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## INTRODUCTION

The rate of warming after hypothermia depends on the method of rewarming. Hot water immersion is a standard method for actively rewarming hypothermic individuals. However, field use of such apparatus is restricted by portability and energy requirements. Recent advances in radio frequency (13.56 MHz) energy delivery systems offer great promise for rewarming individuals in the field. The present study used non-metallic rectal and esophageal thermal probes to evaluate rewarming of mildly hypothermic men using radio frequency, hot water immersion, and insulated cocoon.

## METHODS

- ° Six healthy male subjects
- ° Temperature --
  - . Esophageal: fiber optic probe, level of the heart, right atrium
  - Rectal: carbon teflon, 10 cm past anal sphincter
  - Skin: fiber optic: mid - back, triceps
- ° Blood -- 18 G catheter in antecubital vein for plasma catecholamines:
  - norepinephrine and epinephrine
- ° Rewarming devices:
  - Radio frequency coil system (Fig. 1)
  - SAR 2.5 W/kg body weight
  - Hot (41 C) water immersion
  - Insulated cocoon
- ° Experimental protocol:
  - overnight fast
  - immersed to nipple level in cold (12 C) water
  - reduction of rectal temperature by 0.5 C

removed from cold water and rewarmed using three devices in cross - over design

subjects in seated up - right position for all conditions

each subject served as his own control

#### RESULTS

Cooling - cooling times not different between cold water immersions

Tes paralleled change in Tre

plasma norepinephrine increased 3 - fold after each cold water immersion (Fig. 2)

plasma epinephrine did not change

Rewarming - Tre continued to fall during the rewarming period for

all conditions (Fig. 3)

Tes did not exhibit afterdrop as seen for Tre (Fig. 4)

average Tes for RF ( $1.15 \pm 0.22$  C/hr) was faster ( $p < .001$ ) than either IC ( $0.37 \pm 0.16$  C/hr) or HW ( $0.18 \pm 0.09$ )

shivering and NE depended upon a summation of both skin and core temperature (table 1)

#### SUMMARY

1. The present study demonstrates the potential of radio frequency energy for rewarming the thoracic cavity of mildly hypothermic men.
2. Our results indicate that rewarming at  $6.0^{\circ}$  C/hr is feasible in humans at an RF dose of 10 W/kg body weight.
3. Areas outside of the RF coil field do not rewarm as rapidly as those areas within the field. Consequently, RF rewarming induces a large outward (core  $\rightarrow$  periphery) thermal gradient, thereby reducing the likelihood of cold induced cardiac arrhythmias.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Helical coil radio frequency (13.56 MHz) energy is superior to and insulated cocoon and hot water immersion for rewarming the thoracic region.
2. This study provides evidence that radio frequency energy heats the thoracic region, which is a major benefit for field and air rescue units that must deal with hypothermic individuals.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The opinions or assertions expressed herein are the private ones of the authors and are not to be construed as official or reflecting the views of the Department of Defense, the Department of Navy, or the Naval Service at Large.

#### FIGURE LEGENDS

- Figure 1. Radio frequency rewarming coil system and commercial frequency generator.
- Figure 2. Average (n=4) plasma norepinephrine ( $\Delta$ NE) levels during cold water immersion ( $\pm$ 34 minutes) and one hour of rewarming. Methods were radio frequency (13.56 MHz) energy (+), hot (41° C) water immersion (o) and an insulated cocoon ( $\Delta$ ). The baseline (0) just prior to cold water immersion was subtracted from each subsequent value. The average  $\Delta$ NE for the insulated cocoon was higher ( $p < 0.02$ ) than for hot water immersion.
- Figure 3. The average (n=6) rectal temperature rewarming profile for radio frequency (13.56 MHz) energy (+), hot (41° C) water immersion (o), and an insulated cocoon ( $\Delta$ ). The baseline (0) just prior to rewarming was subtracted from each subsequent rewarming value to give  $\Delta$ Tre.
- Figure 4. The average (n=6) esophageal temperature ( $\Delta$ Tes) rewarming profile for radio frequency (13.56 MHz) energy (+), hot (41° C) water immersion (o) and an insulated cocoon ( $\Delta$ ). The baseline (0) just prior to rewarming was subtracted from each subsequent rewarming value to give  $\Delta$ Tes.

