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The story of Christian Eriksen. To close the loop

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Dear Editor,

On June 12, 2021, Christian Eriksen's life took an unexpected turn when he suffered a cardiac arrest during a match.¹ Thanks to the swift and skilled actions of medical personnel who administered Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Eriksen's life was saved. This harrowing incident marked the beginning of an extraordinary comeback story, culminating in Eriksen's emotional goal in the 18th minute of Denmark's match against Slovenia on June 15.²

This case highlights a crucial lesson for healthcare professionals: the vital role of the human factor in the chain of survival. It underscores the potential need to revisit and implement the "revised Utstein formula of survival".³

Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) is a critical public health concern, ranking as the third leading cause of death in industrialized countries.⁴ This underscores the urgent need for increased public awareness initiatives on cardiac arrest and CPR techniques.⁵

In the wake of Christian Eriksen's highly publicized cardiac arrest,⁶ the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) joined forces with the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) to launch the impactful information campaign "Get trained. Save lives".⁷ This initiative aims to empower the general public, particularly young people and football fans, with the knowledge and skills to perform CPR.⁷

Eriksen's story is a powerful example of why public education about CPR is so crucial. Public education initiatives remain essential, but real-world events like Christian Eriksen's remarkable comeback after a cardiac arrest underscore the public's tendency to seek information independently through online channels.⁸ A timeline-based Google Trends graph illustrating the immediate surge in online searches for "Christian Eriksen" and "cardiac arrest" following his remarkable goal on June 16, 2024 exemplifies this point [Figure 1, Figure 2]. Tools like Google Trends (<https://trends.google.com/trends/>) enable us to analyze these search trends and identify the public's

knowledge gaps regarding cardiac arrest and CPR. By monitoring such trends, we can refine CPR training programs to effectively address the public's evolving needs.

Christian Eriksen's inspiring journey from cardiac arrest to scoring a goal serves as a powerful testament to the life-saving potential of CPR training and the public's proactive approach to learning these essential skills. His story reminds us that CPR empowers individuals to become everyday heroes, capable of making a profound difference in the face of a crisis. Let us ensure that everyone has the knowledge and skills they need to act decisively, turning near-tragedies into stories of hope and resilience.

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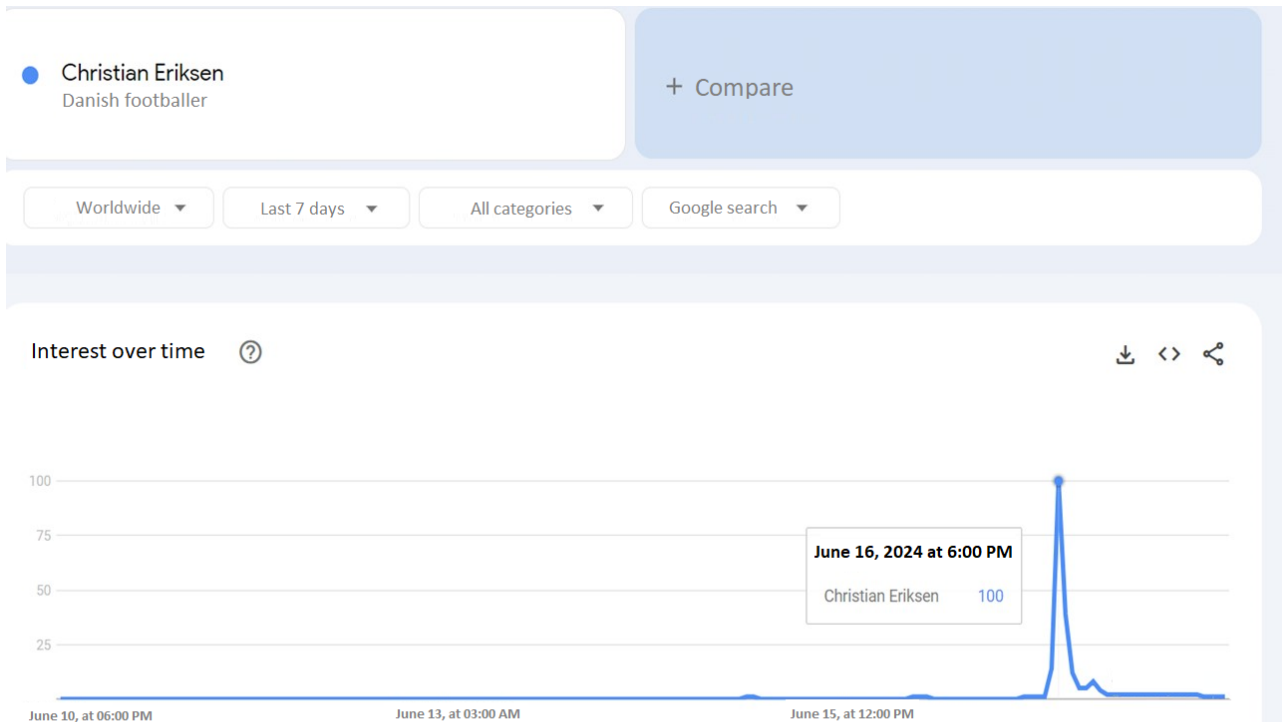


