

# Randomised trial comparing advanced airway management during in-hospital cardiac arrest

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<b>Registration date</b> 29/07/2022	<b>Overall study status</b> Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 21/01/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Circulatory System	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

The aim of this study is to find out whether the insertion of a new type of airway device to restore breathing is more effective than the traditional technique of tracheal intubation for adults who have a cardiac arrest while in hospital.

Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart stops beating; it is an extreme medical emergency. If a patient in hospital has a cardiac arrest, their chance of surviving to leave hospital is less than one in four. Immediate chest compressions combined with rescue breathing improve the chances of survival. We do not know the best way for hospital staff to provide rescue breathing (airway management) during an in-hospital cardiac arrest. Traditionally, placing a breathing tube in the windpipe (tracheal intubation) has been considered the best method. However, inserting the tube requires specialist skills. A newer alternative is a supraglottic airway device, placed in the throat just above the voice box. Such devices are easier and quicker to use and require less training. However, they may protect the lungs less from damage by vomit and may not be as good at inflating the lungs. The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation has highlighted an urgent need for research in this area.

### Who can participate?

Patients aged 18 years and over who are experiencing an in-hospital cardiac arrest

### What does the study involve?

Participants will be randomly allocated to one of these two types of airway management. The researchers will compare the degree of disability, survival rates, quality of life, use of NHS resources (e.g. hospital bed days and procedures) for all patients included in the trial. The research will cover each patient's hospital stay and 3 and 6 months after the cardiac arrest. Information will be collected primarily from hospital databases, to reduce the amount that patients need to do. It will be collected using postal questionnaires and routine data with the patient's consent. Treatment costs will be measured for each approach.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

At the point of consent participants have already completed cardiac arrest treatment, so there

are no personal risks or benefits from continuing to participate in this study. The information collected will help to decide the best way to treat patients in the future and answer questions on which method is the most effective for keeping an open airway during a cardiac arrest.

here is the study run from?

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

January 2022 to December 2026

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Jannat Chowdhury, [airways3@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:airways3@warwick.ac.uk)

### **Study website**

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/research/ctu/trials/airways3>

## **Contact information**

### **Type(s)**

Public

### **Contact name**

Ms Jannat Chowdhury

### **Contact details**

Warwick Clinical Trials Unit

Warwick

United Kingdom

CV4 7AL

+44 (0)7385083320

[airways3@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:airways3@warwick.ac.uk)

## **Additional identifiers**

### **EudraCT/CTIS number**

Nil known

### **IRAS number**

314379

### **ClinicalTrials.gov number**

Nil known

### **Secondary identifying numbers**

IRAS 314379, HTA - NIHR131533, CPMS 53015

## **Study information**

**Scientific Title**

Randomised trial of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of a supraglottic airway device versus intubation in-hospital cardiac arrest

**Acronym**

AIRWAYS-3

**Study objectives**

During in-hospital cardiac arrest (IHCA), airway management with a supraglottic airway (SGA) device is clinically superior and cost-effective when compared with tracheal intubation (TI).

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 22/07/2022, Wales REC 1 (Health and Care Research Wales, Castlebridge 4, 15-19 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF11 9AB, UK; +44 (0)2920 785738; Wales.REC1@wales.nhs.uk), ref: 22/WA/0156

**Study design**

Multi-centre open-label pragmatic individually randomized parallel-group superiority trial and economic evaluation

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Secondary study design**

Randomised controlled trial

**Study setting(s)**

Hospital

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Participant information sheet**

Not available in web format, please use the contact details to request a participant information sheet

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

In-hospital cardiac arrest that requires advanced airway management

**Interventions**

The researchers will be using a bespoke progressive web application (PWA) to randomise.

Intervention: A supraglottic airway device of the type used routinely in that hospital. During resuscitation the SGA will be placed according to the manufacturer's instructions, with end-tidal carbon dioxide monitoring wherever possible, following an initial period of bag-mask ventilation as required. Two attempts at SGA placement should be made. An attempt is defined as introducing a SGA past the teeth, and concludes when the SGA is removed from the mouth. If

two attempts at SGA placement are unsuccessful treatment will proceed as dictated by the treating clinician (including tracheal intubation if indicated). If successful, the SGA should be used until resuscitation efforts cease or return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) is achieved for >20 minutes, at which point further management will proceed as dictated by the treating clinician.

Comparator: Tracheal intubation. During resuscitation tracheal intubation should occur, with end-tidal carbon dioxide monitoring wherever possible, following an initial period of bag-mask ventilation as required. Two attempts at intubation should be made. An attempt is defined as introducing the laryngoscope past the teeth, and concludes when the laryngoscope is removed from the mouth, regardless of whether or not a tracheal tube is inserted. If two attempts at tracheal intubation are unsuccessful subsequent treatment will proceed as determined by the treating clinician (including placement of a SGA if indicated). If successful, tracheal intubation should continue until resuscitation efforts cease or ROSC is achieved for >20 minutes, at which point further management will proceed as dictated by the treating clinician.

Both interventions are part of standard clinical care in the treatment of IHCA and there are no known additional risks to the participants above routine care.

