

# Abu Dhabi Police Ambulance EMT's Medical Errors January-October 2018

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# Introduction

- Medical errors are **a reality** for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) working in pre hospital *high-stress environment*.
- A “medical error” can be **defined as** a mistake or system failure which results in improper care of patient injury.



## AIM

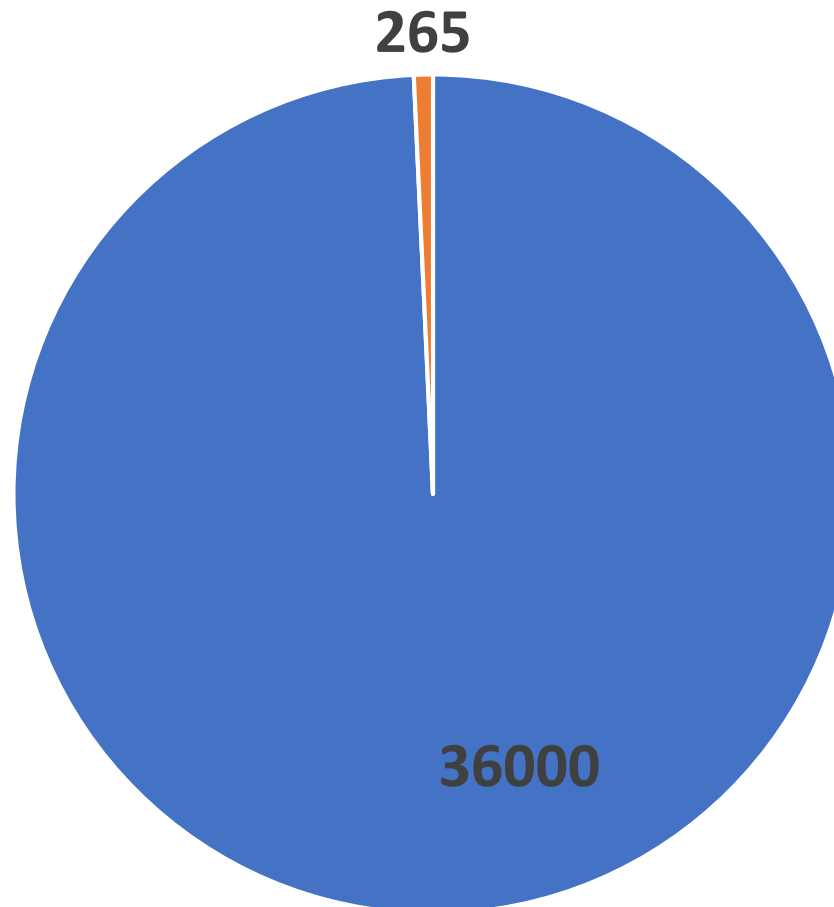
The aim of our work is to study the *frequency, severity, types* and *causes* of medical errors committed by Abu Dhabi Police Ambulance (*ADPA*) crews, and *how to prevent these errors*.

# METHOD

- Our study is ***retrospective***. All the data was collected using the Electronic Patient Care Report (***EPCR***) of all the patient treated and transported by ADPA crew **from January to October 2018.**
- After the EPCR auditing and monitoring, the medical errors were identified and discussed by a ***medical committee***.



## RESULTS: Total number of Medical Errors = 0.74%



The total number of studied EPCR (trauma and medical cases) was **36.000**.  
The **medical errors** identified were **265 cases (0.74%)**.

# RESULTS: Critical Medical Errors = 6%

## Minor Medical Errors

115 (43%)

