Practice Changing Pearls (Cardiovascular)

D-Dimer for Aortic Dissection: Ready for Primetime?

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What Do We Know?

• 6 cohort studies & 1 case-control
• Variety of test platforms used
  • All defined + D-dimer as >500ng/ml
• 298 pts with aortic dissection
• 436 pts without

What Do We Know?

• Pooled results
  • Sensitivity = 0.97 (95% CI 0.94-0.99)
  • Specificity = 0.56 (0.51-0.6)

Disclosures

• No financial or professional conflicts of interest
The Problem

- Only one study (registry) prospectively enrolled ED patients suspected of having acute aortic dissection (N = 220)
- Lower limit of 95% CIs
  - 0.90 for sensitivity
  - 0.38 for specificity
- -LR of 0.2
- +LR of 1.5

Take Home Message

- The best available evidence is inadequate to support the use of D-dimer to rule out acute aortic dissection

References