

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

"Effect of Prehospital 12-Lead Electrocardiogram on Activation of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Door-to-Balloon Time in ST-Segment Elevation Acute Myocardial Infarction."

Brown JP, Mahmud E, Dunford JV, et al

American Journal of Cardiology. 101(2):158-161, 2008.

Overview: This study examined the effect of obtaining a prehospital 12-lead ECG and activating the cath lab for patients with suspected ST-elevation myocardial infarctions (STEMI) prior to arrival at the ER.

Conclusions: The use of prior notification from the field of a patient with STEMI achieved a ~30% reduction in door to balloon time compared to patients arriving at the ER without prior notification.