



ASX release

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New study finds elevated central blood pressure superior to arm blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking as a predictor of heart attacks and strokes

-Independent studies are fueling clinician awareness and adoption of central pressure assessment as a crucial predictor of future cardiovascular events.

A new study published in the current edition of Hypertension, a journal of the American Heart Association, found that central pulse pressure, the pressure in the ascending aorta, was an independent predictor of future cardiovascular events such as heart attack and stroke, while conventional blood pressure measurements and classic risk factors such as elevated cholesterol and smoking were not.

The 4 ½ year study, undertaken on behalf of the Aortic Blood Pressure and Survival Study Group, was conducted in 1,110 consecutive patients undergoing coronary angiography.

The study's authors pointed to the consistency of their results with large population studies such as the CAFE and Strong Heart Studies, part of a growing body of evidence of the importance of central blood pressure assessment. In the CAFE and Strong Heart studies, which used SphygmoCor noninvasive central blood pressure assessment technology, elevated central blood pressure, which could not be detected by brachial blood pressure measurements, was also found to be a superior predictor of cardiovascular events.

These independent clinical studies, published in peer-reviewed journals, are the key to expanding the adoption of SphygmoCor technology by clinicians. They also provide powerful support for AtCor Medical's ongoing US reimbursement efforts.

Central pressure assessment—vitaly important in patient care and pharmaceutical research

"Evidence continues to build in the scientific literature that central pressure assessment is a superior method of assessing cardiovascular risk," said Duncan Ross, President and CEO of AtCor Medical. "This new study reinforces the evidence that assessing central blood pressure is a superior way of identifying patients at cardiovascular risk. And as the CAFE study showed, lowered central pressure is associated with lowered risk of cardiovascular events".

Elevated central blood pressure, the pressure the brain, heart and kidneys actually experience can be lowered with lifestyle changes and drug therapies. Studies show that central blood pressure in individuals cannot be determined through traditional blood pressure measurements at the arm.

"To identify cardiovascular risk or to assess drug effects on the cardiovascular system, you must measure central pressures," Ross said. It is vitally important in patient care and in pharmaceutical clinical trials. With SphygmoCor, central pressures can now be assessed non-invasively in physician's offices, clinics, even in home care. "

* "Pulsatile but Not Steady Component of Blood Pressure Predicts Cardiovascular Events in Coronary Patients, Jankowski et al. **Hypertension 2008;51:848-855**

About AtCor Medical

AtCor Medical develops and markets products for the early detection of cardiovascular risk and management of cardiovascular disease. Its technology allows researchers and clinicians to assess central blood pressure non-invasively. The company's SphygmoCor system visibly identifies the effects of reflected blood pressure in the central aortic pressure wave, effects which cannot be detected with standard blood pressure monitoring. More than 1,200 SphygmoCor systems are currently in use worldwide at major medical institutions research institutions and in various clinical trials with leading pharmaceutical companies, and the company's technology has been featured in over 200 peer-reviewed studies published in leading medical journals. AtCor has operations in Australia, the United States, and Europe. For further information, please visit our web site at www.atcormedical.com

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