Chest Compressions in
“Patients who Have Undergone Cardiac Surgery”

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Chest compression (CC) constitutes the most popular and effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation technique employed by civilians and medical staff. This report documents the risk of harm during CC. A 72-year-old woman called for an ambulance due to dyspnea. She experienced cardiopulmonary arrest upon arrival of the ambulance and was administered CC. After two cycles of CC, the paramedic experienced pain and realized that his right palm was injured. The patient had undergone cardiac surgery 20 years previously, and a part of the wire had escaped through the surgical scar.
from the median sternotomy. An initial chest roentgenogram indicated damage to the wire (Picture).

Bystander civilians and medical staff who provide CC to patients who have undergone surgery using the median sternotomy approach are at risk of injury and infection. Considering that the application of immediate and continuous CC is the recommended emergency treatment, information regarding the risks of this procedure and the prevention of such risks must be provided to civilians and medical staff.

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