

One in five undergoing telemetry for noncardiac indications

February 3 2017



(HealthDay)—More than 20 percent of patients undergoing telemetry

have noncardiac indications, according to a study published online Jan. 27 in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*.

Stephanie Chen, M.D., from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and colleagues conducted a retrospective study to examine provider ordering practices for telemetry at a U.S.-based academic hospital. Indications were categorized per the American Heart Association guidelines.

The researchers found that the top three cardiac indications included angina/acute coronary syndrome, arrhythmias, and heart failure (35.3, 19.7, and 10.2 percent, respectively). Overall, 20.2 percent of orders were for noncardiac indications, including respiratory conditions, infection, substance abuse, bleeding, vital sign monitoring, altered mental status, and pulmonary embolus/deep vein thrombosis (17.4, 17.4, 14.0, 12.4, 10.4, 7.0, and 7.0 percent, respectively).

"One-fifth of patients were monitored on telemetry for noncardiac indications," the authors write. "We recommend further study on the benefits and risks of [telemetry](#) in these patients and systems-based changes for appropriate usage."

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Citation: One in five undergoing telemetry for noncardiac indications (2017, February 3) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-02-telemetry-noncardiac-indications.html>

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