TABLE LEGEND

Table 1. Average values for plasma norepinephrine (NE), esophageal temperature change (Tes), average thigh temperature at the end of 60 minutes, and the shivering response.



FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

# Plasma Norepinephrine

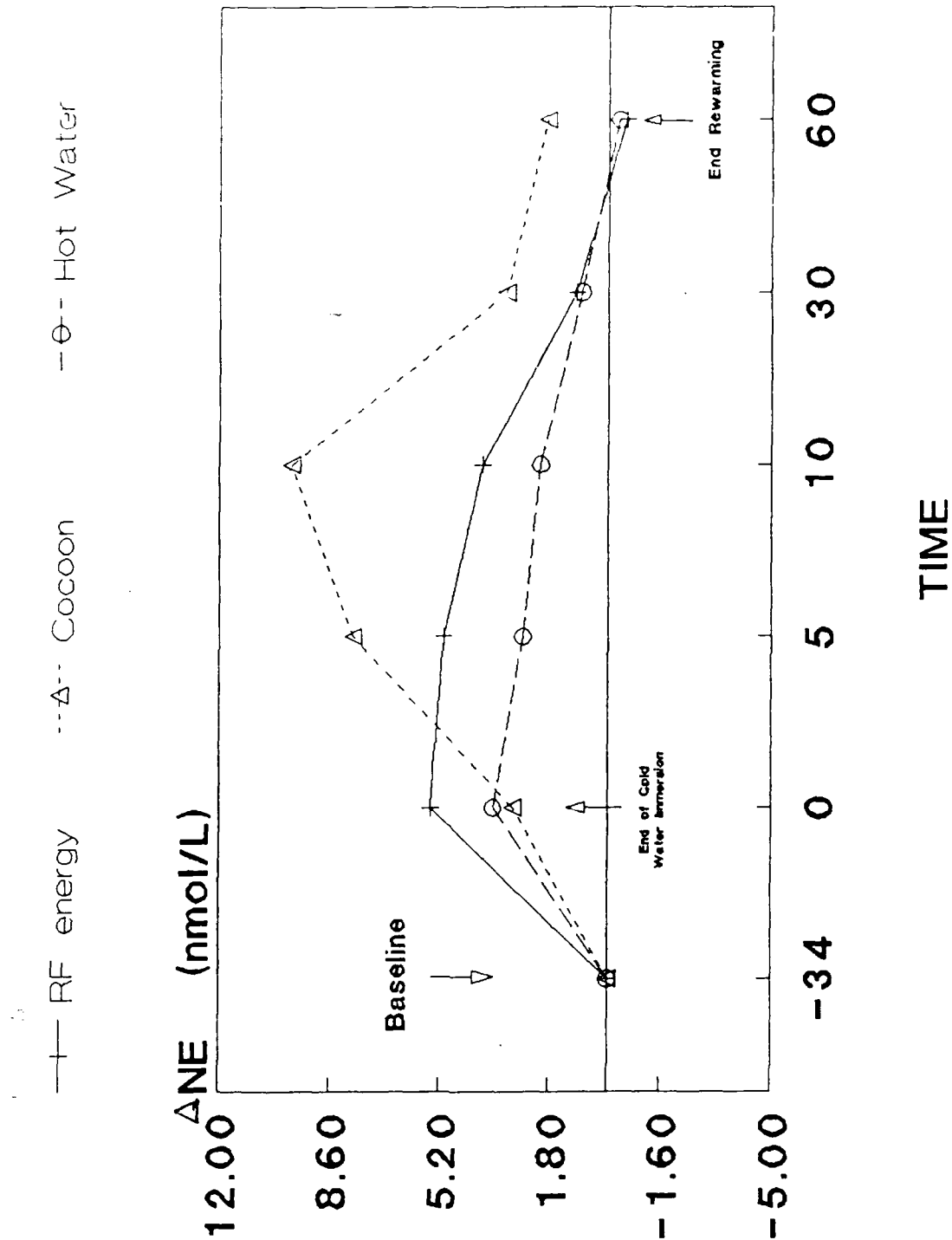


FIGURE 3

# Rectal Temperature

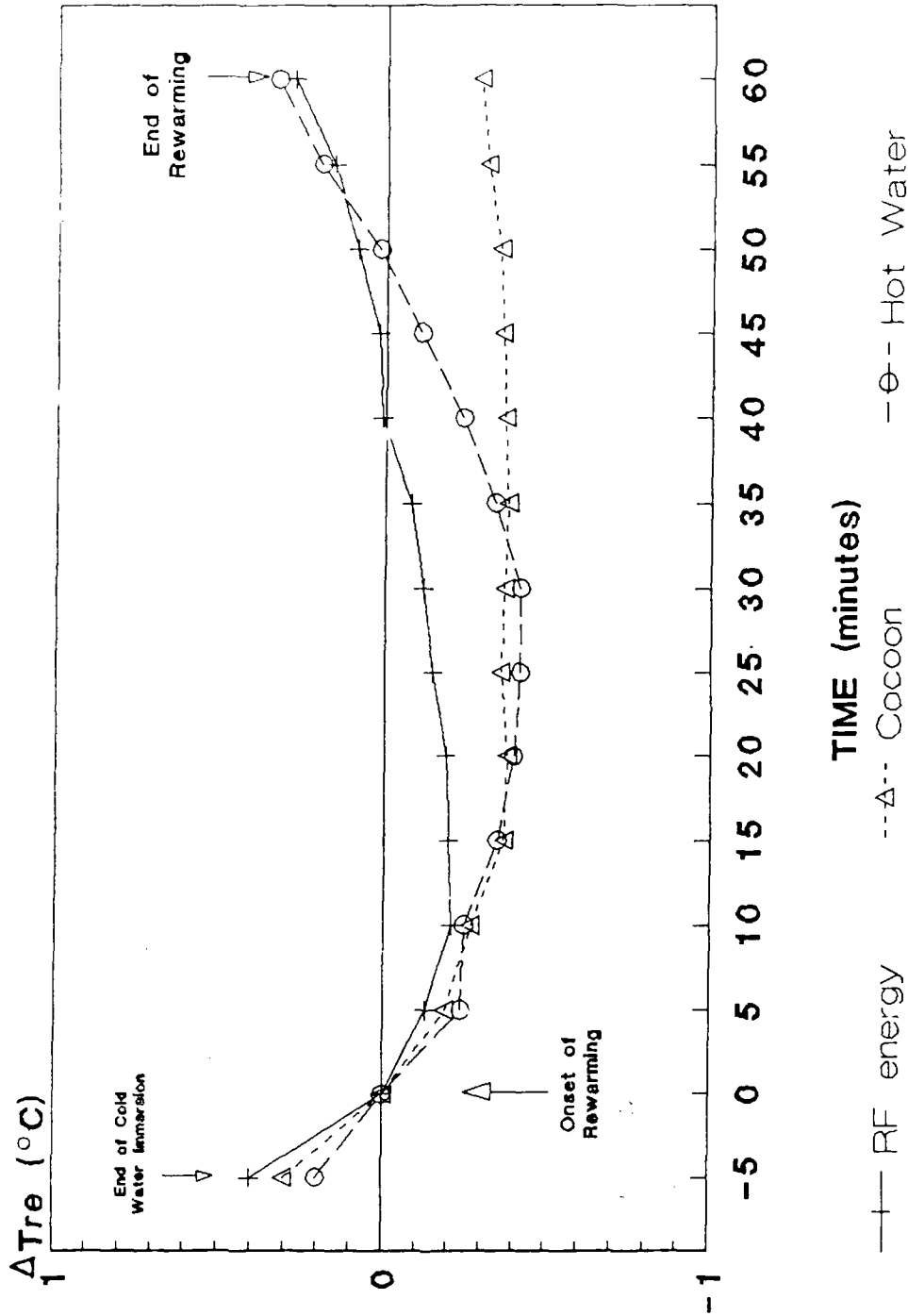


FIGURE 4

# Esophageal Temperature

