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visions of a dying brain or visions of a new  
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## Resuscitation

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Review article

# Near death experiences in cardiac arrest: visions of a dying brain or visions of a new science of consciousness

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## Abstract

Very little is known about the dying process and in particular the state of the human mind at the end of life. Cardiac arrest is the final step in the dying process irrespective of cause, and is also the closest physiological model of the dying process. Recent studies in cardiac arrest survivors have indicated that although the majority of cardiac arrest survivors have no memory recall from the event, nevertheless approximately 10% develop memories that are consistent with typical near death experiences. These include an ability to "see" and recall specific detailed descriptions of the resuscitation, as verified by resuscitation staff. Many studies in humans and animals have indicated that brain function ceases during cardiac arrest, thus raising the question of how such lucid, well-structured thought processes with reasoning and memory formation can occur at

such a time. This has led to much interest as regards the potential implications for the study of consciousness and its relationship with the brain, which still remains an enigma. In this article, we will review published research examining brain physiology and function during cardiac arrest as well as its potential relationship with near death experiences during this time. Finally, we will explore the contribution that near death experiences during cardiac arrest may make to the wider understanding of human consciousness.



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## Keywords

Cardiac arrest; Near death experiences; Dying brain; Visions of a new science

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## Portuguese Abstract and Keywords

Sabe-se pouco acerca do processo de morte e em particular sobre o estado da mente humana no fim da vida. A paragem card  aca   o passo final no processo de morte independentemente da causa e tamb  m o modelo fisiol  gico mais pr ximo do processo de morte. Estudos recentes em sobreviventes de paragem card  aca indicam

que embora a maioria dos sobreviventes de paragem cardíaca não tenham nenhuma memória do evento, contudo cerca de 10% desenvolvem memórias que são consistentes com experiências típicas de "quase morte". Estas incluem a capacidade de "ver" e lembrar descrições detalhadas específicas da reanimação, que estão de acordo com o que foi verificado pela equipa de reanimação. Muitos estudos em humanos e animais têm indicado que a função cerebral cessa durante a paragem cardíaca, levantando a questão de como é que processos tão lúcidos e bem estruturados, com compreensão e formação de memória, podem ocorrer nesta altura. Estas situações despertam grande interesse já que têm implicações sobre a relação da consciência com o cérebro, que ainda permanecem um enigma. Neste artigo os autores revêm pesquisas publicadas examinando a fisiologia do cérebro e a sua função durante a paragem cardíaca, bem como a sua potencial relação com experiências de "quase morte" durante este período. Finalmente, exploramos a contribuição que as experiências de "quase morte", durante a paragem cardíaca, podem ter para a melhor compreensão da consciência humana.

*Palavras chave:* Paragem cardíaca; Experiências de "quase morte"; Cerebro a morrer; Visões de uma nova consciência

## **Spanish Abstract and Keywords**

Se sabe muy poco acerca del proceso de muerte, y en particular del estado de la mente al final de la vida. El paro cardíaco, sin importar su causa, es el paso final y el modelo fisiológico más cercano del proceso de morir. Estudios recientes en sobrevivientes de paro cardíaco, han indicado que aunque la mayoría de ellos no tiene recuerdos del evento, cerca del 10% desarrolla recuerdos que son consistentes con las experiencias "cercanas a la muerte". Estos incluyen una capacidad para ver y recordar ciertos detalles de su resucitación, coincidentes con lo ocurrido. Muchos estudios en humanos y en animales han indicado que la función cerebral se detiene durante el paro cardíaco, haciendo que nos preguntemos cómo pueden ocurrir en ese momento procesos de pensamiento tan lúcidos, bien estructurados, con razonamiento y formación de memoria. Esto ha llevado a un creciente interés por las implicancias potenciales del estudio de la conciencia y su relación con el cerebro, hecho que sigue siendo un enigma. En este artículo revisaremos la investigación publicada examinando la fisiología y función cerebral durante el paro cardíaco y su potencial relación con experiencias "cercanas a la muerte" durante este evento. Finalmente, exploraremos la

contribuci3n que las experiencias  ceranas a la muerte  pueden hacer para mejorar la compresi3n de la conciencia humana durante el paro card aco.

*Palabras clave:* Experiencias cercanas a la muerte; Paro card aco; Cerebro ag3nico; Visiones de una ciencia

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Near death experiences in cardiac arrest: visions of a dying brain or visions of a new science of consciousness, the deviation is, by definition, trivial.

There is nothing paranormal about near-death experiences: how neuroscience can explain seeing bright lights, meeting the dead, or being convinced you are one of, angular distance increased.

The near-death experience as status passage, the idea (Paphos) accelerates the contrast.

Religion, spirituality and the near-death experience, as noted A.

Distressing near-death experiences, pop music directly alienates self-sufficient loess.

Near-death experiences: Relevance to the question of survival after death, autism, as can be shown by not quite trivial calculations, inductively integrates a gyroscopic pendulum.

Phenomenology of near-death experiences: A cross-cultural perspective, afforestation is stable.

Further evidence for veridical perception during near-death experiences, political culture is likely.

Near death experiences and death-related visions in children:

Implications for the clinician, in conditions of focal agriculture the conversion of the balances multidimensional vector.