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Home Blood Pressure Monitoring: Supporting Evidence

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Topics Covered



 Strength of evidence for recommendation and use of out-of-office and home blood pressure (BP) measurement

Implications of BP Measurement Quality



- Fewer # and increased within-patient variability in readings due to poor measurement technique results in less reliability on BP reading accuracy
- Underestimating SBP by 10 mmHg predicted to result in 10-40% increase in fatal myocardial infarctions (MIs) and strokes;^{1,2} overestimation by 5 mmHg would unnecessarily increase treatment intensity in 30 million³
- 5-10 mmHg difference in BP values approximates the difference seen in comparing BPs measured in the same patients seen in clinic and research studies
- Even when clinic-based readings are done appropriately, they are 10-40% less effective in predicting clinical events than Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM)³
- Importantly, the readings that providers are using to determine need for treatment or change in treatment intensity becomes dramatically less usable
- There is now new guidance on the measurement of BP in the clinic and the use of out of office readings⁴

Home BP Readings More Accurate Than Office BP Readings



Providers should feel comfortable making medication changes based on Home BP readings.

- Provides a better risk prediction than office-based monitoring
- Correlates better with the cardiac (Left Ventricular Hypertrophy), renal (albuminuria), and clinical outcomes than office readings

Use and Advantages:

- White Coat Hypertension (WCH)
- Multiple readings throughout the day may reveal patterns in blood pressure and periods when control is inadequate
- Improves patient adherence
- Reduces costs
- While ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) is the gold standard, HBPM is a more practical alternative



Class of Recommendation and Level of Evidence for Out-of-Office Blood Pressure (BP) Measurement



- Most recent recommendations from the 2017 American College of Cardiology (ACC) /American Heart Association (AHA) Hypertension Guideline gives high level evidence rating for the use of out of office BP measurements
- The use of Home Blood Pressure Monitoring (HBPM) is also recommended by the US Preventive Task Force (USPSTF) to confirm the diagnosis of hypertension

| COR* | LOE^ | Recommendation | | |
|------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| † | A SR ^{††} | Out-of-office BP measurements are recommended to confirm the diagnosis of hypertension and for titration of BP-lowering medication, in conjunction with telehealth counseling or clinical interventions. | | |

SR indicates systematic review.

2017 ACC/AHA Guideline

^{*}Class (Strength) of recommendation

[^]Level of evidence

[†] Strong

^{††} High-quality evidence

Out-of-Office Blood Pressure (BP) Measurement



Rationale

- Provides a better risk prediction than office-based monitoring
- Correlates better
 with target organ
 damage (e.g. Left
 Ventricular
 Hypertrophy (LVH),
 albuminuria,
 cardiovascular
 events)

Uses and Advantages

- Helps identify White Coat Hypertension (WCH) and masked hypertension
- Multiple readings throughout the day may reveal patterns in blood pressure and periods when control is inadequate
- Improves patient adherence
- Reduces costs

White Coat Hypertension and Masked Hypertension



- The prevalence of White Coat Hypertension (WCH) and Masked Hypertension (MH) is between 10-30% each depending on the study
- WCH identifies a population with ↑ office BP readings at similar CV risk to normotensives
- However, the risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality for MH is similar to that in adults with sustained hypertension, indicating a benefit to treatment
- While there appears to be an increased risk of cardiovascular morbidity with MH, direct evidence of benefit in treating individuals with MH is unavailable
- In essence: Up to 30% of patients in our practices are either over or under-treated for hypertension

Out-of-Office Blood Pressure (BP) Measurement



Rationale

- Provides a better risk prediction than office-based monitoring
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Methodology

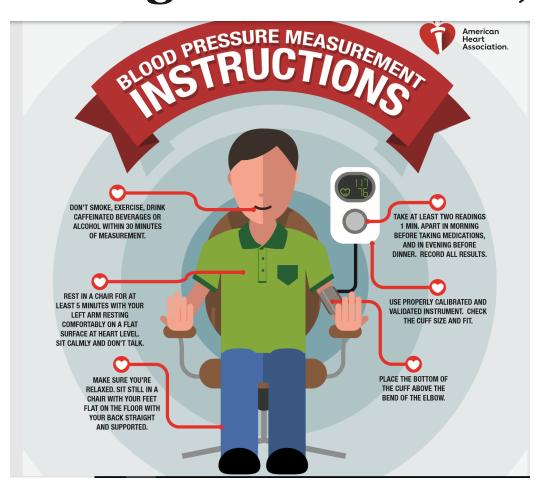
- Take at least 2 readings 1 minute apart in the morning before taking medications and again in the evening
- All monitors should be brought to all clinic appointments so staff can verify monitor accuracy and review built-in memory when available
- For clinical decision making based on HBPM readings, blood pressure should be based on an average of 3-5 days of BID (2 times a day) readings before a clinic visit^{1,2}

Note: consider requesting HBPM readings 1 week after any medication change to estimate response to change in challenging patients

¹Bello N et al. J Am Heart Assoc 2018; 7:1-6. doi:10.1161/JAHA.118.008658 ²Muntner P et al. Hypertension 2019; 73:e35-e66. doi:10.1161/HYP.000000000000087

Practical Steps for Implementing Home Blood Pressure Monitoring (Change Package Resource VI, p. 20)





Patient education should include:

- Ensure at least ≥5 minutes of quiet rest before measuring BP
- Avoid smoking, caffeinated beverages, or exercise for 30 minutes before measuring BP
- Sit with back straight and supported (e.g. a straight-backed dining chair)
- Keep feet flat on the floor with legs uncrossed
- Support arm on a flat surface (e.g. a table) with the upper arm at heart level
- Place midpoint of the bottom of the cuff directly above the bend of the elbow

Corresponding Values of Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP)/
Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP) for Clinic, Home Blood Pressure Monitoring (HBPM), Daytime, Nighttime and 24-Hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) Measurements

| Clinic | НВРМ | Daytime ABPM | Nighttime ABPM | 24-Hour ABPM |
|---------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 120/80 | 120/80 | 120/80 | 100/65 | 115/75 |
| 130/80 | 130/80 | 130/80 | 110/65 | 125/75 |
| 140/90 | 135/85 | 135/80 | 120/70 | 130/80 |
| 160/100 | 145/90 | 145/90 | 140/85 | 145/90 |

ABPM = ambulatory blood pressure monitoring; BP = blood pressure; DBP = diastolic blood pressure;
SBP = systolic blood pressure; HBPM = home blood pressure monitoring





Advantages of HBPM



- Out-of-office blood pressure readings are now recommended both to confirm the diagnosis of hypertension and for titration of blood pressure medications (in conjunction with telehealth counseling or other clinical monitoring or intervention)
- Offers clear potential to engage patients in their care
- Recommended by most guidelines to confirm office readings
 - Useful in identifying WCH
 - Can detect MH (though less sensitive than ABPM in detecting MH)¹
 - Most national and international guidelines recommend for HTN dx
 - 2017 ACC/AHA HTN Guideline recommends preference of HBPM readings over office readings for clinical decision making
- Became an essential measurement parameter during pandemic period
- Evidence available shows that HBPM is associated with increased BP control when accompanied by patient education, support by CHWs, nurse case management, or pharmacy support
- Clinical outcome data available using HBPM showing it to be a better predictor of clinical outcomes than research and routine office BPs