



Ok, but in the Wilderness and related activities that can't be what really hurts or kills us ??

What's the real answer ? Is there one ?

What kills us out there! Wilderness Morbidity/Mortality (Presented @ WMS Winter Meeting February 2023)

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What Hurts/Kills Us Out There

•A Literature Review of

wilderness Injury/ mortality

data was first done in 2007

which included 204 articles

2009 and gained 72 more

articles for a total of

and 2017. (And prior to

11 different activities were

meeting).

identified

The literature was run again in

Search was run again in 2015

- 1. Hiking
 - 2. In bound (downhill)
 - skiing
 - 3. Cross-country skiing
 - 4. Snowboarding
 - 5. Sledding
 - 6. Snowmobile use
 - 7. Mountaineering/Alpine climbing
 - 8. Canyoneering
 - 9. Swimming
 - 10. Paddling Sports
 - 11. Mountain biking

rthur A Islas, "The pre-participation sports physical examination and wilderness athletes" (January 1, 2007). ETD collection for louston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center, Paper AAI1445481. http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/dissertations/

What Hurts/Kills Us Out There

Morbidity

- Soft tissue upper and lower ext (lacerations, sprains, strains, fractures)
- Illnesses GI nausea and vomiting

Mortality

- Falls
- Drowning
- CAD (35 and over)

What Hurts/Kills Us Out There

- Incidence numbers are hard to extrapolate but looking into the literature ...
- we could say that almost all studies show that 1 – 3 incidence/100,000 visits or 1-3 incidents per 1000 days.
- Sport event numbers are higher and varied per sports event

NCAA Data:

- Football games (13.8 injuries per 1000 A–Es) than in practices (4.0
- injuries per 1000 A-Es)
- Basketball The overall injury rate was 7.28 per 1000 athlete exposures, with competition rates twice those of practices

J Athl Train (2021) 56 (7): 681-687

<section-header> Resources: Widerness Medical Society Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Frostbite: 2019 Update Refuests, Medical Society Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Frostbite: 2019 Update Refuests, Markato Markato, DA. Mis Guerge W. Rolway, BD. APRX, anala Coderat, Do. Mistorney BP. Hanay, MD. Pairo Pandey, MD. Parkatal Anala Coderat, Do. Mistorney BP. Barkato, MD. Mistorney, MD. Pairo Pandey, MD. Parkatal Coderat, Brance, MD. Pairo Pandey, MD. Pairo Pa



Objectives:

- To review WM morbitity/mortality
- Review Frostbite with emphasis on pre-hospital eval & Tx.
- Review Hypothermia with emphasis on Pre-Hospital Tx.

Have fun...

No commercial disclosures with re: to this talk...



Why talk about Frostbite?



So this never happens again!!!!

Tissue heat loss > local tissue perfusion



Dem^{rit}iu.²

Frostone and the subjected to damage sustained by nocting mine subjected to the subjected to the subjected to the subjected to the series of the subject of the series it can include non-freezing cold injuries, where tissues do not freeze but are subject to a sustained and injurious cooling.



Prevention... is the key!



•Maintain peripheral perfusion. Exercise

•Protect from cold (insulate). •Behavioral issues...

Epidemiology

- True incidence unknown...
- •Military conflicts.
- Outdoor recreational activities.
- •Males: ETOH and drugs



Risk Factors

- Outdoor cold activities
- Altitude.
- Duration of exposure.
- Dehydration.
- Previous cold injury.
- Over-exertion, fatigue, apathy.

- Immobility
- Altered mentation
- Poor nutrition.
- Contact with metal objects.
- Smoking.
- Home of origin
- Temperature and wind....WIND KILLS!

					1V	VS	5 V	Vi	nc	lc	hi	II	CI	na	rt				
									Tem	pera	ture	(°F)							
	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
h)	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
Ē	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
p	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
Ŵ	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97
	60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98
	Frostbite Times 🚺 30 minutes 🚺 10 minutes 🚺 5 minutes																		
	Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V ^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V ^{0.16})																		
	Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph) Effective 11/01/0								1/01/01										

Anatomy/Physiology:

Hands, feet, nose, ears....

