefits of the PAD programme. However, such legal proceeding has not been carried forward in Hong Kong. Lack of explicit and clear legislation certainly decreases the willingness to use AEDs. Without law protection, rescuers may be afraid of being sued by the victims' families in case of failed resuscitation. As a result, it is no surprise that 'do no harm without any action including CPR' is the choice of most bystanders.^{4,34}

Central AED registry for optimising placement of AED, education of laypersons, and legal support for bystanders providing CPR and using AED may

be important for improving PAD rate and outcomes of OHCA. Further study on evaluation of laypersons' attitude towards AED use could provide more insights on this problem.

Limitations of this study

Without central registry, the list of community AEDs obtained from suppliers and through community search may not be exhaustive. The actual number of community AEDs might be underestimated. Information about PAD delivery was obtained predominantly from the registry and pre-hospital records. The number of OHCA with AEDs applied but not defibrillated was not traceable. Automated external defibrillators might have been used but PAD not delivered in non-shockable rhythm. The rate of AED use might be underestimated. However, all studies on PAD had the same assumption and bias. There was potential time bias in that the installation time of community AED was unknown. Out-of-hospital cardiac arrests that occurred from August 2010 to September 2013 were included in the study. The cardiac events of patients might have occurred prior to AED installation.

The distance calculated in our study was the shortest distance. In-building travel time was not incorporated. There are plenty of buildings within in a housing estate, especially in urban areas, in Hong Kong. The distance of vertical lift was also not taken into account. The actual time and distance might be underestimated. Furthermore, the accuracy of geographical mapping was up to the level of the building, and there would be bias between the geographical coordinates and the exact location of AEDs. Furthermore, for those OHCA that happened in open areas, the geocoding was performed at the best achievable precision according to the available information from the ambulance and hospital records; this might have been associated with information bias.

Conclusions

In the New Territories West region of Hong Kong, the number of AEDs per 10 000 population was 1.942 and the accessibility within 100 m of OHCA was 25.2%, both being comparable to those from other developed countries. Although the placement site of community AED was cost-effective, PAD rate at 0.168% was low.

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