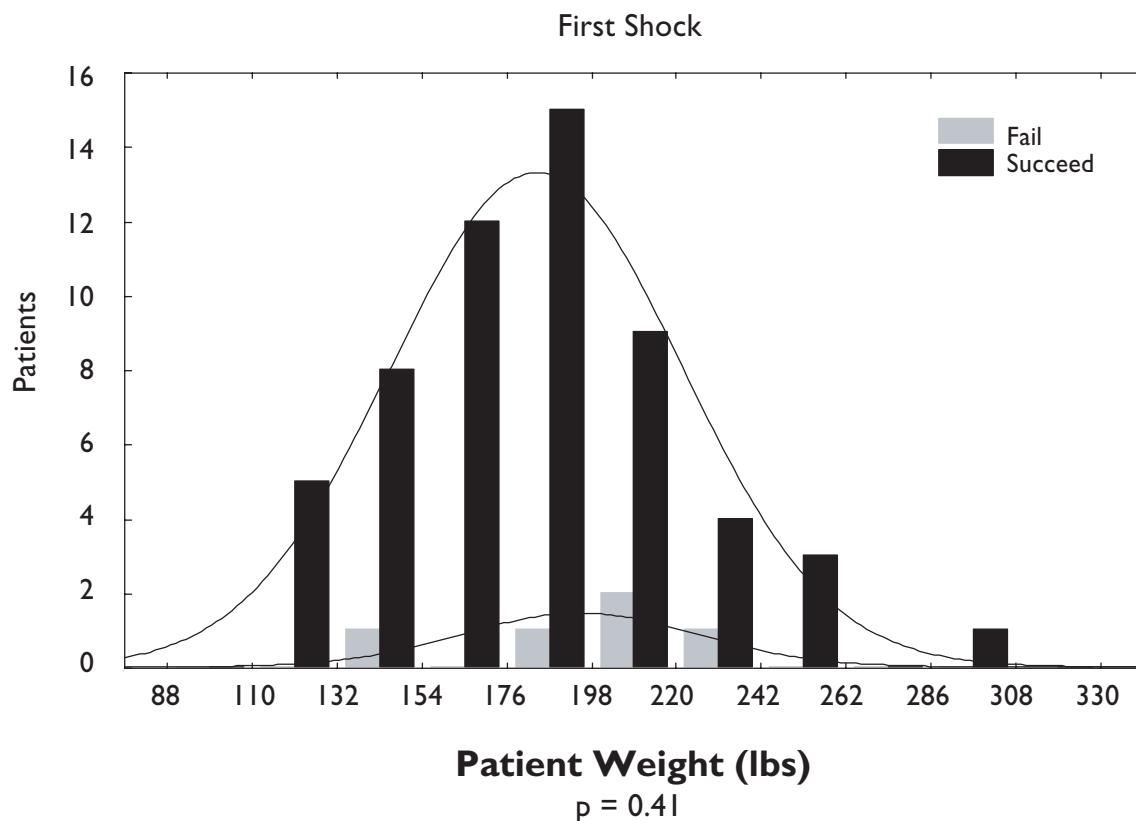


Technical Note

BODY WEIGHT DOES NOT AFFECT DEFIBRILLATION EFFECTIVENESS WITH THE HEARTSTART 150 J NON-ESCALATING BIPHASIC WAVEFORM

Data collected from a group of patients defibrillated by the Rochester, Minnesota, EMS organization during actual resuscitation attempts was examined to determine if patient weight affected the defibrillation effectiveness of the 150 J non-escalating SMART biphasic shock that was used. Of the patients for whom both weight and height data were available, 41% were overweight, 24% were obese, and 4% were extremely obese by BMI (Body Mass Index) standards. As shown in the graph below, the success and failure distributions were identical for the three groups. Thus, defibrillation effectiveness on the first shock was in no way related to the weight of the patient. The cumulative two-shock success rate was 99%, and all patients were defibrillated by the third shock.



May 2005