AV anastomoses

•Capable of shunting and flow rates that vary 3ml/ min-180ml/min

•Sympathetic innervation

•Maintain core temperature at the cost of periphery.





RISK FACTORS

Impaired Local circulation: Inadequacy of protective: Nicotine & smoking Drugs Disease states which alter perfusion. Splinted, injured extremities.

clothing: Tight fitting clothing No head cap Wet clothing Gloves instead of mittens. Poorly fitted footwear. Tight crampons.

Physiology: CIVD



Pathophsyiology

Pre-freeze phase

Tissue cooling with vasoconstriction and ischemia. No freezing

Freeze thaw phase

Ice crystals form intracellularly (during a more rapid-onset freezing injury) and/or extracellularly (during a slower freeze), causing protein and lipid derangement, cellular electrolyte shifts, cellular dehydration, cell membrane lysis and cell death.

Vascular stasis phase.

Vessels may fluctuate between constriction and dilation; blood may leak from vessels or coagulate within them.

Late ischemic changes

Progressive tissue ischemia and infarction from a cascade of events including: inflammation mediated by thromboxane A2, prostaglandin F2-alpha, bradykinins, and histamine; intermittent vasoconstriction of arterioles and venules; continued re-perfusion injury; showers of emboli coursing through the micro-vessels; and thrombus formation in larger vessels. **Destruction of the microcirculation is the main factor leading to cell death**.

Clinical Presentation

More frequent on extremities

Numbness followed by pain, then insensitivity Clumsiness

Cold waxy appearance

Blisters, clear, yellow, bloody

May also affect eyes and tip of penis/nipples



Classificat	ion							
Table 1. Four-Level Class	ification Schemes for Frostb	ite.*						
Classification Scheme	Classification Level							
Clinical scheme	First Degree	Second Degree	Third Degree	Fourth Degree				
Depth of injury	Superficial, may include nonfrozen cold injury	Within the dermis	Full-thickness skin	Tissue beneath skin, includ ing muscle tendon and bone				
Initial findings	Reduced sensation, erythema, and burning after rewarming	Clear blistering with later sloughing of necrotic skin, pain with re- warming	Blue-gray skin discoloration; blisters that are clear, hemorrhagic, or both; pain with rewarming	Blue-gray skin discoloratior no pain with rewarming				
Sequelae	None	Lasting cold sensitivity may develop	Full-thickness skin wounds, damage to growth plates in children	Full-thickness skin wounds necrosis of underlying bone and deep tissue				
Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 G								
Cauchy scheme								
Extent of initial lesion	No lesion	Lesion on distal phalanx	Lesion on middle and proxi- mal phalanx	Lesion on carpal or tarsal area				
Bone scanning on day 2	Scanning unnecessary	Hypofixation of radiotracer	Absence of radiotracer uptake in digit	Absence of radiotracer up- take in carpal or tarsal area				
Blisters on day 2	None	Clear blisters	Hemorrhagic blisters	Hemorrhagic blisters				
Prognosis on day 2	No sequelae	Tissue amputation	Bone amputation of digit	Bone amputation of limb				
* The information is from	Handford et al.4 and Cauch	v et al. ⁵						

