A Randomized Trial of Continuous Noninvasive Blood Pressure Monitoring During Noncardiac Surgery

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BACKGROUND: Intraoperative hypotension is associated with postoperative mortality. Early detection of hypotension by continuous hemodynamic monitoring might prompt timely therapy, thereby reducing intraoperative hypotension. We tested the hypothesis that continuous noninvasive blood pressure monitoring reduces intraoperative hypotension.

METHODS: Patients ≥45 years old with American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status III or IV having moderate-to-high-risk noncardiac surgery with general anesthesia were included. All participating patients had continuous noninvasive hemodynamic monitoring using a finger cuff (ClearSight, Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA) and a standard oscillometric cuff. In half the patients, randomly assigned, clinicians were blinded to the continuous values, whereas the others (unblinded) had access to continuous blood pressure readings. Continuous pressures in both groups were used for analysis. Time-weighted average for mean arterial pressure <65 mm Hg was compared using 2-sample Wilcoxon rank-sum tests and Hodges Lehmann estimation of location shift with corresponding asymptotic 95% CI.

RESULTS: Among 320 randomized patients, 316 were included in the intention-to-treat analysis. With 158 patients in each group, those assigned to continuous blood pressure monitoring had significantly lower time-weighted average mean arterial pressure <65 mm Hg, 0.05 [0.00, 0.22] mm Hg, versus intermittent blood pressure monitoring, 0.11 [0.00, 0.54] mm Hg (P = .039, significance criteria P < .048).

CONCLUSIONS: Continuous noninvasive hemodynamic monitoring nearly halved the amount of intraoperative hypotension. Hypotension reduction with continuous monitoring, while statistically significant, is currently of uncertain clinical importance. (Anesth Analg 2018;127:424–31)

KEY POINTS

- Question: Does continuous noninvasive blood pressure monitoring reduce intraoperative hypotension?
- Findings: Patients assigned to continuous blood pressure monitoring had significantly lower time-weighted average mean arterial pressure <65 mm Hg, 0.05 [0.00, 0.22] mm Hg, versus intermittent blood pressure monitoring, 0.11 [0.00, 0.54] mm Hg (P = .039).
- Meaning: Continuous noninvasive hemodynamic monitoring nearly halved the amount of intraoperative hypotension.

Intraoperative hypotension is strongly associated with postoperative mortality. For example, hypotension was the most important factor responsible for postoperative mortality in the Perioperative Ischemia Evaluation Trial.1 Many other studies similarly report strong associations between hypotension and postoperative acute kidney injury (AKI) and myocardial injury, possibly due to ischemia-reperfusion or supply-demand mismatch.1-4 To the extent that these associations are causal, optimizing intraoperative hemodynamics and avoiding hypotension may reduce perioperative myocardial and renal injury. A causal relationship is supported by a recent randomized trial in which controlling systolic pressure to within 10% of baseline values reduced postoperative organ dysfunction.6 Intraoperative hypotension has various definitions,8 but mean arterial pressure (MAP) <65 mm Hg has been associated with worse outcomes in several analyses.4,5,10...
Intraoperative blood pressure is usually measured intermittently using noninvasive oscillometric devices every 3–5 minutes. Continuous monitoring facilitates early diagnoses of hypotension, thus potentially promoting timely treatment. However, invasive blood pressure monitoring, which provides continuous blood pressure, is used in selected high-risk patients. An alternative is noninvasive finger cuff monitoring which can provide continuous hemodynamic monitoring. The ClearSight (Edwards Lifesciences Corp, Irvine, CA) is a continuous noninvasive hemodynamic monitor which uses volume clamp and physical methods. Absolute pressures obtained from this monitor are comparable to invasive blood pressure monitoring, and noninferior to oscillometric monitors obtained from this monitor are comparable to invasive hypotension compared to intermittent noninvasive blood pressure monitoring. Specifically, we tested the primary hypothesis that continuous hemodynamic monitoring reduces time-weighted average intraoperative MAP (TWA MAP) under a threshold of 65 mm Hg, a measure that characterizes both the duration and severity of hypotension (“amount of hypotension”). Secondarily, we tested the hypotheses that use of continuous hemodynamic monitoring resulted in lower TWA MAP <60 and <55 mm Hg.

