

# Subtle Signs of Bad \$#\*!

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# Faculty Disclosures

Michael A. Jasumback does not have any conflicts of interest (commercial, financial, or scientific) now or within the last 12 months related to this topic

# Evidence of Illness

- Illness should be the assumption

# Sick/Not Sick



## The Holy Grail of Medicine

- Especially EMS, Emergency and Critical Care Medicine

## Sick vs Not Sick

- Minimal to no information
- Physical Exam  $\pm$  Vitals  $\pm$  SaO<sub>2</sub>

# Toys



# Data

## Derivation of qSOFA

- 74,453 encounters
- What combination of data most effectively predicts badness? (mortality)

## Validation of qSOFA

- Non ICU cohort 66,522
- qSOFA>SOFA>LODS

# Evidence



Prognostic Accuracy of Sepsis-3 Criteria for In-Hospital Mortality Among Patients With Suspected Infection Presenting to the Emergency Department. JAMA. 2017 Jan 17;317(3):301-308

Prospective, 1088 pts screened, 879 analyzed

qSofa outperformed SIRS and the old Severe Sepsis criteria in predicting death



qSOFA predicts DEATH! Not Sepsis

# Truth



qSOFA is a toy, a tool and nothing more



How we USE our tools and toys is what defines us as clinicians



A tool/toy never tells the Truth!



It gives DATA, which combined with EVIDENCE gives a version of TRUTH



## Take home qSOFA



qSOFA is only a tool



Derived/validated in sepsis



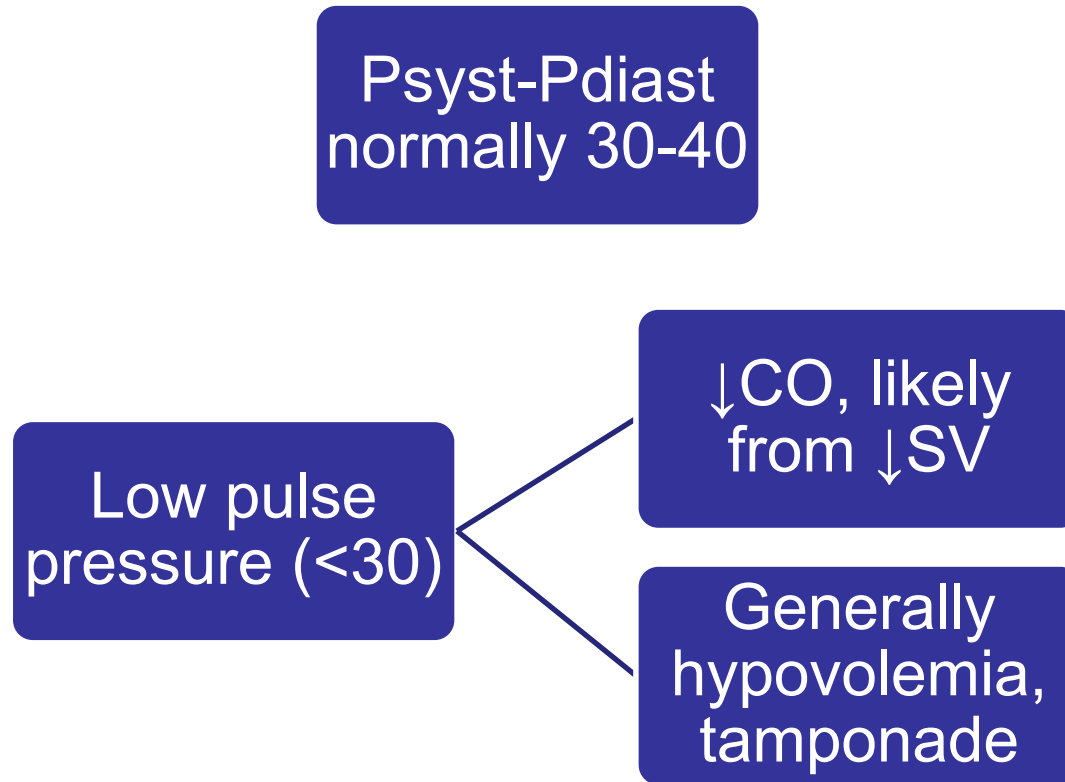
RR codified as a sign of badness



qSOFA (>2 findings)

New/Worsened  
Altered Mentation  
RR $\geq$ 22  
SBP $\leq$ 100

# Pulse Pressure



ATLS - Advanced trauma life support. (2018). Chicago, Ill.: American College of Surgeons, Committee on Trauma.

