**APPROPRIATENESS OF AERO MEDICAL TRANSPORT FOR CARDIAC EMERGENCIES**

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*Background*: Air ambulance transport has been rapidly expanding and has helped improve patient outcomes by affording timely life-saving medical interventions. Significant discord exists in the acuity of the initial cardiac assessment and diagnosis requiring urgent transfer, resulting in significant economic implications and burden.

*Objectives*: We aimed to study the appropriateness of air transfers from other centers to our tertiary care center for cardiac emergencies.

*Methodology*: This is a single-center retrospective analysis over 3 year period (Jan 2012 to March 2015) of inter-facility air ambulance transfer for cardiac emergencies at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. The primary outcome assessed was the appropriateness of transfer which was decided based on medical chart review by two independent reviewers. Appropriateness for air transfers was judged based on the acuity of clinical presentation, hemodynamic stability and the need for an urgent medical intervention.

*Results*: 750 patients with cardiac emergencies were transported by aero-medical transport using 4 [American Eurocopter EC 145 helicopters](http://osflifeflight.org/our-aircraft.html) over 3 years. Mean age of patients transferred was 64±14 years, median length of stay 2 (1-48) days. Majority of transfers were from small community hospitals in rural Illinois at a mean of 61±15 road miles distance. There were 28 (3.7%) total deaths. Only 30 (4%) of the total 750 transfers were deemed to be inappropriate.

*Conclusions*: Aeromedical transportation provides an effective, rapid and efficient means of transfer of cardiac emergencies. This has helped to provide for an urgent and timely cardiac care in the sickest patients and thereby impacted mortality favorably.