METHODS

This study was approved by the Cleveland Clinic Institutional Review Board (IRB #16–845) and written informed consent was obtained from all subjects participating in the trial. The trial was registered before patient enrollment at clinicaltrials.gov (NCT02872896), principal investigator: Kamal Maheshwari, date of registration: August 19, 2016. We enrolled 320 adults, 45 years or older, with American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status III or IV who had moderate-to-high-risk noncardiac surgery with general anesthesia between August 2016 and August 2017. Patients were excluded if the attending anesthesiologist determined that invasive arterial monitoring was needed. Additionally, patients were excluded when there was >10% discrepancy in preoperative MAP between arms or the expected duration of surgery was <2 hours. Shortly before induction of anesthesia, patients were randomly allocated to continuous unblinded or blinded continuous monitoring by an investigator not involved in clinical care, in a 1:1 ratio, using a reproducible set of computer-generated random number via a web-based system (REDCap secure web application). The allocation was computer-generated random number via a web-based system (REDCap secure web application). The allocation was thus concealed until the last minute, and patients were not informed of their group assignments. The continuous monitor was placed on all patients in addition to the intermittent oscillometric cuff on opposite arms. In the continuous monitoring group, information from the continuous monitor was available to the clinicians in addition to the usual oscillometric values. In the blinded group, blood pressure management was based only on intermittent oscillometric blood pressure monitoring; the information from continuous monitors was not available to the clinicians but recorded for analysis purposes. Oscillometric measurements were typically obtained at 5-minute intervals; clinicians were free to select any interval and to change it as conditions warranted.

All patients were monitored according to standards (electrocardiography, noninvasive blood pressure, oxygen saturation, temperature). Standard anesthetic management include etomidate (0.2–0.3 mg/kg) or propofol (1–2 mg/kg), vecuronium (0.1 mg/kg) or rocuronium (0.6 mg/kg), and fentanyl (1–2 µg/kg) at induction. Anesthesia subsequently was maintained with inhalational anesthetics (up to 1.5 minimum alveolar concentration) in a carrier gas of 50%–80% inspired oxygen and air. Clinicians were asked to minimize the amount and severity of hypotension <65 mm Hg MAP. However, the study protocol did not specify any particular approach. Clinicians were thus free to use any type and amount of intravenous fluids, whatever dose of vasopressors and inotropes they cared to, and to adjust the inhalational concentration and intravenous anesthetic drugs as necessary. Generally, we use intermittent bolus of phenylephrine and ephedrine to support blood pressure.

The continuously measured monitor MAP was used for analysis in both study groups. Blood pressures were assumed to be artifact and were removed using the following sequential rules: (1) blood pressures were documented by clinicians as artifact; (2) the systolic pressure was >300 mm Hg or <20 mm Hg; (3) the systolic pressure was less than diastolic pressure plus 5 mm Hg; or (4) the diastolic pressure was <5 mm Hg or >225 mm Hg. After removing artifacts, the TWA MAP under a threshold of 65 mm Hg was calculated as the area between 65 mm Hg threshold and the curve of the MAP measurements divided by total continuous reading time:

\[
TWA \text{ MAP} < 65 \text{ mm Hg} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\text{area}_i < 65) + (\text{area}_2 < 65) + \ldots + (\text{area}_k < 65)}{\text{total time of measurements}} \text{ mm Hg}
\]

TWA is similar to an ordinary arithmetic mean, except that instead of each of the MAP measures contributing equally to the final average, some MAP measures contributed more than others. Two MAP measures with a longer time interval in-between those (due to removed MAP artifacts or missing MAP measurements) contributed more into the TWA than 2 MAP measures with shorter time interval in-between. Figure 1 shows an example of intraoperative MAP over time and calculation of the TWA MAP <65 mm Hg.