Cauchy Classific	cation			C	Classification:			
A strong correlation was found between the extent of the lesion and the outcome of each finger or toe.								
Anatomic area	Ris	k of Bone Ampu	tation	Desert on these clinical negulta				
Distal phalanx		1%		Based on these clinical results				
To Middle Phalan	<	31%		scans (previously validated), a				
Proximal Phalanx		67%						
Metacarpal/metatar	sal	98%		new classification of trostbite				
Carpal/tarsal		100% Seven			y ur duy o is proposed.			
Table 2. Proposed class	sification scheme for	severity of frostbite injurie	s					
Frostbite injuries of the extremities	Grade 1 (Figure 1)	Grade 2 (Figure 2)	Grad (Figur	e 3 re 3)	Grade 4 (figure 4)			
Extent of initial lesion at day 0 after rapid rewarming	Absence of initial lesion	Initial lesion on distal phalanx	Initial lesion intermediar proximal pl	on y (and) halanx	Initial lesion on carpal/ tarsal			
Bone scanning at day 2	Useless	Hypofixation of radiotracer uptake area	Absence of ra uptake area	diotracer on the digit	Absence of radiotracer uptake area on the carpal/tarsal			
Blisters at day 2	Absence of blisters	Clear blisters	Hemorrhagic the digit	blisters on	Hemorrhagic blisters over carpal/tarsal			
Prognosis at day 2	No amputation	Tissue amputation	Bone amputation of dig		Bone amputation of the limb			
					± systemic involvement			
	No sequelae	Fingernail sequelae	Functional see	quelae	Functional sequelae			
uchy E, et al. Retrospective study of 70 cases of severe frostbite lesions: a proposed new classification scheme. Wilderness and Environmental Medicine, 12, 8 255 (2001)								
Windsmess Medical Society Field Rescue Recommended: • Superficial-no or minimal anticipated tissue loss, corresponding to first- and second-degree injury. • Deep-anticipated tissue loss, corresponding to third- and fourth-degree injury.								





Wilderness Medical Society Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Frostbite: 2019 Update

Strategies for 2 pre-hospital scenarios are presented: ** Worst case scenario is Freeze-Thaw-Refreeze....mummifies tissue.

<u>Scenario 1</u>: The frozen part has the potential for refreezing and is not actively thawed.

Scenario 2: The frozen part is thawed and kept warm without refreezing until evacuation is completed.





For both scenarios:

Treat hypothermia! (Moderate-Severe takes priority)

Hydration (oral or IV) to optimize volume status. Vascular stasis should be minimized

LMW Dextran. Decreases blood viscosity (decreases RBC aggregation and microthrombi. Usually not available)

Ibuprofen. 12mg/kg/day (Field dose) (divided BID) if no pain for anti-prostaglandin effect, to Max 2400mg divided QID for pain.

<u>Scenario 1</u>: The frozen part has the potential for refreezing and is not actively thawed.

 Dressings (if able) – bulky, dry, clean with pads between digits.

• Ambulation and Protection:

- Minimize trauma (pad and minimize trauma if able)
- Use common sense (if necessary to ambulate for self
- extrication or evacuation, this takes priority)

<u>Scenario 2</u>: The frozen part is thawed and kept warm without refreezing until evacuation is completed.

- Rapid rewarming (warm water bath @ 98.6-102.2F)
- Pain control
- Debridement (Clear OK, hemorrhagic-NO)
- Allow vera
- DressingsProtection.
- Elevate

• O2 IF sats <88%, > 4000m

 Table 2. Summary of field treatment of frostbite over 2 hrs

 from definitive care)

1. Treat hypothermia or serious trauma

- 2. <u>Remove jewelry</u> or other extraneous material from the body part
- 3. Rapidly rewarm in water heated and maintained between 37-39°C (98.6-102.2°F) until area becomes soft and pliable to the touch (approximately 30 minutes). Allow spontaneous/passive thawing if rapid rewarming is not possible
- 4. Ibuprofen (12 mg/kg per day divided twice daily) if available
- 5. Pain medication (eg, opiate) as needed
- 6. Air dry (ie, do not rub at any point)
- 7. Protect from refreezing and direct trauma
- 8. Apply topical aloe vera cream or gel if available
- 9. Dry, bulky dressings
- 10. Elevate the affected body part if possible
- 11. Systemic hydration
- 12. Avoid ambulation on thawed lower extremity (unless only distal toes are affected)



Table 3. Summary of initial hospital management of frostbite

- 1. Treat hypothermia or serious trauma
- 2. Rapidly rewarm in water heated and maintained between 37-39°C (98.6-102.2°F) until area becomes soft and pliable to the touch (approximately 30 minutes)
- 3. Ibuprofen (12 mg/kg per day divided twice daily)
- 4. Pain medication (eg, opiate) as needed
- 5. Tetanus prophylaxis
- 6. Air dry (ie, do not rub at any point)
- 7. Debridement: selectively drain (eg, by needle aspiration) clear blisters and leave hemorrhagic blisters intact
- 8. Topical aloe vera every 6 hrs with dressing changes
- 9. Dry, bulky dressings
- 10. Elevate the affected body part if possible
- 11. Systemic hydration



Iloprost therapy: consider for deep frostbite to or proximal to the proximal interphalangeal joint, less than 72 hrs after injury, especially if angiography is not available or with contraindications to thrombolysis (Not approved in US).

