



Pennsylvania

CHAPTER

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Mary Ellen Foltz
Medical Policy and Payment Department
Highmark Medical Programs
P.O. Box
Camp Hill, PA 17089-0089

RE: Cardiac Output Monitoring by Thoracic Electrical Impedance (TEB):
PaACC Position Statement

Dear Ms. Foltz,

As president of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (PaACC), I am writing in response to your request for a brief opinion or position statement from our organization concerning Cardiac Output Monitoring by Thoracic Electrical Impedance (TEB).

The PaACC appreciates the opportunity to offer an opinion on this topic. As you may know, this chapter represents over 1000 practicing cardiologists in the state of Pennsylvania whose purpose is to advocate for quality cardiovascular care, education, research promotion, and the development and application of standards and guidelines to responsibly influence health-care policy. We are proud to be an active chapter of the American College of Cardiology which represents more than 90% of the cardiologists practicing in the United States.

Thoracic Electrical Impedance (TEB) or impedance cardiography has been investigated as a noninvasive means for assessing cardiac output. Changes in cardiac output may be used to identify a change in the hemodynamic status of a patient or to ascertain the need for, or response to, treatment.

As stated within the most recently published ACC/AHA guidelines for the management of Congestive Heart Failure (2005), "There has been no established role for periodic invasive or noninvasive hemodynamic measurement in the management of heart failure.....Nevertheless, invasive hemodynamic measurements may assist in the determination of volume status and in distinguishing heart failure from other disorders that may cause circulatory instability, such as pulmonary diseases and sepsis.....Cardiac output can also be measured by noninvasive methods."

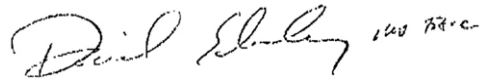
As such, The PaACC suggests that the following indications be considered for coverage of TEB:

1. Differentiation of cardiogenic from pulmonary causes of acute dyspnea when medical history, physical examination and standard assessment tools provide insufficient information for the appropriate management of the patient.
2. Optimization of fluid management in patients with congestive heart failure when medical history, physical examination, and standard assessment tools provide insufficient information for the appropriate management of the patients.

At this time, the PaACC feels that there is insufficient evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature to support the use of TEB for other indications.

The members of the PaACC appreciate the opportunity to offer input on what we perceive to be appropriate applications of this technology to improve the health of our patients. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Edmundowicz MD, FACC". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Daniel Edmundowicz, MD, FACC
Western Pennsylvania Governor and President,
American College of Cardiology, Pennsylvania Chapter.