

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

"Expedited transfer for primary percutaneous coronary intervention: a program evaluation."

De Villiers JS, Anderson T, McMeekin JD

Canadian Medical Association Journal .
176(13):1833-1838, 2007.

Overview: This 3-phase study was conducted to determine the impact of rapidly delivering acute myocardial infarction (MI) patients to the single interventional facility in the city. EMS staff obtained and interpreted a 12-lead ECG and transported the patient to the nearest hospital where a physician examined the ECG in the ambulance bay and if acute MI was confirmed the patient was sent on to the interventional facility without ever being taken out of the ambulance.

Conclusion: An expedited transfer pathway resulted in meeting the published door-to-balloon times in a significant majority of the cases and was a feasible use of pre-hospital 12-lead ECG to identify candidate patients for acute coronary intervention.