PGI2, a potent prostacyclin which vasodialates systemic and pulmonary circulation & Inhibits platelet aggregation.

Recommend that in the treatment of severe frostbite (stage 3 or above), <u>after rapid</u> <u>rewarming, a combination of aspirin and</u> <u>prostacyclin should be used</u>. The addition of rt-PA should be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the severity of injury (at least stage 4 frostbite), the presence of trauma (especially head trauma), any medical contraindications, and the amount of time passed since rewarming.

A controlled trial of a prostacyclin and rt-PA in the treatment of sev frostbite. NEJM 364:2 2011



Field use of both iloprost and IV tPA has been advocated to reduce delay in treatment for mountaineers who will invariably take >48 h for evacuation to a hospital. In these situations, iloprost may be the safer alternative.



Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Interventions for frostbite injuries (Review)

) AK, Davis C, Penninga L. Interventions for frostbite injuries. I Database of Systematic Reviews 2020, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD012980. DOI:10.1002/14651858.CD012980.pub2.

There is a paucity of evidence regarding interventions for frostbite injuries. Very low-quality evidence from a single small trial <u>indicates that</u> <u>iloprost</u>, and iloprost plus rtPA</u>, in combination with buflomedil may reduce the need for amputation in people with severe frostbite compared to buflomedil alone. However, buflomedil has been withdrawn from use.

HIGH QUALITY RANDOMIZED TRIALS ARE NEEDED TO ESTABLISH FIRM EVIDENCE FOR THE TREATMENT OF FROSTBITE INJURIES.











Hypothermia

Wilderness Medical Society Practice Guidelines for the Out-of-Hospital Evaluation and Treatment of Accidental Hypothermia: 2019 Update. Dow J, et al.....NOTE: New Guidelines out early 2024. WEMJ Volume 30, Issue 4, Supplement, December 2019, Pages S47-S69

- cT< 35C or 95F
- Same Risk Factors as Frostbite.
- Cold and Wet....immersion most common (see drowning lecture)
- Not as common as Frostbite but takes priority over FB.

ASSESS COLD PATIENT

- 1. From outside ring to centre: assess Consciousness, Movement, Shivering, Alertness
- 2. Assess whether normal, impaired or no function
- 3. The colder the patient is, the slower you can go, once patient is secured
- 4. Treat all traumatized cold patients with active warming to upper trunk
- 5. Avoid burns: following product guidelines for heat sources; check for excessive skin redness

• Confounding Variables: Alcohol, Drugs, Hypogylcemia, Sepsis, Trauma, Medications...







CARE FOR COLD PATIENT

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES FOR SEARCH/RESPONSE TEAMS IN COLD ENVIRONMENTS:

- Tarp or plastic sheet for vapour barrier outside sleeping bag
- Plastic or foil sheet (2 x 3 m) for vapour barrier placed inside sleeping bag
 Source of heat for each team member (e.g., chemica)
- Insulated ground pad
 Hooded sleeping bag (or equivalent)
- Source of heat for each team member (e.g., chemical heating pads, or warm water in a bottle or hydration bladder), or each team (e.g., charcoal heater, chemical / electrical heating blanket, or military style Hypothermia Prevention and Management Kit [HPMK])
- indproof, waterproof outer layer