# Pulse Pressure

Psyst-Pdiast  
normally 30-40

Elevated Pulse  
Pressure (>45)

Loss of  
Vascular Tone

AV Fistula

ATLS - Advanced trauma life  
support. (2018). Chicago, Ill.:  
American College of Surgeons,  
Committee on Trauma.

# Data

- Pulse pressure is a data point
- It is a tool
- In context will guide you to the truth



# Data

- Early Warning Scores
  - Devised to predict clinical deterioration
  - Usually based on clinical parameters only
  - Many exist
    - MEWS-Modified Early Warning Score
    - NEWS-National Early Warning Score
    - ViEWS

Study Country	N parameters; name of scoring system	Parameters used in the system scores										
		Heart rate	Resp rate	SBP	Temp	Urine output	O2 Sat	Difficulty breathing	Supp O2	Mental Status (LOC)	Concern	Other, specify
Rothschild, 2010 <sup>8</sup> USA	Single items, not combined	X	X	X	X	X	X	---	X	X	X	DBP, seizures, uncontrolled bleeding, color change
Churpek, 2012 <sup>9</sup> USA	4-item CART	X	X	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	DBP, Age
Maupin, 2009 <sup>10</sup> USA	5-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	---	---	---	---	X	---	---
Jones, 2011 <sup>11</sup> UK	Patienttrack EWS	X	X	X	X	---	---	---	---	X	---	---
Subbe, 2003 <sup>12</sup> UK	5-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	---	---	---	---	X	---	---
Churpek, 2012 <sup>13</sup> USA	5-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	---	---	---	---	X	---	---
O'Dell, 2002 <sup>14</sup> UK	5-item MEWS	X	X	X	---	X	---	---	---	X	---	---
DeMeester, 2012 <sup>15</sup> Belgium	6-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	---	X	---	---	X	---	---
Smith, 2006 <sup>16</sup> UK	6-item EWS	X	X	X	X	X	---	---	---	X	---	---
Patel, 2011 <sup>17</sup> UK	6-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	X	---	---	---	X	---	Catheterized
Kellett, 2012 <sup>18</sup> Canada	6-item ViEWS	X	X	X	X	---	X	---	X	---	---	---
Mitchell, 2010 <sup>19</sup>	7-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	X	X	---	---	X	---	---
Moon, 2011 <sup>20</sup> UK	7-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	X	X	---	---	X	---	---
Green, 2006 <sup>21</sup> Australia	7-item clinical marker tool	X	X	X	---	X	X	X	---	---	X	---
Smith, 2013 <sup>22</sup> UK	7-item NEWS	X	X	X	X	---	X	---	X	X	---	---
Prytherch, 2010 <sup>23</sup> UK	7-item ViEWS	X	X	X	X	---	X	---	X	X	---	---
Albert, 2011 <sup>24</sup> USA	12-item MEWS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	WBC; new focal weakness

Early Warning System Scores: A Systematic Review [Internet].

Editors: Smith MEB, Chiovaro JC, O'Neil M, Kansagara D, Quinones A, Freeman M, Motu'apuaka M, Slatore CG.