AKI was identified based on Acute Kidney Injury Network classification, modified per Walsh to exclude urine output. We also extended the normal 48-hour creatinine window used in the Acute Kidney Injury Network criteria to 7 days to better characterize the postoperative period.

Quality of recovery (QOR-15) and postoperative morbidity survey (POMS) were administered on the third postoperative day or at discharge based on which occurrence came first, by a blinded research fellow. QOR evaluates 5 dimensions: emotional state, physical discomfort, psychological support, physical independence, and pain.
The POMS, an 18-item survey that addresses 9 domains of postoperative morbidity, is a reliable and valid descriptor of short-term postoperative morbidity.

**Statistical Analysis**

First, we compared 2 randomized groups, continuous monitoring (unblinded) versus blinded, for balance on potentially confounding baseline and surgical characteristics using univariable summary statistics (mean and standard deviation, median and quartiles, or proportions, as appropriate) and using absolute standardized difference scores (ASDs). ASDs are defined as the absolute value of the difference among means, mean rankings, or proportions divided by a combined estimate of standard deviation; thus the ASD roughly represents the number of standard deviations the 2 study groups are apart from one another. We conservatively considered an ASD >0.20 as indicative of potential confounding and would adjust for such factors directly in the analyses comparing the groups on the outcome.

For primary analysis, 2 randomized groups were compared on the TWA MAP <65 mm Hg. We estimated the effect of continuous monitoring on TWA MAP drop using the 2-sample Wilcoxon rank-sum test and Hodges-Lehmann estimation of location shift with corresponding asymptotic 95% CI. This method is appropriate because the TWA MAP drop <65 mm Hg exhibits a skewed distribution with many patients (25% of patients) having TWA MAP drop of zero. Additionally, the primary result was adjusted for slightly imbalanced age and type of surgery via multivariable generalized linear model with logit link function. To accommodate highly skewed zero-inflated outcome, we used gamma distribution; we substituted zeros with small nonzero value for the modeling purposes.

Analogously, we conducted 2 secondary analyses, in which the outcomes TWA MAP under MAP <60 mm Hg and MAP <55 mm Hg were evaluated. Six exploratory outcomes including transfusion requirement, AKI, in-hospital composite of death, stroke, or myocardial injury after non-cardiac surgery, QOR score, POMS, and hospital lengths of stay were reported separately for 2 study groups using summary statistics without formal testing for statistical significance. The P value significance criteria for the primary final analysis was at $P < 0.048$ that included adjustment for the 1 interim analysis that was conducted. We used the Bonferroni adjustment for multiple outcomes to preserve the type I error at 5% level for the secondary analysis with the significance criterion of 0.024 for each of the secondary outcome (ie, 0.048/2). SAS statistical software version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) for 64-bit Microsoft Windows was used for data retrieval and statistical analysis.

**Sample Size Consideration**

Assuming a standard deviation of 0.8 mm Hg, the sample size of $N = 133$ patients per group ($N = 266$ patients total) would provide about 90% power at the 0.05 significance level to detect the difference of 0.32 or larger in TWA <65 mm Hg between 2 study groups. We also planned for 1 interim analyses at 50% of the planned enrollment; therefore, interim-adjusted sample size was $N = 143$ patients per group or $N = 286$ total. Group sequential design was used to test for efficacy and futility. We used the gamma spending function with parameters $-4$ and $-1$ for $\alpha$ (efficacy) and $\beta$ (futility), respectively.