Figure 1. Google Trends results for “Christian Eriksen”.

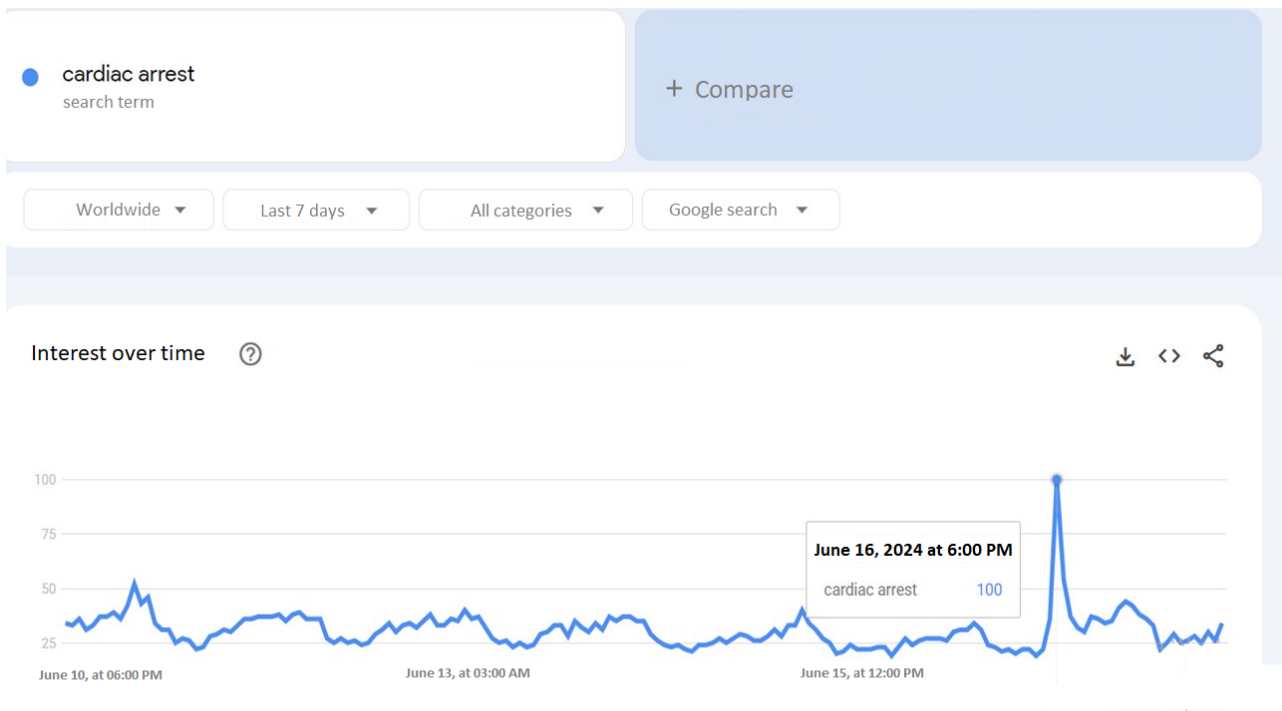


Figure 2. Google Trends results for “cardiac arrest”.