Revised Swiss system for Pre-hospital

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Clinical findings 1	"Alert" from AVPU	"Verbal" from AVPU	"Painful" or "Unconscious" from AVPU Vital signs present	"Unconscious" from AVPU AND No detectable vital signs ²
Risk of cardiac arrest ³	Low	Moderate	High	Hypothermic cardiac arrest
Oxygen according to ususal clinical practice, (goal: SpO ₂ > 94%) ⁴	+	+	+	+
Carbohydrates	Warm sweet tea, sweet bars	Glucose IV/IO. ⁵	Glucose IV/IO. ⁵	-
Active movement	+	_ 6	-	-
Passive rewarming	+	+	+	+
Active rewarming	(+)	+	+	+
Cautious mobilisation/horizontal transport if possible	-	+	+	-
Defibrillation pads	-	+	+	+
Intubation	-		Consider	+
CPR	-	-	-	+
Defibrillation	-	-	-	+ 7
Drugs (CPR)	-	-	-	+ 8
Hospital with ECLS 9	-	-	+	+

Accidental Hypothermia: 2021 Update Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2022, 19, 501





ENSURE SCENE SAFETY Handle gently. Keep horizontal. ther than hypothermia Stabilize injuries. Co Prevent After-drop Avoid Rescue Collapse If clinically indicated, start CPR. NOT HYPOTHERMIC al mental status? COLD STRESSED - NOT HYPOTHERMIC >35°C YES Reduce heat loss, increase heat product NO Uninjured, alert and shivering: may not need hospital. Trauma patients: active rewarming, trauma cente Asphyxiated patients: closest hospital for observation. MILD HYPOTHERMIA 35-32°C YES Protect from further cooling using insulation and vapor barrier. Seek shelter. Remove (cut off) wet clothing only with shelter. Measure temperature if possible. Passive warming: Support shivering with calorie replacement. After protected from heat loss: No standing or walking for 30 min. Active warming is beneficial. (See moderate hypothermia, below.) aoning ally/able YES celf? NO

Shivering? YES NO	$\implies \qquad \qquad$	MODERATE HYPOTHERMIA 32-28°C Treat as above Active warming: apply heat to upper torso: chest, avilla and back. Use large heat pack HPMK, Hornegian Heat Pac, forced-air. Monitor. Circulatory access: peripheral IV or IO or femoral line. Volume replacement: 40-42°C saline boluses. IV or IO glucose. No standing or walking.	Hemodynamically stable: closest hospital. Otherwise: hospital with ICU. Hospital with ICU and ECC capabilities if possible.
Signs of life or organized rhythm on ECG? Respiration/pulse. Check for up to 1 min.	YES	SEVERE/PROFOUND HYPOTHERMIA <28°C Treat as above Intubate or use supraglottic device. Anesthetic and paralytic drugs: Lower dosage and extend dosing	Hospital with ICU and ECC capabilities if possible.
NO		interval below 30°C. • Ventilation: With advanced airway, ventilate at half standard (correctionaria) advanced airway, ventilate at half standard	
ethal injury? or hest too stiff for CPR? or valanche burial >35 min and irway obstructed by snow?		(normound rate) rate: • Without davanced airway, ventilate at standard rate or use ETCO ₂ to guide ventilation. • Use supplemental 0, especially above 2500 m. • Naso/orogastric tube if advanced airway in place. • OPR if no signes of life. (Can use cardiac monitor. ETCO US to confirm)	DURING TRANSPORT Handle gently.
YES		Chest compressions at standard normothermic rate. If <30°C VT or VF or AED advises shock: one shock at max power. Warm 1-2°C or >30°C prior to additional shocks. No vasoactive drugs until 30°C or above. From 30-35°C, increase dosing interval to brive as long as normal. CR may be delayed or given intermittently if necessary to accomplish evacuation. No temperature cut off for CPR	Keep horizontal. Continue rewarming Warm ambulance or helicopter to 24°C if possible.
DEATH		No CPR If signs of life or perfusing rhythm (unless no cardiac activity on US)	
Do not resuscitate.		Terminate CPR if potassium >12.	



Dead: DNR, Lethal injury, Chest too stiff for CPR, Avalanche burial > 35min and airway full of snow, Puts rescuers in danger or exhausted.