Assuming the drop-out rate of about 10% (due to surgery cancellation, a surgeon or anesthesiologist’s last moment refusal, patient’s withdrawal, and other unexpected events), we planned to enroll 158 patients in each group, a total of 316 patients. In addition, we planned for 4 pilot patients (2 per group) in the beginning of the study. Therefore, we anticipated enrolling 160 patients in each group for a total of $N = 320$ patients.

**RESULTS**

The analysis was intention-to-treat with postrandomization exclusion of cases. We included all randomized patients who were attached to a continuous monitor and had at least 1 record of continuous blood pressure between induction and emergence timestamps, that is, all patients who...
received continuous monitoring and had a primary outcome recorded.

Among 320 randomized patients, 4 were not included in the analysis because they did not experience a study exposure: in 3 cases, the staff anesthesiologist decided to use invasive arterial monitoring after randomization (exclusion criteria) before the procedure started and did not attach the continuous monitor; 1 surgery was cancelled after randomization (Figure 2). Thus, per intention-to-treat, data from 316 patients were available for the final analysis with 158 (50%) randomized to continuous monitoring (unblinded) group, and 158 (50%) to intermittent oscillometric blood pressure monitoring (blinded) group. The summary of the demographic, baseline, and surgical characteristics is reported in Table 1. The randomized groups were balanced on all baseline variables; none of baseline variables were included as covariables in the analysis. Some intraoperative characteristics are summarized in Table 2.

The blood pressure primary and secondary outcomes along with additional blood pressure descriptions are reported in Table 3. The use of continuous monitoring resulted in significantly lower TWA MAP <65 mm Hg threshold in the continuous monitoring (unblinded) 0.05 [0.00, 0.22] mm Hg compared to 0.11 [0.00, 0.54] mm Hg blinded group (P = .039, significance criteria P < .048). The estimated location shift (the nonparametric version of difference in means) was 0.03 (95% CI, 0.00–0.06, continuous monitoring [unblinded] versus blinded) mm Hg. After adjustment for slightly imbalanced age and type of surgery, the conclusion was consistent with univariate analysis (P = .035). The treatment effect on TWA MAP <60 mm Hg threshold was in the same direction, but was not statistically significant 0.01 [0.00, 0.08] mm Hg continuous monitoring (unblinded) versus 0.02 [0.00, 0.22] mm Hg blinded group (P = .035, significance criteria P < .024). Continuous monitoring use was associated with improved TWA MAP <55 mm Hg threshold in continuous monitoring (unblinded) group 0.00 [0.00,0.02] mm Hg versus blinded group 0.00 [0.00,0.07] mm Hg (P = .017, significance criteria P < .024). The intraoperative time patients spent below MAP thresholds in each study groups are summarized in Figure 3. The exploratory outcomes are reported in Supplemental Digital Content, Table 1, http://links.lww.com/AA/C418.

**DISCUSSION**

Continuous noninvasive blood pressure monitoring in moderate-to-high-risk surgical patients reduced the duration and severity of hypotension compared to intermittent blood pressure monitoring as indicated by significantly lower TWA MAP <65 mm Hg. Additionally, the median time spent <65 mm Hg was nearly halved (2 vs 4 minutes) in the continuous monitoring group, although we did not formally compare the 2 groups on duration of hypotension outcome. The amounts of hypotension were also lower
ClearSight to Reduce Intraoperative Hypotension

under thresholds of 60 and 55 mm Hg in the continuous monitoring group.

Our results suggest that early detection of hypotension prompts remedial steps, thus reducing the overall duration and severity of intraoperative hypotension. The differences in TWA MAP are relatively small but even few minutes of extra hypotension is associated with worse outcome.9,10 For example, just a single minute at a MAP of 50 mm Hg increases the risk of mortality 5%.10

Our results are consistent with Meidert et al,18 who randomized 160 orthopedic surgery patients to continuous blood pressure monitoring or monitoring every 3 minutes and reported that continuous monitoring improved hemodynamic stability. However, Meidert et al19 used the oscillometric blood pressure values every 3 minutes for the first hour of general anesthesia; in contrast, we compared continuous blood pressure measurements every 20 seconds throughout surgery. Benes et al19 also reported that continuous monitoring reduced time below −20% of baseline pressure in 40 randomized thyroid surgical patients: 12 (4–20) vs 27 minutes (16–34); P = .001.