# Evidence

## ViEWS score

- Vitals, No Mental Status
- Validated by Kellett, et al. in multiple studies
- N=>137,000 pts

## Surprises-

- Changes over time not really predictive
- No one VS stood out much
  - But the range of RR was small



# Evidence

- Validation of a modified Early Warning Score in medical admissions

[QJM](#). 2001 Oct;94(10):521-6

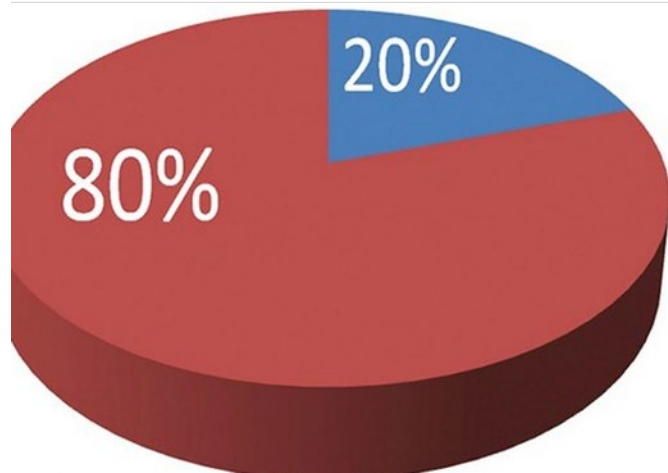
  - Prospective, 709 admitted pts
  - Score >5 predicted Death (OR 5.4) and ICU admission (OR 10.9)
- The ability of early warning scores (EWS) to detect critical illness in the prehospital setting: A systematic review.

[Resuscitation](#). 2016 May;102:35-43

  - Metaanalysis of 8 Early Warning Score studies
  - Pooled analysis of EWS showed an OR of 10.9 for critical illness
  - All scores were VS based (some had lactate)
  - Majority from one study (144K pts)- using only vitals + GCS



## Truth



EWS are tools



They help only when taken in clinical context.



All validated EWS use only clinical variables



AUROC .78 (EWS, qSOFA, SIRS)

# Take Home Early Warning Scores



Again- only a tool



Validated for near term mortality/ICU admit



All include RR

# Shock Index

## HR/SBP

- $>.7$  predicts mortality in STEMI
- $>1$  predicts massive transfusion in Trauma
- $>.9$  Preintubation predicts hypotension/ICU
- “U” shaped curve in Stroke (high and low bad)

SI  $>.7$  still predictive in the face of

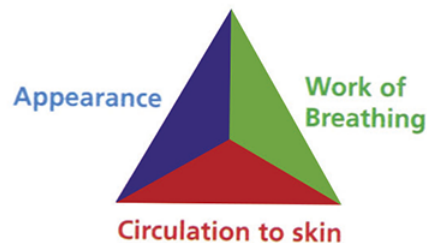
- DM, AGE,  $\beta$ -Blockade, Ca Channel Blockade

# Data

- Pediatric Assessment Triangle
  - NO Derivation Study
  - First literature reference:  
[Pediatr Emerg Care](#). 2010 Apr;26(4):312-5

# Pediatric Assessment Triangle

## PAT: General Impression



= STABLE



= SHOCK



= RESPIRATORY  
DISTRESS



= CNS /  
METABOLIC



= RESPIRATORY  
FAILURE



= CARDIO-  
PULMONAR  
Y FAILURE

# PAT

## Appearance

- Tone, Interaction, Consolability, Look, Speech

## Work of Breathing

- Sounds, Position, Retractions/Flaring, Apnea

## Circulation

- Pallor, Mottling, Cyanosis, Cap Refill

# Evidence



The Validity of the Pediatric Assessment Triangle as the First Step in the Triage Process in a Pediatric Emergency Department



302,000+ Patient evaluations



>ONE abnormal finding on the PAT increased

Odds of admission (OR 3.99)  
Odds of ICU Admission (OR 4.44)  
Pediatr Emerg Care. 2016 May 12

# Truth



PAT is a tool



Well validated



Predicts and can categorize badness



## Summary

“The harder you train, the easier the war”

Go home and study your patients

Consider context of the patient's illness

Pay attention to subtle things:

- RR
- Skin Color
- Anxiety
- Breathing
- Mental Status
- Pulse Pressure
- Shock Index
- Work of

# Ultimate Truth

The most powerful tools you have

