



PO069 Accuracy of The Clinical Diagnosis of Heart Failure Among General Practitioners In a Resource-Constrained Setting

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Introduction

Accurate and early diagnosis of heart failure (HF) is imperative for effective treatment to reduce mortality especially in resource constrained settings like Nigeria. Very frequently, the first diagnosis and indeed subsequent management of HF is done by General practitioners (GPs). Proven rapid diagnostic tests that are handy by the bedside such as B-type natriuretic peptide are not widely available. It is thus important to evaluate the accuracy of clinical skills of GPs at making a correct diagnosis of HF in order to identify existing gaps (if any) and develop interventions and engagements with the GP community.

Section snippets

Objectives

The objective of the study was to determine the accuracy and reliability of the clinical skill of GPs practicing in Nigeria in making a correct diagnosis of HF in our country using echocardiography as the gold standard (reference)....

Methods

The echocardiography (echo) requests of two hundred and forty-two GPs sent to a public diagnostic facility for both HF and non-HF patients were reviewed. The clinical diagnoses of the GPs were recorded and compared with the echocardiographic findings. The sensitivity (SE), Specificity (SP), Positive Predictive Value (PPV), Negative Predictive Value (NPV), the Accuracy, Positive likelihood ratio (LR+ve), Negative likelihood ratio (LR-ve) of the clinical skills of the GPs were calculated....

Results

The SE of clinical diagnosis of HF among GPs was 76.6%, SP was 78.5%, PPV was 46.2%, NPV was 93.3%. The Accuracy of clinical diagnosis of HF by the GPs was 78%, LR+ve = 3.562, LR-ve = 0.298. The Pre-test probability of a patient truly having

HF after an initial clinical diagnosis by a GP was 19.4%. The Post-test probability after a positive result was 46.1%....

Conclusion

The SE and SP of clinical diagnosis of HF was relatively low.The PPV suggests that less than 50% patients diagnosed with HF on clinical grounds actually have the disease.The LR+ve is lower than the recommended cut off of 10 normatively established by previously.Improving the capacity for clinical diagnosis of HF among GPs is an important strategy for reducing burden of HF in settings like ours.Training GPs to use diagnostic devices such as hand-held echo machines may help to make faster and...

Disclosure of Interest

None declared...

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