Hypertension Misdiagnosis Drives Need for Comprehensive Blood Pressure Management Solutions in the Physician’s Office

Welch Allyn devices may help compensate for variance in measurements to enhance accuracy

Skaneateles Falls, NY, May 11, 2015—Welch Allyn, a leading medical diagnostic device company that delivers pragmatic innovation at the point of care, has introduced a new ambulatory blood pressure management solution designed to help combat the misdiagnosis of hypertension in the physician’s office. The Welch Allyn ABPM 7100 is a next-generation, 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) device that uses BHS A/A validated-oscillometric technology to enhance blood pressure management and effectively diagnose hypertension. When used together with the office-based blood pressure averaging feature on the Welch Allyn Connex® Spot Vital Signs Monitor (CSM), clinicians can capture and analyze multiple automated blood pressure readings for their patients during one visit or over several days for more complete and accurate measurements. Both solutions will be on display at booths 1006 and 1008 at the American Society of Hypertension show in New York May 15-19.

“Misdiagnosis of hypertension can occur for multiple reasons,” said Doug Linquest, vice president, Vital Signs and Cardiopulmonary at Welch Allyn. “Measurements can vary based on technique of the examiner, situational anxiety and attributes of the patient’s health, as well as activities the patient has participated in during the day of the exam. Capturing multiple automated readings over 24 hours with an ABPM, or even an average of multiple readings captured in the physician’s office with the CVSM during the same visit, can help mitigate these anomalies and give physicians a more complete picture of the patient’s blood pressure condition.”

Prescribed by a physician, and worn home by a patient for 24 hours, the lightweight, compact and quiet Welch Allyn ABPM 7100 is designed to improve patient comfort and compliance. Clinicians can access patient data using the Windows®-based CardioPerfect® WorkStation software and receive comprehensive
blood pressure analysis of readings taken during the wear-period. The application creates reports from the data that provide critical information that allows clinicians to tailor drug therapy regimes to individual patient needs. This information can then be easily transferred to many leading EMRs through a simple electronic interface.

Next to standard ABPM tests, the ABPM 7100 also offers an option to measure noninvasive central blood pressure, which studies show can deliver a greater indication of potential heart attacks or stroke. Citing evidence that supports ABPM as the reference standard for confirming elevated office BP screening results to avoid misdiagnosis of hypertension, a recent draft recommendation from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force called for utilization of ambulatory blood pressure measurement to confirm hypertension before diagnosis. The draft recommendation is currently under review.

The ABPM 7100 is the latest blood pressure management device from Welch Allyn, which also offers a range of devices for blood pressure screening and management including manual aneroid sphygmomanometers, standalone digital blood pressure devices and multi-parameter electronic vital signs monitors. The company has pioneered multiple innovative blood pressure technologies, such as blood pressure averaging in the CVSM, all designed to help office-based physicians accurately and efficiently assess and diagnose hypertension.

“Since a significant portion of hypertension diagnosis is based on measurements relative to established blood pressure ranges, measurement accuracy is critical to a proper diagnosis,” added Linquest. “In particular, the most sensitive range for diagnosis is between 120 mmHg and 140 mmHg systolic where a patient can be classified as normotensive, pre-hypertensive, or hypertensive. Longer-term blood pressure monitoring with ABPM, and even averaging multiple readings in the office, can help minimize white coat hypertension and yield an accurate representation of the patient’s blood pressure.”

About Welch Allyn
Since 1915 Welch Allyn has brought a unique perspective to developing diagnostic solutions by combining pragmatic knowledge with a visionary spirit of innovation and ongoing improvement. As a leading global manufacturer of physical examination instruments and accessories and EMR-connected vital signs and cardiac monitoring solutions, the company has a steadfast commitment to delivering superlative medical
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products, services and solutions that help healthcare professionals provide better care for their patients. Welch Allyn is headquartered in Skaneateles Falls, N.Y. (USA) and employs more than 2,600 people in 26 different countries. Visit www.welchallyn.com for more information. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

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1 Blood pressure & pulse wave measurement combined in one procedure re-classification of risk patients: I.E.M. GmbH, 52222 Stolberg, Germany.

2 USPSTF Proposes Change in Hypertension Dx, http://www.medpagetoday.com/Cardiology/Hypertension/49274.