
11-20-2015

Real-World Relevance of Manual Electrocardiography QT Interval Measurement

Satish Velagapudi
Zahra Nur Khaled
Bilal Omery
Firas Zahwe
Michael Anigbogu
Sarah Zukkoor
Indrajit Choudhuri

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Recommended Citation

Velagapudi S, Khaled Z, Omery B, Zahwe F, Anigbogu M, Zukkoor S, Choudhuri I. Real-World Relevance of Manual Electrocardiography QT Interval Measurement. *J Patient Cent Res Rev* 2015;2:213.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.17294/2330-0698.1241>

Published quarterly by Midwest-based health system Advocate Aurora Health and indexed in PubMed Central, the Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews (JPCRR) is an open access, peer-reviewed medical journal focused on disseminating scholarly works devoted to improving patient-centered care practices, health outcomes, and the patient experience.

Data were obtained 1 year before the intervention date and at least 3 months after. Paired t-tests were used for comparisons.

Results: The study population was predominantly Caucasian (90%) and female (90%) with a mean age of 54 years (range 25–79). The mean patient body mass index (kg/m²) was 37 and ranged from 28 to 63. When comparing pre- and postintervention clinical data, several improvements in laboratory values were noted. Low-density-lipoprotein cholesterol levels decreased from an initial mean of 114 preintervention to 105 postintervention, mean high-density-lipoprotein cholesterol levels increased from 47 to 58, and mean glycohemoglobin levels decreased from 6.5 to 6.1. All improvements in clinical data were not statistically significant, but were clinically relevant.

Conclusion: Patients showed mild improvements in multiple lab values after their first meeting with a health coach. This pilot study was limited by the small number of patients who chose to have a health coaching session. A limiting factor for patient use of a health coach may be secondary to the cost of each clinic visit and follow-up lab work. Cost may have contributed to our demographic mix. To further assess the impact and benefit of a health coach in a primary care setting, a larger, more diverse patient population is needed.

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Satish Velagapudi, Zahra Nur Khaled, Bilal Omery, Firas Zahwe, Michael Anigbogu, Sarah Zukkoor, Indrajit Choudhuri

Department of Cardiology, Aurora Health Care; Department of Pharmacy, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center; Aurora Cardiovascular Services, Aurora Health Care

Background: Electrocardiography (ECG) QT interval (QTI) prolongation independently predicts sudden death. Hospitalized patients are commonly exposed to multiple QT-prolonging drugs, and manual measurement of ECG QTI based on identifying the intersection of isoelectricity with the tangent to the terminal phase T-wave slope (QTTTT) is advocated due to inaccuracies in automated detection algorithms that may imprecisely identify QT duration.

Purpose: We evaluated the performance of QTTTT compared to a standard automated (12SL, GE Healthcare) method (QT-12SL).

Methods: Consecutively obtained ECGs of 250 hospitalized patients were reviewed. The QTI in leads II, aVR, V5 and V6 determined by QT-12SL and QTTTT were compared. ECGs in which QT-12SL and QTTTT differed by > 10 ms were further characterized.

Results: The T-wave end was not reliably identified in 6 ECGs (2.4%). Of the remaining 244 ECGs (976 leads), QTTTT differed from QT-12SL by < 10 ms in 52 ECGs (21.3%). QT-12SL differed from QTTTT by > 10 ms in lead II in 140 leads (14.3%), V5 in 149 leads (15.3%), V6 in 152 leads (15.6%) and aVR in 143 leads (14.7%). ECGs with mutually

exclusive lead combinations in which QTTTT differed from QT-12SL by > 10 ms were: 1) II, aVR, V5, V6 (39.8%); 2) V5, V6 (7.8%); 3) II, aVR (4.9%); and 4) II, V5, V6 (3.7%). The expected overestimation of QTI by QT-12SL compared to QTTTT exceeded 10 ms in 105 leads (10.8%), related to T-waves with “normal” appearance, or biphasic (negative-to-positive) morphology; U-wave; and TP segment voltage exceeding PR segment voltage. Compared to QTTTT, QT-12SL underestimated QTI in 479 leads (49.1%), in association with biphasic T-waves (positive-to-negative); atrial arrhythmias; downsloping baseline near the T-wave end resulting in TP segment voltage less than PR segment voltage; and slow return of T-wave terminus to baseline.

Conclusion: Multiple clinical and electrical phenomena impacted automated QTI determination. QT-12SL and QTTTT were comparable across all analyzed leads in only 1/5 of ECGs. Compared to QTTTT, QT-12SL QTI determinations were discordant in 3/5 of all leads, and underestimated QTI nearly half the time. Perhaps most important, for a given ECG, manual review of any of the analyzed leads identified these differences 2/3 of the time.

Aligning Asthma Education Across the Continuum of Physician Education: Impact on Clinical Metrics

Lisa Sullivan Vedder, Deborah Simpson, Jacob L. Bidwell, John R. Brill, Theresa Frederick

Departments of Family Medicine and Academic Affairs, Aurora UW Medical Group; Office of Continuing and Professional Development, Aurora Health Care

Background: All trainees entering family medicine residency training programs after June 1, 2012, must complete the same American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements as practicing physicians. These shared requirements provide an opportunity to align physician education initiatives across the continuum focused around a clinical care topic to improve health care system metrics.

Purpose: To assess the initial effectiveness of an ABFM Asthma Part IV approved MOC module, aligned to meet residency and medical student program accreditation requirements, on health care system metrics.

Methods: An ABFM Asthma Part IV MOC module was implemented for family medicine physicians and residents in April 2014 with open, rolling enrollment for all providers. The module focused on a 20% asthma control test (ACT) improvement as ACT is a potential driver for appropriate use of asthma controller medications (ACM) in persistent asthma and completion of the asthma action plan (AAP). Students rotating on a required primary care clerkship received a 1-hour orientation to quality improvement principles and their role in assuring that an ACT had been completed on their patients. Care quality measures at baseline (January 2014) and 12 months later (December 2014) were compared: ACT use, AAP completion, and percentage of patients on