

Preoperative Resting Echocardiography for Noncardiac Surgery: OHTAC Recommendation

Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee

March 2014

Suggested Citation

This report should be cited as follows:

Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC). Preoperative resting echocardiography for noncardiac surgery: OHTAC recommendation [Internet]. Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2014 March. 9 p. Available from: <http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence/evidence-process/appropriateness-initiative#preop-rest-echo>.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

All reports prepared by the Evidence Development and Standards branch at Health Quality Ontario are impartial. There are no competing interests or conflicts of interest to declare.

About Health Quality Ontario

Health Quality Ontario (HQO) is an arms-length agency of the Ontario government. It is a partner and leader in transforming Ontario's health care system so that it can deliver a better experience of care, better outcomes for Ontarians, and better value for money.

Health Quality Ontario strives to promote health care that is supported by the best available scientific evidence. The Evidence Development and Standards branch works with advisory panels, clinical experts, developers of health technologies, scientific collaborators, and field evaluation partners to provide evidence about the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of health interventions in Ontario.

To conduct its systematic reviews of health interventions, the Evidence Development and Standards branch examines the available scientific literature, making every effort to consider all relevant national and international research. If there is insufficient evidence on the safety, effectiveness, and/or cost-effectiveness of a health intervention, HQO may request that its scientific collaborators conduct economic evaluations and field evaluations related to the reviews. Field evaluation partners are research institutes focused on multicentred clinical trials and economic evaluation, as well as institutes engaged in evaluating the safety and usability of health technologies.

About the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee

The Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC) is a standing advisory subcommittee of the Board of Directors of Health Quality Ontario. Based on the evidence provided by Evidence Development and Standards and its partners, OHTAC makes recommendations about the uptake, diffusion, distribution, or removal of health interventions within the provincial health system. When making its recommendations, OHTAC applies a unique decision-determinants framework that takes into account overall clinical benefit, value for money, societal and ethical considerations, and the economic and organizational feasibility of the health care intervention in Ontario.

Publishing Health Quality Ontario Research

When the evidence development process is nearly completed, draft reviews, reports, and OHTAC recommendations are posted on HQO's website for 21 days for public and professional comment. For more information, please visit: <http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence/evidence-process/evidence-review-process/professional-and-public-engagement-and-consultation>.

Once finalized and approved by the Board of Directors of Health Quality Ontario, the research is published as part of the *Ontario Health Technology Assessment Series*, which is indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed, Excerpta Medica/Embase, and the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination database. Corresponding OHTAC recommendations and associated reports are also published on the HQO website. Visit <http://www.hqontario.ca> for more information.

When sufficient data are available, OHTAC tracks the ongoing use of select interventions it has previously reviewed, compiling data by time period and region. The results are published in the Ontario Health Technology Maps Project Report.

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Evidence Development and Standards branch at Health Quality Ontario or one of its research partners for the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee and was developed from analysis, interpretation, and comparison of scientific research. It also incorporates, when available, Ontario data and information provided by experts and applicants to Health Quality Ontario. It is possible that relevant scientific findings may have been reported since the development of this recommendation. This report may be superseded by an updated publication on the same topic. Please check the Health Quality Ontario website for a list of all publications: <http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence/publications-and-ohtac-recommendations>.

Table of Contents

Background 5
Conclusions..... 6
OHTAC Recommendations 7
References..... 8

Background

Overuse, underuse, and misuse of interventions are important concerns in health care and lead to individuals receiving unnecessary or inappropriate care. In April 2012, under the guidance of the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee's Appropriateness Working Group, Health Quality Ontario (HQO) launched its Appropriateness Initiative. The objective of this initiative is to develop a systematic framework for the ongoing identification, prioritization, and assessment of health interventions in Ontario for which there is possible misuse, overuse, or underuse.

For more information on HQO's Appropriateness Initiative, visit our website at www.hqontario.ca.

The Evidence Development and Standards branch at Health Quality Ontario conducted a rapid review¹ (1) to answer the following research question:

- What is the prognostic accuracy of preoperative resting echocardiography for noncardiac elective surgery with intermediate cardiac risk?

¹ Rapid reviews are developed in response to an urgent need to provide evidence, and in some cases develop OHTAC recommendations, in support of provincial initiatives. Rapid reviews are usually completed within a 2-week timeframe and therefore are not as comprehensive as other evidence reports prepared by the Evidence Development and Standards branch at Health Quality Ontario.

Conclusions

- No studies were identified that examined the prognostic accuracy of resting echocardiography.
- Resting echocardiography is not associated with improved survival or decreased length of stay after intermediate-risk, noncardiac elective surgery (GRADE: Very low).

OHTAC Recommendations

- On the basis of expert consensus, OHTAC does not recommend the use of resting echocardiography for routine preoperative screening purposes prior to noncardiac elective surgery with intermediate cardiac risk.

References

- (1) McMartin, K. Preoperative resting echocardiography for noncardiac surgery: a rapid review. Toronto: Health Quality Ontario; 2014 March. 17 p. Available from: <http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence/evidence-process/appropriateness-initiative#preop-rest-echo>.

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