## Moderate Medical Errors

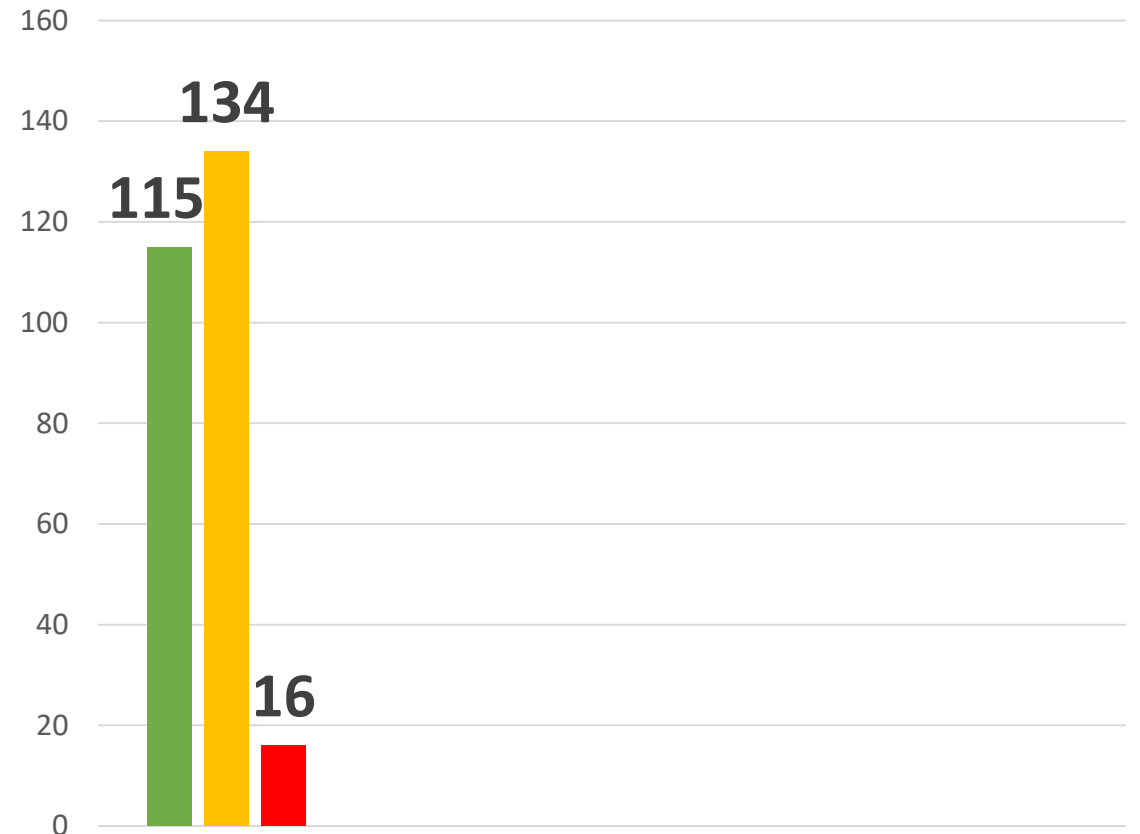
(can cause side effects)

134 (51%)

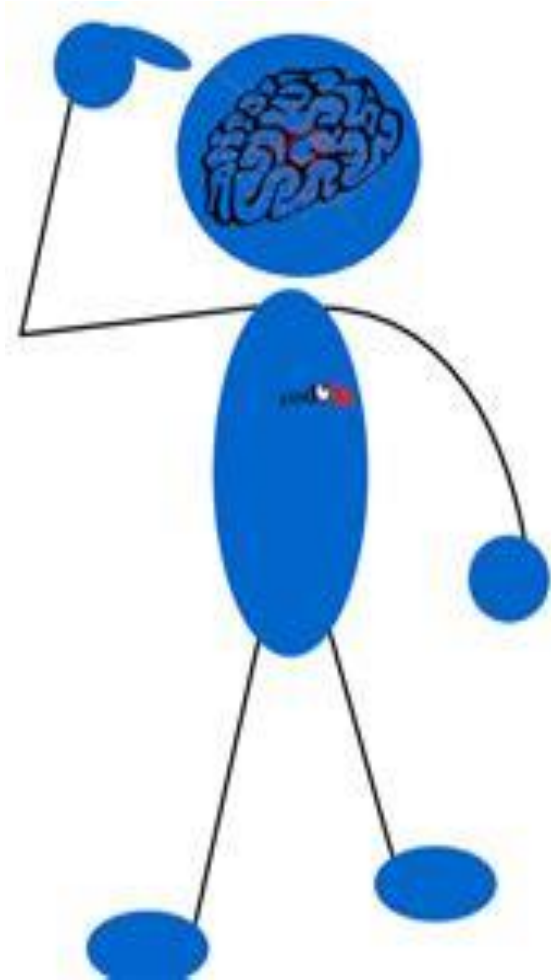
## Critical Medical Errors

(can lead to death)

16 (6%)



RESULTS: The most common type of medical errors = Cognitive Errors.