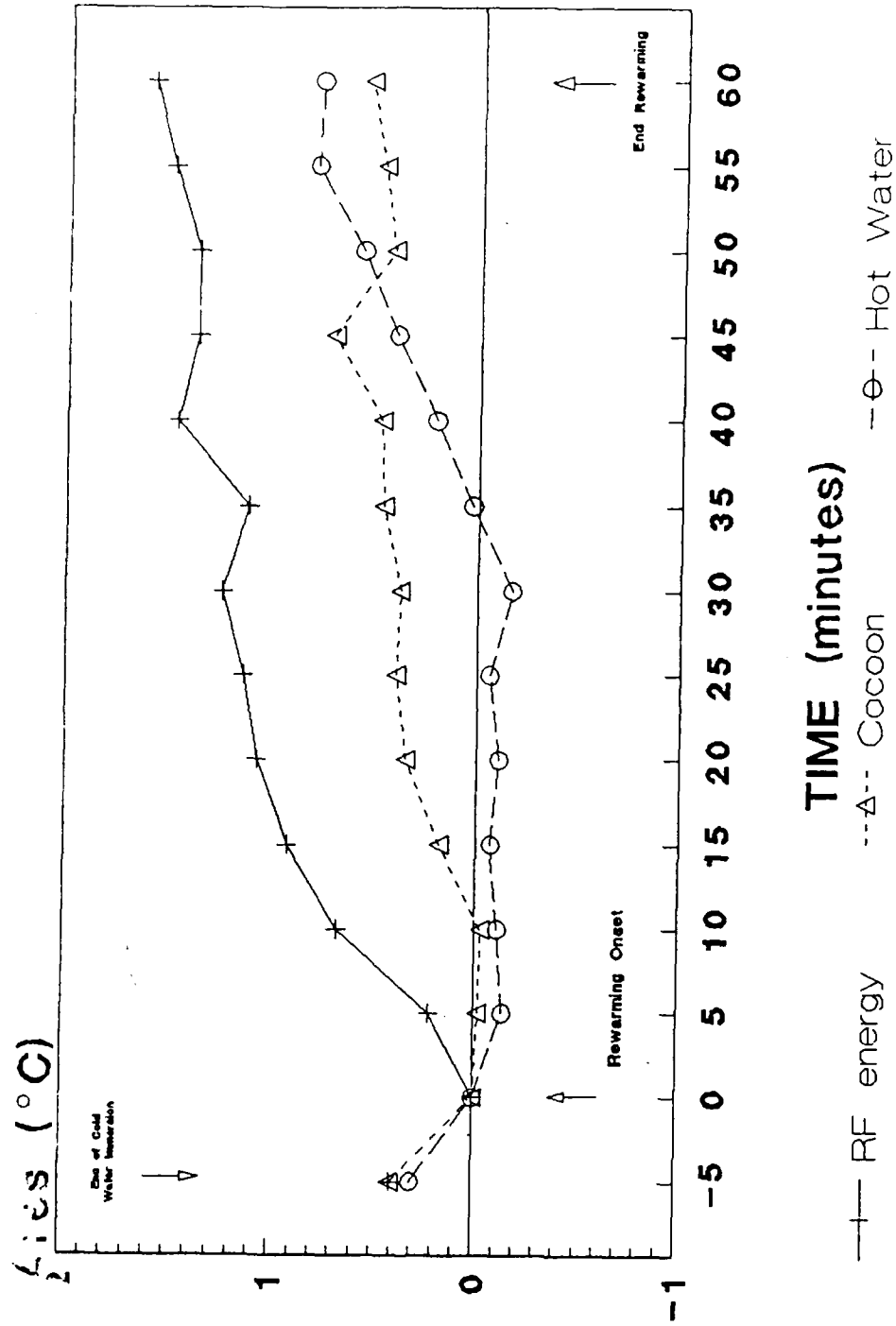


TABLE I

Vehicle	Average HC pphm/L	Average CO % vol	Average Fuel Thru (g)	Average Fuel Thru (lb)	Days of operation
FW	1.29	0.18	38.0	—	—
RF	2.33	1.15	21.3	4	4
IC	5.67	0.37	26.9	14	14