

Implementation of a Countdown Timer for Neuraxial Labor Analgesia Assessments



James Damron MD, Jeanette Bauchat MD MS, Benjamin French PhD, Susan Dumas MD,
Jonathan Wanderer MD, Holly Ende MD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center- Nashville, TN

Background

- Timely identification of poorly functioning labor epidurals can prevent uncontrolled pain and improve patient satisfaction
- SOAP recommends “regular assessment” of analgesia effectiveness

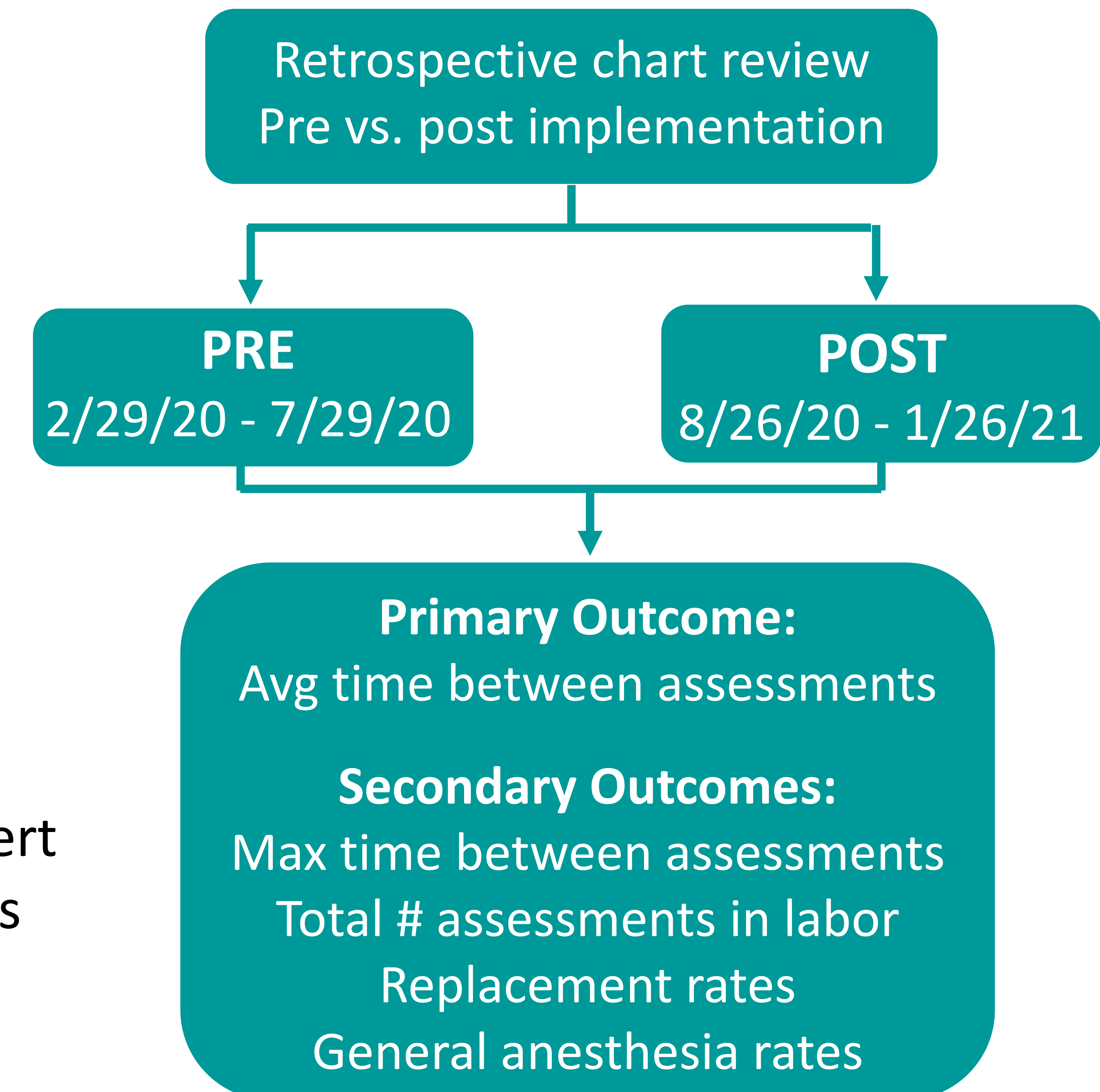
Primary Aim

- To increase the regular assessment of neuraxial labor analgesia effectiveness

Hypothesis

- Implementation of a countdown timer on the patient display board will visually alert clinicians to need for assessment and decrease average time between assessments

