



ASX release

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New study reveals elevated central pulse pressure in African-American men

Further Supports non-invasive central blood pressure assessment

AtCor Medical (ASX:ACG), the developer and marketer of the SphygmoCor® system which measures central blood pressures and arterial stiffness non-invasively, today responded to media reports on a study¹ available online in the American Journal of Physiology, published by the American Physiological Society.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign study compared vascular function in groups of healthy young African American and Caucasian men. The study found that while both groups of men had similar brachial cuff (measured at the arm) pulse pressures, the young African American men had higher central pulse pressures. Elevated central pulse pressure, which cannot be detected with traditional cuff blood pressure measurement, is associated with increased risk of heart attack, stroke and kidney disease. AtCor Medical's SphygmoCor technology was used to noninvasively measure central blood pressures during the study.

The University of Illinois study highlights the limitations of using standard cuff blood pressure measurement alone in diagnosing and treating hypertension. "Our results support the notion that brachial BP blood pressure does not reflect vascular burden, particularly in young healthy African American men and alterations in central pressure may precede alterations in brachial pressure," the authors stated.

The adverse implications of elevated central pulse pressure have been observed in a number of other studies. The Strong Heart Study, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and involving over 3,500 patients, showed in a multi-variate analysis that central pressure using SphygmoCor but not brachial pressure was found to predict cardiovascular events. A follow-on analysis of the Strong Heart Study data presented at the 2008 American Heart Association Annual Scientific Meeting determined a specific level of central pulse pressure above which adverse cardiovascular events increase significantly. The authors called for examination of non-invasive central pulse pressure as a treatment target in clinical intervention strategies.

"It is well recognized that African American men have a higher prevalence of hypertension," said Duncan Ross, AtCor Medical President and CEO. "Detecting elevated central pulse pressure early - allowing timely intervention - may help prevent chronic cardiovascular disease in later life. As the study authors observed, the measurement of central blood pressure may fill a crucial void in the current management of hypertension. Yet again, the science shows that it is critically important to measure central blood pressure," Ross concluded.

¹ Kevin S. Heffernan et al. Racial differences in central blood pressure and vascular function in young men
Articles in Press. Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol.

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 measure 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 1,700 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 have been featured in over 400 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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