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Purpose

It has already been shown that school children are able to learn and perform CPR, but their long-time retention of knowledge is not known. We want to assess children's knowledge of the BLS sequence one year after the BLS course and compare it to that of an adult group.

Methods

A group of Italian school children who did a 1-hour BLS course were, one year later, given an anonymous questionnaire with three multiple-choice questions on the first two rings of the Chain of Survival. The first question was about recognizing a person in cardiac arrest, the second was about the importance of the early activation of the emergency system and the third was about the correct compression:ventilation ratio. We gave the same questionnaire to a group of Italian lay adults a year after completing a 5-hour BLS-D course.

Population characteristic

Characteristic	Children	Adult
Number	70	43
Males (%)	50	62.8
Age	13.2 ± 0.6	38.4 ± 12.4

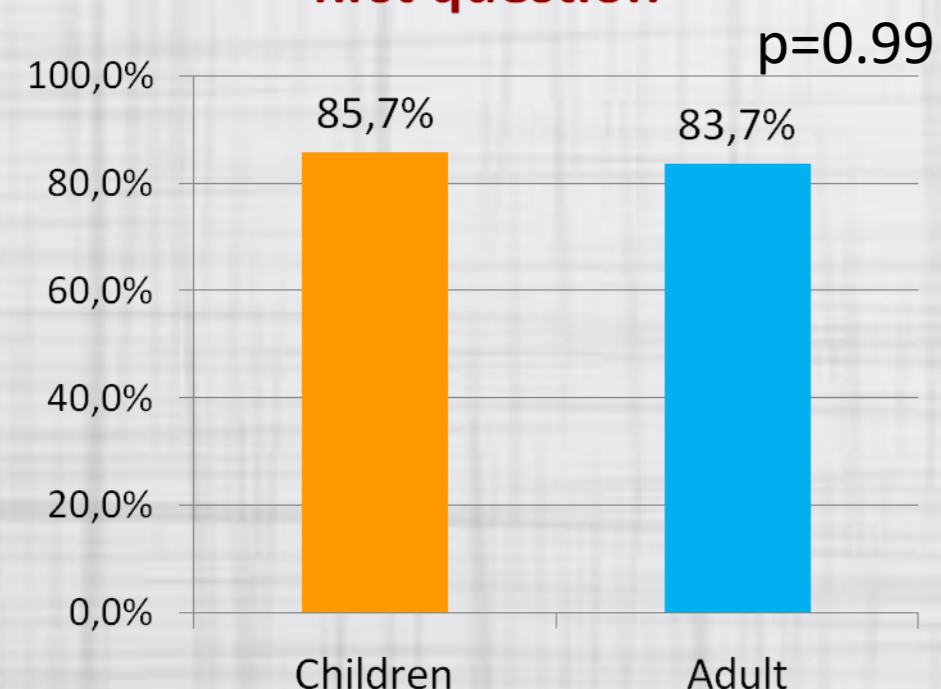
Results

The school children group comprised 70 subjects (50% males), mean age 13.2 ± 0.6 years. The adult group comprised 43 subjects (62.8% males), mean age 38.4 ± 12.4 years. In the school children group, the first question was answered correctly by 85.7%, the second by 48.6% and the third by 94.3%. Comparing these results to those of the adults, there was no significant difference in the first question (85.7% vs 83.7%, p=0.99) or in the second (48.6% vs 62.8%, p=0.20), but there was a statistically significant difference in the third question answers (94.3% vs 72.1%, p<0.01).

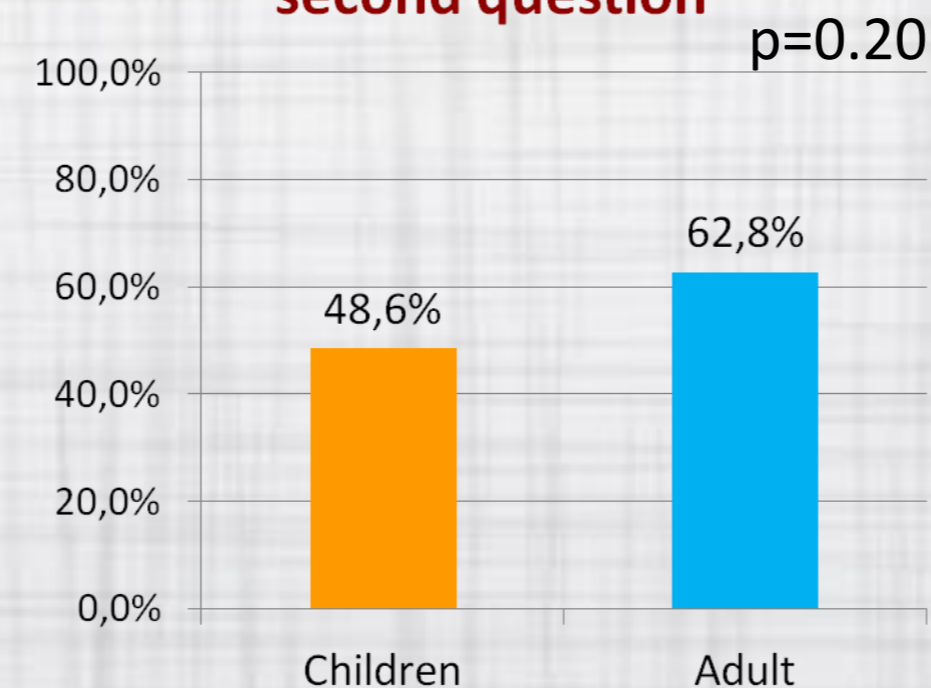
Conclusions

Children's retention of BLS knowledge after a year is good, but more emphasis needs to be made on the early activation of the emergency system. Compared to adults, children's retention is better regarding the correct compression:ventilation ratio, despite the fact the course lasted only 1-hour.

Correct answer to the first question



Correct answer to the second question



Correct answer to the third question