Treatment duration: Until return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) for >20 minutes or resuscitation efforts cease, after which the airway will be managed by the attending team as they feel appropriate.

Follow up duration: 6 months post in-hospital cardiac arrest.

## **Intervention Type**

Device

## **Phase**

Not Applicable

## **Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)**

A supraglottic airway device of the type used routinely in that hospital

## **Primary outcome measure**

Functional status as measured by the modified Rankin Scale (mRS) at hospital discharge (or 30 days post-randomisation whichever is shorter)

## **Secondary outcome measures**

1. Initial ventilation success measured using data collected from site staff into a bespoke application at baseline
2. Regurgitation/aspiration during resuscitation measured using data collected from site staff into a bespoke application at baseline
3. Return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) >20 minutes measured using data collected from site staff into a bespoke application at baseline
4. ICU and hospital length of stay measured using data linkage from National Cardiac Arrest Audit (NCAA) at hospital discharge
5. Health-related quality of life measured using EQ5D-5L questionnaire at discharge, 3 and 6 months

6. Survival to hospital discharge, 3 months and 6 months measured using data linkage from NCAA and Office for National Statistics (ONS) death registry
7. Functional status (mRS) measured using the modified Rankin Scale (mRS) at 3 and 6 months

**Overall study start date**

01/01/2022

**Completion date**

31/12/2026

## Eligibility

**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Adult (known or believed to be age  $\geq 18$  years)
2. In-hospital cardiac arrest, attended by the hospital cardiac arrest team in response to a cardiac arrest call (2222 or equivalent), and including a clinician permitted to undertake tracheal intubation and supraglottic airway placement so that either intervention can be delivered
3. Undergoing resuscitation and requiring advanced airway management in the opinion of the clinician managing the patient's airway

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Age group**

Adult

**Lower age limit**

18 Years

**Sex**

Both

**Target number of participants**

4190

**Key exclusion criteria**

Current exclusion criteria as of 02/08/2024:

1. Patients who have a cardiac arrest outside hospital and who are transported to the hospital in ongoing cardiac arrest
2. People who are not a hospital inpatient (e.g. visitor, relative, staff or outpatient)
3. Patients already receiving advanced airway management (including a supraglottic airway device) at the time of eligibility assessment
4. Patients known to be pregnant
5. Patients with a functioning tracheostomy

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Previous exclusion criteria:

1. Patients in the emergency department
2. People who are not a hospital inpatient (e.g. visitor, relative, staff or outpatient)
3. Patients already receiving advanced airway management (including a supraglottic airway device) at the time of eligibility assessment
4. Patients known to be pregnant
5. Patients with a functioning tracheostomy

**Date of first enrolment**

01/09/2022

**Date of final enrolment**

31/12/2024

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

England

United Kingdom

Wales

**Study participating centre**

**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**

St. Michaels Hospital

Southwell Street

Bristol

United Kingdom

BS2 8EG

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust

**Sponsor details**

Upper Maudlin Street

Bristol

England

United Kingdom

BS2 8AE

+44 (0)1173429894

Sandra.Mulligan@uhbw.nhs.uk

**Sponsor type**

Hospital/treatment centre

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Government

## Funder Name

National Institute for Health Research

## Alternative Name(s)

National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

## Funding Body Type

Government organisation

## Funding Body Subtype

National government

## Location

United Kingdom

# Results and Publications

## Publication and dissemination plan

The plan includes sharing the results with patients, the public, healthcare professionals, service managers and academic experts internationally. The researchers will present the research at medical conferences and through social media, podcasts, infographics, written reports and scientific publications. They will work closely with professional organizations to ensure that the findings contribute to future NHS and international resuscitation guidelines. They anticipate that this will improve the outcome for future patients who suffer an in-hospital cardiac arrest.

## Patient and public involvement:

The researchers have an established patient and public research advisory group that was central to a previous similar study. This group and others with experience of cardiac arrest have contributed to the design of this research, and their involvement will be key in completing the trial successfully. The patient and public contributors have advised on design, consent, data collection and the outcomes measured. They will also assist in disseminating the study's results. Two members of the group will join the independent trial steering committee, and regular reports will be provided to all our patient and public contributors, seeking the benefit of their experience and advice as the research proceeds.

## Intention to publish date

31/12/2026

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The trial statisticians and Data Monitoring Committee (DMC) will have access to the dataset for the analysis of trial outcomes. Once the main analyses have been undertaken, de-identified individual participant data will be available to other investigators subject to the approval of data analysis plans and compliance with the University of Warwick standard operating procedures (SOPs) on Data Management and Sharing. Approval of data analysis plans will be the responsibility of the Trial Steering Committee (TSC) during the lifetime of the trial. Following study completion, the Chief Investigator and Warwick Clinical Trials Unit Data Sharing Committee will be jointly responsible for the approval of data analysis plans. The trial will comply with Data Sharing Policies that may be instituted by the NIHR during the lifetime of the project.

## IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>	Protocol, design and implementation	18/07/2023	31/07/2023	Yes	No