



QUALITY OF CARE AND OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CARDIOLOGY PRACTICE TEACHING STATUS AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE USE OF EVIDENCE-BASED THERAPY FOR HEART FAILURE: FINDINGS FROM IMPROVE HF

ACC Oral Contributions

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Background: While the relationship between the teaching status of hospitals and quality of care has been examined, little is known regarding the teaching status of outpatient cardiology practices and the quality of heart failure (HF) care.

Methods: IMPROVE HF is a prospective study of a practice-based performance improvement intervention designed to improve use of guideline-recommended care for eligible patients with systolic HF or post-MI LVSD. Mean changes from baseline to 24 months post-intervention were analyzed for ACEI/ARB, β -blocker, aldosterone antagonist, anticoagulation for atrial fibrillation, CRT, ICD, HF education, as well as composite score and all-or-none care.

Results: The analysis included 15,177 patients at 155 cardiology practices, of which 48 were teaching (T) and 107 non-teaching (NT). At baseline, T had greater conformity with 5 of 7 quality measures and composite care. Post-intervention significant improvements for 6 of 7 care measures were evident at 24 months for both T and NT practices. The magnitude of improvement was similar in 6 of 7 measures. T practices demonstrated greater absolute improvement only in the documentation of HF education.

Conclusion: The performance intervention was associated with significantly increased adherence to guideline-recommended therapy for eligible patients in both teaching and non-teaching cardiology practices. Teaching- and non-teaching affiliated practices showed similar improvements for all but one quality measure.

	Teaching Practices N = 48			Non-Teaching Practices N = 107			T vs NT Change P value
	Baseline N=4716	24 Months N=2470	Change From Baseline	Baseline N=9711	24 Months N=5135	Change From Baseline	
ACEI/ARB	82.2%	90.0%	+7.8%	78.7%	84.8%	+6.2%	0.153
Beta-Blocker	89.8%	96.0%	+6.2%	84.7%	92.5%	+7.8%	0.070
Aldosterone Antagonist	39.0%	66.7%	+27.7%	31.4%	58.5%	+27.1%	0.865
Anticoagulant for AF	71.2%	72.7%	+1.5%	67.7%	67.7%	0.0%	0.547
CRT-P/CRT-D	37.0%	68.0%	+31.1%	38.1%	68.8%	+30.7%	0.931
ICD/CRT-D	51.3%	82.3%	+31.1%	47.8%	77.5%	+29.7%	0.374
HF Education	59.8%	75.6%	+15.9%	61.8%	68.5%	+6.7%	<0.001
Composite Score	69.2%	83.2%	+14.0%	67.8%	78.6%	+10.8%	<0.001
All-or-None Care	24.3%	50.0%	+25.7%	23.7%	41.0%	+17.3%	<0.001

*Composite score was calculated by dividing the sum of the numerator for each care measure by the sum of the denominators for each care measure at each practice. **All-or-none care was defined as the percentage of patients at each practice who received all HF care measures for which they were eligible.