Acute Coronary Syndrome: Nurse's practice in prehospital procedures

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The Emergency Medical System is one of the most important elements of the healthcare system because it is essential for the citizens' sense of security. A medical rescue team (EMT) assists patients in cases of immediate danger to their health and life. The differences between the medical emergency system in Poland and the rest of the world are visible in relation to the types of EMTs, their crews, the education system and competence. In EMTs in Poland one can work as a nurse if they have a bachelor's degree with the appropriate specialization: emergency nursing, anesthesia of intensive care, surgery, cardiology and pediatrics. The major of Paramedics also takes place at the level of a 3-year bachelor studies programme.

The competence of a paramedic and nurses are the same under these circumstances. However, in the case of Acute Coronary Syndromes (ACS) in the prehospital period, the nurse is required to conduct an interview and perform an electrocardiogram. Additionally, in a case where there is a shred of doubt about whether a given ECG result indicates ACS, the nurse has the option to perform a transmission ECG to the invasive cardiology center. With a reasonable suspicion of ACS, the nurse has at their disposal medications such as acetylsalicylic acid, morphine, nitroglycerin, heparin and oxygen. After performing an ECG transmission and after consulting a physician who will evaluate them, they can use clopidogrel or ticagrelor. Therefore, the nurse must follow the guidelines of the European Resuscitation Council and the European Cardiac Society for the treatment of ACS in pre-hospital care.

Biography

Michał Czapla, Ph.D., MBA is a paramedic and dietitian and an assistant professor of public health and health management. Member of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), the European Society of Cardiology - Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions (ACNAP).

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