**THE EFFICACY OF SONOGRAPHIC MEASUREMENT OF INFERIOR VENA CAVA DIAMETER AS AN ESTIMATE OF CENTRAL VENOUS PRESSURE**

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*Background*: Central venous pressure is often an important parameter for the clinical evaluation of a patient. However, current measurements of central venous pressure require invasive techniques. Sonographic measurement of inferior vena cava diameter may be a reliable non-invasive estimate of central venous pressure.

*Objective*: Determine if ultrasound measurements of inferior vena cava diameter are clinically correlative estimates of central venous pressure or right atrial pressure.

*Methods*: We conducted a PubMed search to identify randomized clinical studies assessing sonographic evaluation of inferior vena cava diameter against gold standard measurements of central venous pressure and right atrial pressure.

*Results*: Twenty-one trials (1,340 patients) comparing inferior vena cava ultrasound measurement to central venous pressure and right atrial pressure were identified.

*Conclusion*: Thirteen studies showed a statistically significant positive correlation between sonographic measurement of inferior vena cava diameter and central venous pressure. Two studies showed a negative correlation and six studies were inconclusive. Given the ease and safety of imaging the inferior vena cava further research is warranted to better understand its usefulness in clinical medicine.