Study Design

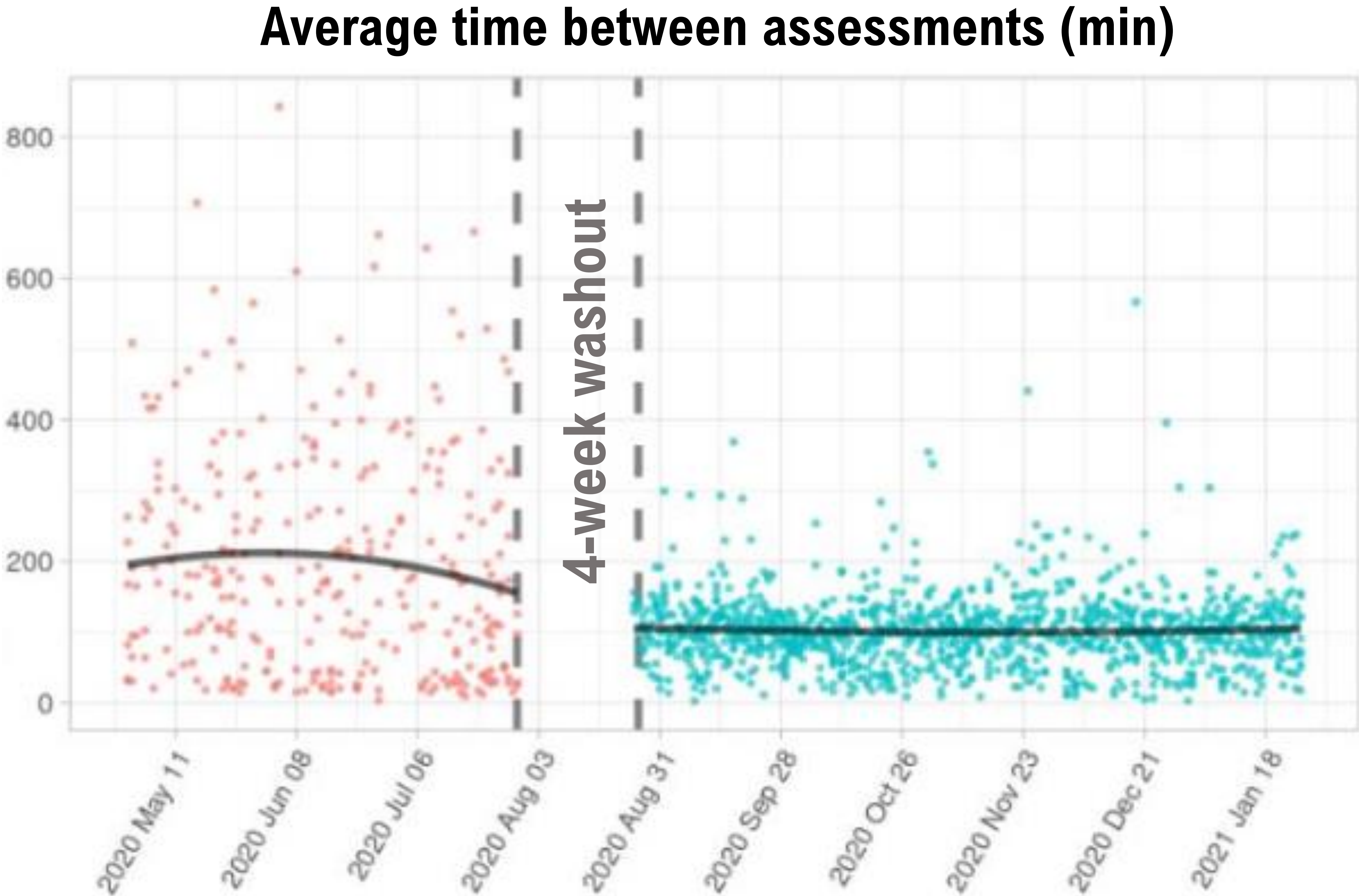


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RESULTS	PRE	POST	P-value
Avg time between assessments (min)	173 [IQR 53,314]	100 [IQR 74,125]	<0.001
Max time between assessments (min)	330 [IQR 60,542]	162 [IQR 125,212]	<0.001
Total # assessments in labor	3 [IQR 2,4]	5 [IQR 3,7]	<0.001



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Additional Results:

- Epidural replacement rates:
14% → 5% ($p < 0.001$)
- GA rates: No significant
difference ($p = 0.18$)

Significance:

- Easy-to-implement
informatics solution
- Standardization of care
- Adherence to national
society guidelines

Future directions:

- Link process
improvements to
improvements in patient
experiences and outcomes