**Cognitive  
Errors**



## RESULTS: Skill-based Errors (10%)

Skill-based errors 27/265 = (10%)

16 *Intra venous* failures

10 *Intra Osseous* failures

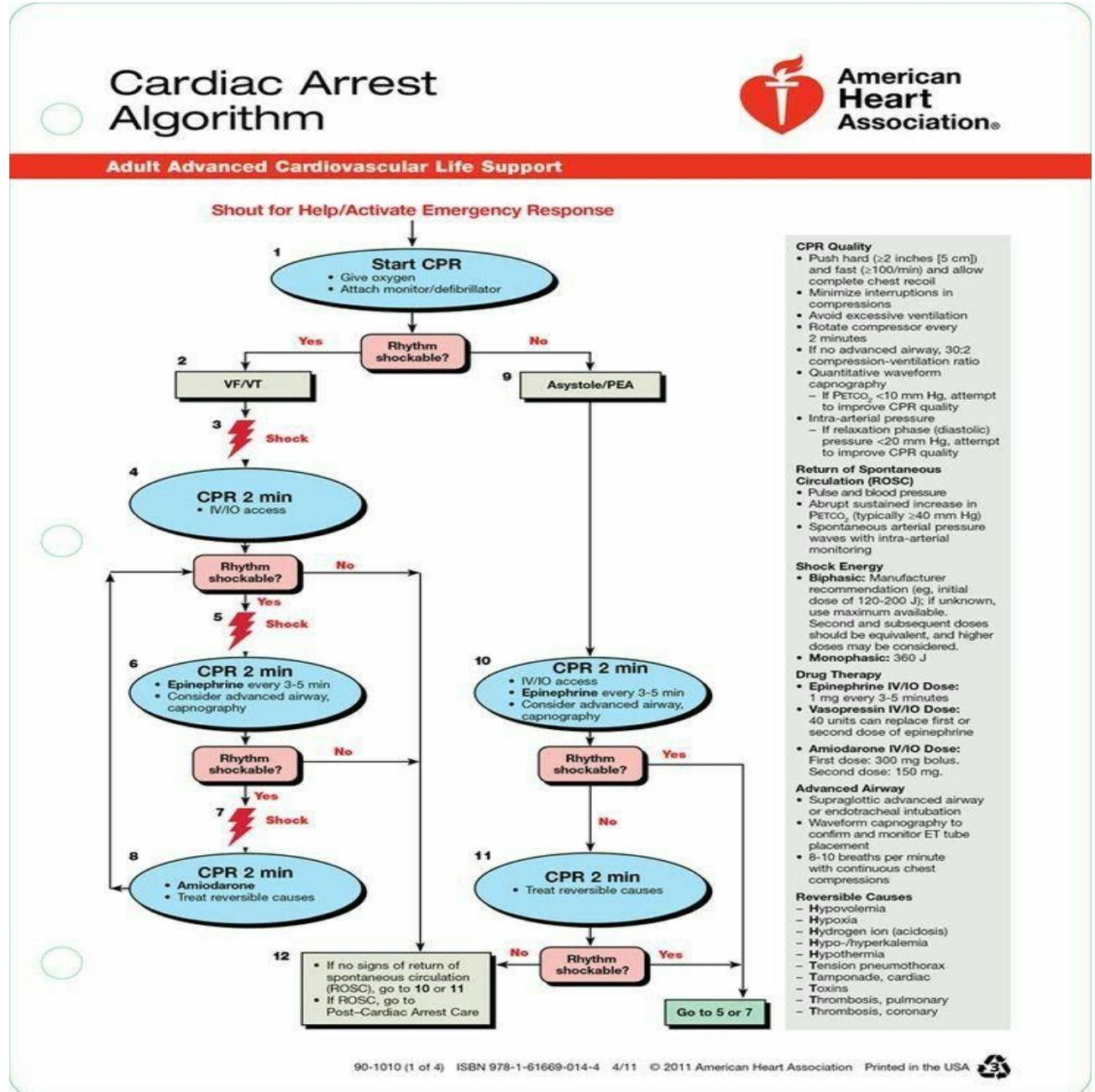
One *dislodge endo tracheal tube*





# RESULTS: Rule-based Errors (2%)

Rule-based errors:  $5/265 = (2\%)$   
 Paramedics did not follow ACLS  
 Algorithm (3 shockable CA, 2 PEA).



## RESULTS: Knowledge-based Errors (2%)

Knowledge-based errors: *Drug indication's errors*:  $5/265=(2\%)$ .



*The three EMT's levels in ADPA* (Basic, Intermediate, and advanced Paramedic) committed medical errors.

## DISCUSSION



The question we need to ask is not **who** made the mistake, but **why the mistake was made?**

**Preventing ADPA crew errors** requires a **system approach** to modify the conditions that contribute to errors.

**Our strategies** are developing more **awareness of cognitive errors** by **education** and incorporating **simulation into training**.

# CONCLUSION

- EMTs and Paramedics ***often make mistakes.***
- ***Punitive response is not*** an effective way to prevent recurrence but it may be appropriate in some cases.
- Correction of errors occurs through ***training***: Incorporate simulation into prehospital training plan.
- Preventing errors requires a ***systems approach*** to modify the conditions that contribute to errors.