AGING WELL





Do you know there's a difference between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest?

Know the signs to help save a life

Whether you've learned how to do CPR or not, knowing the difference between a *heart attack* and a *cardiac arrest* is important because it will help you know what the victim needs in addition to calling 9-1-1 for an ambulance.

What is the difference between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest?

First, and as everyone knows, oxygen is essential to life. And the heart's job is to pump oxygen-rich blood into the arteries, including arteries that supply oxygen to the heart muscle itself.

So, very simply put, a heart attack is a *blood flow emergency*. Meaning, if something prevents or blocks oxygen-rich

blood from feeding
the heart muscle, the muscle
becomes starved of oxygen. But
a cardiac arrest is an *electrical conduction emergency* during which the heart (which
has its own natural, inner electrical system) suddenly stops beating. When this
happens, the brain is starved of oxygen
and death can occur within minutes.

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Here's what you might observe when someone is suffering a

heart attack

The person will be conscious but may have chest, arm, jaw pain or a burning pressure in the chest. In addition, the person may be anxious, sweaty, have difficulty breathing, experience nausea or dizziness and their skin may look blue.

What the person needs from you is

help to sit down so they don't fall and injure themselves. Then you must call or tell someone to call 9-1-1 immediately. You should stay with the person until help arrives.

Here's what you might observe when someone is in

cardiac arrest

The person will be unconscious and will not be breathing.

What the person needs from you is

CPR immediately after you've called or told someone to call 9-1-1.



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the technology will give you a read on your heart health, within minutes.

We can't wait to tell you more about it so you can check it out.

Here's wishing you a happy, heart healthy New Year!