We chose TWA MAP to measure hypotension because it best represents both the duration and severity of hypotension. Furthermore, 65 mm Hg appears to be a critical

| Table 1. The Demographic, Baseline, and Surgical Characteristics of the Study Population (N = 316) |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| Factor                                      | Continuous Monitoring (Unblinded) | Blinded (N = 158) | ASD               |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Demographic and baseline characteristics      |                                  |                   |                  |
| Age (y)                                      | 59.9 (8.6)                       | 61.7 (9.0)        | 0.20             |
| Female (%)                                   | 80/158 (51%)                     | 77/158 (49%)      | 0.04             |
| BMI (kg/m²)                                  | 33.4 (9.8)                       | 33.6 (8.9)        | 0.02             |
| Race (%)                                     |                                  |                   |                  |
| Caucasian                                    | 129/151 (85%)                    | 141/158 (89%)     | 0.17             |
| African American                             | 21/151 (14%)                     | 15/158 (10%)      |                  |
| Other                                        | 1/151 (1%)                       | 2/158 (1%)        |                  |
| ASA physical status                          |                                  |                   |                  |
| I–II                                         | 24/158 (15%)                     | 16/158 (10%)      |                  |
| III                                          | 131/158 (83%)                    | 137/158 (87%)     |                  |
| IV                                           | 3/158 (2%)                       | 5/158 (3%)        |                  |
| Baseline creatinine                          | 0.95 [0.79, 1.1]                 | 0.90 [0.79, 1.06] | 0.08             |
| Baseline MAP (mm Hg) left arm                | 95 [87, 103]                     | 97 [88, 105]      | 0.13             |
| Baseline MAP (mm Hg) right arm               | 95 [87, 104]                     | 96 [89, 104]      | 0.15             |
| Site of ClearSight cuff placement            |                                  |                   |                  |
| Left                                         | 80/158 (50.6%)                   | 75/158 (47.5%)    | 0.15             |
| Right                                        | 69/158 (43.7%)                   | 78/158 (49.4%)    |                  |
| Missing                                      | 9/158 (5.7%)                     | 5/158 (3.2%)      |                  |
| Heart rate before induction (bpm)            | 76 [68, 84]                      | 75 [67, 85]       | 0.01             |
| MAP before induction (mm Hg)                 | 94 [90, 100]                     | 95 [89, 101]      | 0.05             |
| Medical history                              |                                  |                   |                  |
| COPD (%)                                     | 20/158 (12.7%)                   | 20/157 (12.7%)    | 0.00             |
| Aortic stenosis (%)                          | 0/158 (0.0%)                     | 0/158 (0.0%)      |                  |
| Obesity (%)                                  | 93/157 (59.2%)                   | 84/158 (53.2%)    | 0.12             |
| Diabetes mellitus (%)                        | 44/158 (27.8%)                   | 39/157 (24.8%)    | 0.07             |
| Dialysis (%)                                 | 0/158 (0.0%)                     | 0/158 (0.0%)      |                  |
| Surgery characteristics                      |                                  |                   |                  |
| General anesthesia + block (versus general anesthesia only) | 13/158 (8.2%)                    | 12/158 (7.6%)     | 0.02             |
| Induction propofol use                       | 157/158 (99.4%)                  | 156/158 (98.7%)   | 0.07             |
| Propofol (mg)                                | 200 [170, 300]                   | 200 [180, 290]    | 0.09             |
| Intraoperative opioids/anxiolytics           |                                  |                   |                  |
| Midazolam (mg)                               | 2.0 [1.0, 2.0]                   | 2.0 [0.0, 2.0]    | 0.16             |
| Fentanyl (mg)                                | 0.23 [0.18, 0.25]                | 0.20 [0.15, 0.25] | 0.06             |
| Hydromorphone (mg)                           | 0.00 [0.00, 0.00]                | 0.00 [0.00, 0.00] | 0.10             |
| Remifentanil (mg)                            | 0.00 [0.00, 0.00]                | 0.00 [0.00, 0.00] | 0.11             |
| Meperidine (mg)                              | 0.00 [0.00, 0.00]                | 0.00 [0.00, 0.00] | 0.00             |
| Morphine equivalents (mg)                    | 25.0 [20.0, 30.0]                | 24.6 [20.0, 30.0] | 0.09             |
| Surgery type (%)                             |                                  |                   | 0.22             |
| Orthopedic                                   | 7/158 (4.4%)                     | 11/158 (7.0%)     |                  |
| Urology                                      | 60/158 (38.0%)                   | 55/158 (34.8%)    |                  |
| GYN                                          | 14/158 (8.9%)                    | 19/158 (12.0%)    |                  |
| Colorectal                                   | 22/158 (13.9%)                   | 21/133 (13%)      |                  |
| General                                      | 26/158 (16.5%)                   | 18/158 (11.4%)    |                  |
| Bariatics                                    | 29/158 (18.4%)                   | 34/158 (21.5%)    |                  |
| Surgery duration                             | 219 [176, 276]                   | 224 [169, 278]    | 0.02             |

