**A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CHRONIC HEART FAILURE IN A PREDOMINANT AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION**

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*Objective*: To compare the efficacy of chronic heart failure management between Internal Medicine clinic (IMC) and Heart Failure clinic (HFC) in an African-American community. *Background*: Heart failure (HF) results from structural or functional impairment of ventricular filling or ejection of blood. In United States 6.6 million individuals (2.8%) were diagnosed with HF by 2010. Incidence of heart failure in whites is approximately 6/1,000 person/years, while among African Americans, it is 9.1/1,000 person/years. In this observational study we would like to compare the efficacy of specialized heart failure clinics as compared to primary care management of chronic heart failure.

*Methods*: Retrospective observational study by chart review of 195 patients with diagnosis of HF seen in the IMC compared to HFC at Albert Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, PA.

*Results*: IMC was predominantly females (57%) while HFC were males (60%). Both practices were mainly African-Americans (IM: 88%, HFC: 76.8%). In IMC, New York Heart Association (NYHA) class was not documented in 85% of subjects. 56% had ejection fraction (EF) >40% by echocardiography. HFC had mainly NYHA class II (35.8%) and III (29.5%) with an ejection fraction of <40% (64.2%). Majority of patients had non-ischemic cardiomyopathy (IMC: 74% vs HFC: 58%). Medication prescription is as follows: Beta blockers: IMC: 86%, HFC: 95%. ACEI/ARB: IMC: 79%, HFC: 84%. Hydrazine: IMC: 28%, HFC: 35.1%. Spironolactone: IMC: 11% , HFC: 31.9%. Aspirin: IMC: 70%, HFC: 70%. Statin: IMC: 66%, HFC: 67%. Diuretic: IMC 70%, HFC: 80%. ICD implant in patients with EF <35% was: IMC 40% vs HFC: 61%.

*Conclusions*: Specialized heart failure clinics provide better efficacy in adhering to standard of care when compared to primary care offices. Perhaps electronic medical record tools can be designed to alert clinicians of the missing therapies for patients with chronic heart failure.

**Figure 1.** Medication prescription for chronic heart failure between medical practices.