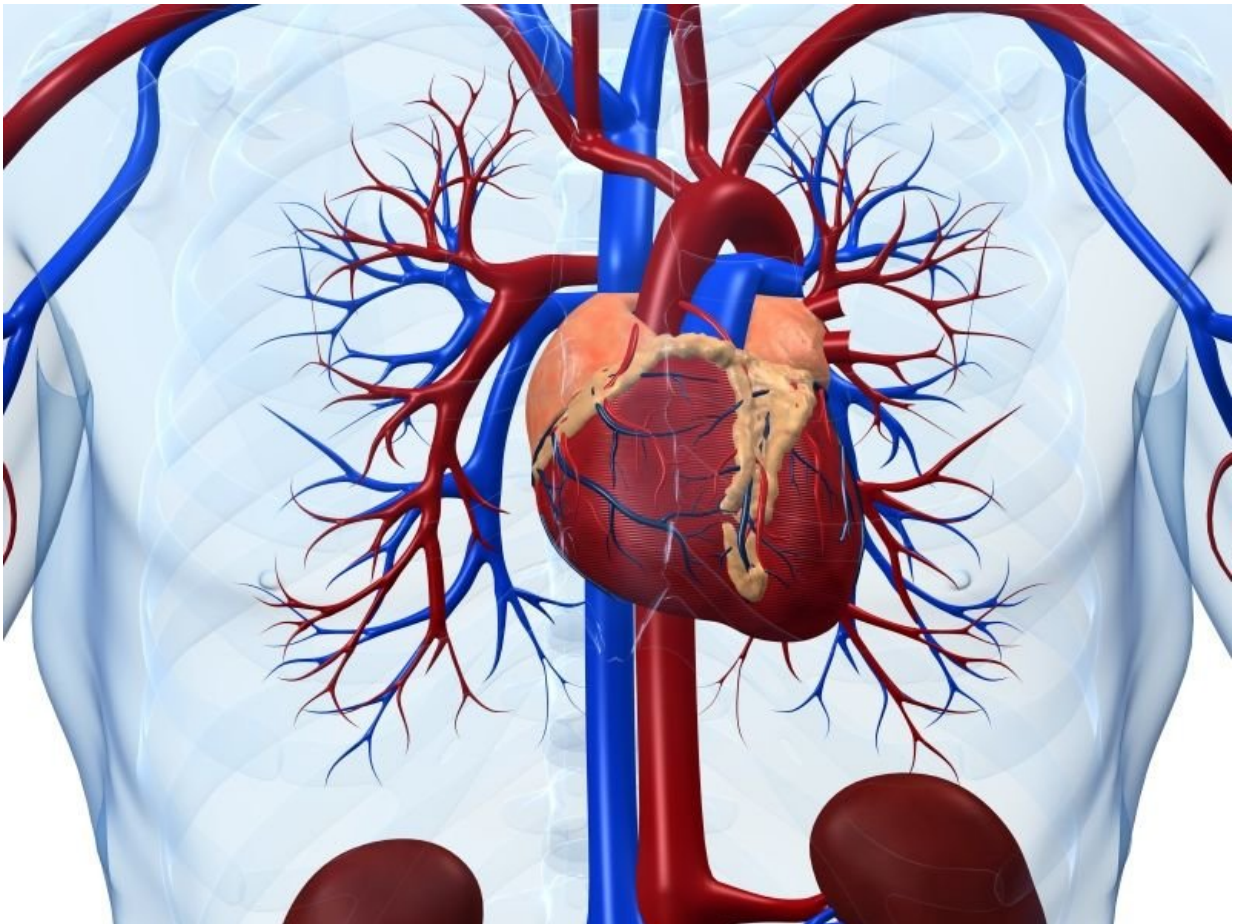


Quality improvement efforts may improve cath lab efficiencies

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(HealthDay)—A quality improvement intervention can reduce

inefficiencies in the cardiac catheterization lab, according to a study published online Jan. 31 in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Cardiovascular Interventions*.

Grant W. Reed, M.D., from the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, and colleagues performed an observational study to report metrics of efficiency before and after implementation of a cath lab quality improvement program in June 2014, which included implementation of a pyramidal nursing schedule, increased use of an electronic scheduling system, and increased utilization of a prep/recovery area.

The researchers found that from before to after the [intervention](#), start times improved an average of 17 minutes and on-time starts improved from 61.8 percent to 81.7 percent ($P = 0.0024$). In addition, turn-around times improved from 20.5 minutes to 16.4 minutes (trend P

"This knowledge may be helpful in assisting other cath labs in similar efficiency improvement initiatives," conclude the authors.

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