Statistics presented as mean (standard deviation), median [first quartile, third quartile], or N/total number of patients (%), as appropriate.

Abbreviations: ASA, American Society of Anesthesiologists; ASD; absolute standardized difference score; BMI, body mass index; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; GYN, gynecology; MAP, mean arterial pressure.

aData are not available for all subjects. Missing values: BMI = 1, race = 7, COPD = 1, obesity = 1, diabetes mellitus = 1, heart rate before induction (bpm) = 6, MAP before induction (mm Hg) = 6, baseline creatinine = 33, baseline MAP (mm Hg) left arm = 17, baseline MAP (mm Hg) right arm = 17.
threshold below which risk increases substantially. The TWA <65 of 0.11 mm Hg in the oscillometric group means that the average patient had an exposure 0.11 mm Hg below 65 mm Hg throughout surgery. With an average case duration in the study of nearly 4 hours, a TWA MAP of 0.11 corresponds to 0.11 mm Hg times 240 minutes = 26 mm Hg × minutes. In this example, 26 mm Hg-minutes could refer to a patient who spent 13 minutes at 63 mm Hg or approximately 4 minutes at 59 mm Hg.

The ultimate goal of any intraoperative intervention is to improve postoperative outcomes. Because this study was not designed to assess postoperative outcomes, we report major complications without statistical analysis. Possibly this information will help guide much larger future randomized trials.

Table 2. Intraoperative and Postoperative Patient Characteristics of the Study Population (N = 316)

| Intraoperative Characteristics | Continuous Monitoring (Unblinded) (N = 158) | Blinded (N = 158) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Volatile anesthetic dose (MAC·h)a | 2.8 [2.2, 3.6] | 2.9 [2.2, 3.7] |
| Intraoperative fluid volume administered | | |
| Colloids (mL) | 0 [0, 500] | 0 [0, 250] |
| Crystalloids (mL) | 2200 [1700, 2900] | 2200 [1800, 2700] |
| Red blood cell transfusion (%) | 2/158 (1.3%) | 4/158 (2.5%) |
| Platelet transfusion (%) | 0/158 (0%) | 0/158 (0%) |
| Vasopressor drug | | |
| Ephedrine use (%) | 76/158 (48%) | 69/158 (44%) |
| Ephedrine dose (mg)b | 10 [8.6; 20] | 15 [10; 20] |
| Phenylephrine dose (%) | 103/158 (65%) | 93/158 (59%) |
| Phenylephrine dose (mg)b | 0.35 [0.20; 0.70] | 0.40 [0.20; 0.95] |
| Estimated blood loss (mL) | 100 [30, 250] | 100 [50, 200] |
| Urine output (mL) | 168 [50, 380] | 200 [50.0, 350] |
| Hemodynamic and respiratory parameters | | |
| Heart rate (bpm) | 72/158 (9%) | 73/158 (10%) |
| SpO2 (%) | 97/158 (2%) | 97/158 (2%) |
| Discharge disposition (%) | | |
| PACU | 157/158 (99.4%) | 155/158 (98.1%) |
| ICU | 1/158 (0.6%) | 1/158 (0.6%) |
| Otherc | 0 (0%) | 2/158 (1.3%) |

