American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Testimony for the Food and Drug Administration

Anesthesiology and Respiratory Therapy Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee

February 2, 2024

Theresa Davis, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CHTP, FAAN
President, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
Assistant Vice President of Nursing at the High Reliability Center of Inova Health System
Disclosure

• I have no financial disclosures or conflicts of interest with the presented material in this presentation
Progress Made

- The FDA has begun addressing disparities in pulse oximetry accuracy based on skin pigmentation, a result of inequities in the evaluation of this technology.

- The Discussion Paper for today’s session describes a clinical study design that requires:
  - Inclusion of persons with different skin tones in clinical testing of pulse oximeters, based on a validated scale - Monk Skin Tone (MST) scale.
  - Measurement of skin pigmentation at the sensor site by assessing the Individual Typology Angle (ITA).

- Validated tools to measure skin pigmentation may be effective in addressing clinical study design flaws.
Raising Awareness: AACN Webinar

- Multiple factors interfere with pulse oximetry accuracy including: vasoconstriction, vasodilation, anemia, edema, and skin pigmentation.

- Substantial evidence shows significant inaccuracy among patients who identify as Black, Asian, or Hispanic (Chelsey et al, 2022, Fawzy et al., 2022, and Andrist et al., 2022).

- While studies report differences in occult hypoxemia by race and ethnicity, it is more accurately related to the degree of skin pigmentation.
AACN Webinar: Key Points

The webinar highlighted the following implications:

- Minimize inaccuracy by using the correct sensor with the correct placement
- Be aware of limitations including the range of accuracy
- Interpret pulse oximetry in combination with other assessment data
Key Opportunities

With pulse oximetry:
- Address risks of inaccuracy in consumer grade pulse oximeters
- Disseminate plain language content about the limitations of pulse oximetry

As a lesson forward:
- Set a precedent for improving clinical study designs across the board
- Examine clinical practices with a similar risk of disparate accuracy
- Convene professional societies and organizations that set guidelines to create and implement standards for inclusive practices
References


▪ FDA_Pulse_Oximetry_Letter_CCSC.ashx (chestnet.org) and FDA_Pulse_Oximetry_Letter_Reply.pdf