Statistics presented as mean (standard deviation), median [first quartile, third quartile], or N/total number of patients (%), as appropriate. Abbreviations: ICU; intensive care unit; MAC, minimum alveolar concentration; PACU, postoperative care unit; SpO2, oxygen saturation.

aVolatile anesthetic dose is missing in 6 patients.
bDose was calculated only for patients who received the intraoperative medication.
cPatient was discharged to the PACU for 2 h, followed by transfer to the surgical intensive care unit.

Table 3. Summary of Blood Pressure Outcomes (N = 316)

| Outcomes | Continuous Monitoring (Unblinded) (N = 158) | Continuous Monitoring (Blinded) (N = 158) | Location Shifta (95% CI)b | P Valuea |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| TWA MAP <65 mm Hg (mm Hg) | 0.05 [0.00, 0.22] | 0.11 [0.00, 0.54] | 0.03 (0.00, 0.06) | .039c |
| Number of patients with any MAP readings <65 mm Hg | 119/158 (75%) | 120/158 (76%) | | |
| Duration of MAP <65 mm Hg (min) | 2.3 [0.3, 7.7] | 4.0 [0.3, 14] | | |
| AUC MAP <65 mm Hg | 9.5 [0.33, 39.7] | 20.0 [0.67, 75.3] | | |
| TWA MAP <60 mm Hg (mm Hg) | 0.01 [0.00, 0.08] | 0.02 [0.00, 0.22] | 0.005 (0.00, 0.01) | .035 |
| Number of patients with any MAP readings <60 mm Hg | 91/158 (58%) | 99/158 (63%) | | |
| Duration of MAP <60 mm Hg (min) | 0.3 [0, 2.7] | 1.3 [0, 5.3] | | |
| AUC MAP <60 mm Hg | 1.5 [0.00, 13.0] | 3.3 [0.00, 34.3] | | |
| TWA MAP <55 mm Hg (mm Hg) | 0.00 [0.00, 0.02] | 0.00 [0.00, 0.07] | 0.00 (0.00, 0.00) | .017c |
| Number of patients with any MAP readings <55 mm Hg | 58/158 (37%) | 76/158 (48%) | | |
| Duration of MAP <55 mm Hg (min) | 0 [0, 0.7] | 0 [0, 2.7] | | |
| AUC MAP <55 mm Hg | 0.00 [0.00, 2.7] | 0.00 [0.00, 12.3] | | |

Statistics presented as mean (standard deviation), median [first quartile, third quartile], or N/total number of patients (%), as appropriate. For the primary analysis, we compared continuous monitoring (unblinded) and blinded randomized groups on TWA MAP drop <65 mm Hg outcome using Wilcoxon rank-sum test; Hodges Lehmann estimation of location shift and 95% CI were reported. Abbreviations: AUC, area under the curve; BP, blood pressure; CI, confidence interval; MAP, mean arterial pressure; TWA, time-weighted average.
aLocation shift describes a difference in skewed TWA MAP <65 mm Hg outcome between 2 study groups; Hodges Lehmann estimation of location shift and asymptotic CI were reported.
bConfidence limits reflect the correction for interim analyses to maintain overall type I error rate at 5%.
cP value corresponded to Wilcoxon rank-sum test. For the primary outcome, P value significance criteria was at P < .048 that included adjustment for the performed earlier interim analysis. For the secondary outcomes, P value significance criteria was at P < .024 that included adjustment for the interim analysis and 2 secondary outcomes.
ClearSight to Reduce Intraoperative Hypotension

Once hypotension is detected, the optimal treatment is often unclear and depends on numerous factors. Advanced hemodynamic parameters can guide management of hypotension and help clinicians determine whether to augment vascular volume, reduce anesthetic administration, or use vasopressors or inotropes. The noninvasive continuous blood pressure monitor we used also estimates various advanced hemodynamic variables including stroke volume, stroke volume variation, cardiac output, and systemic vascular resistance. Because there is no particular protocol for managing blood pressure, we do not know to what extent clinicians considered these ancillary measures.

The impact of continuous monitoring may have been limited by lack of set protocol for hypotension management. Clinicians may also have mistrusted the accuracy of ClearSight blood pressure and ancillary measurements, despite good validation.

Interestingly, there was less overall hypotension even in our blinded cohort than in previous reports from our own institution. For example, in a large observational study that included 152,445 adult noncardiac surgery patients, the time <65 mm Hg was 10 [2, 25] minutes compared to 4 [0.3, 14] minutes. There are at least 3 potential explanations. First, the current study population was restricted to American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status III–IV patients who had major surgery and did not require continuous pressure monitoring. While that excludes lower-risk patients, it also excluded high-risk patients who would normally have invasive pressure monitoring. Second, clinicians were specifically instructed to limit MAP <65 mm Hg. And third, clinicians in our department are well aware of recent publications showing strong associations between hypotension and myocardial and renal injury. It is likely that they are now tolerating less hypotension than previously.

In summary, continuous noninvasive blood pressure monitoring nearly halved the amount of intraoperative hypotension in adults having noncardiac surgery, presumably because continuous monitoring allowed clinicians to detect hypotension earlier and respond effectively. Given that even few minutes of hypotension is associated with myocardial and kidney injury, avoiding hypotension may well reduce the incidence of serious complications—although this theory remains to be confirmed in much larger trials.

DISCLOSURES
Name: Kamal Maheshwari, MD, MPH.
Contribution: This author helped devise the concept and design of the study. He analyzed and interpreted the data, wrote the first draft, revised the manuscript and gave the final approval of the version to be published, and was the principal investigator of this trial.
Conflicts of Interest: K. Maheshwari is a consultant for Edwards Lifescience.

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Conflicts of Interest: None.

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Conflicts of Interest: None.

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Conflicts of Interest: None.

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Conflicts of Interest: None.

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Conflicts of Interest: None.

Name: Quinton Riter, BS.
Contribution: This author helped conduct the trial, collect the data, revise the manuscript critically for important intellectual content, and gave the final approval of the version to be published.
Conflicts of Interest: None.

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Contribution: This author helped conduct and coordinate the trial. He devised the concept and design of the study, revised the manuscript, gave the final approval of the version to be published, and was a coinvestigator of this trial.
Conflicts of Interest: None.

Name: K. Maheshwari is a consultant for Edwards Lifescience.
Contribution: This author helped devise the concept and design of the trial. He wrote the first draft, revised the manuscript and gave the final approval of the version to be published, and was the principal investigator of this trial.
Conflicts of Interest: None.

Name: Daniel I. Sessler, MD.
Contribution: This author helped analyze and interpret the data, revised it critically for important intellectual content, and gave the final approval of the version to be published.
Conflicts of Interest: D. I. Sessler is a consultant for Edwards Lifescience.

This manuscript was handled by: Richard C. Priellipp, MD.

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