

In ED patients with chest and abdominal pain, care delivered by physicians and APPs is similar

January 25 2021

Physician & APP testing & decisions

2016-9 data, national EM group, ESI 2-4, chief complaint chest/abdominal pain



Abdominal pain

184,812 APP visits

761,230 physician visits



More pregnancy tests



Same CT, US, labs



More CXR, EKG, urinalysis in men <65y

Chest pain

77,568 APP visits

586,031 physician visits



More 2 view CXR



Same US, lab, EKG, CTPA without d-dimer



More CT, CTPA, single view CXR

Pines 2020 doi 10.1111/acem.14161

All adjusted for age, gender, ESI, disposition, body system, time of visit

20162019 data, national emergency medicine group, emergency severity index 2-4, chief complaint chest/abdominal pain. Credit: KIRSTY CHALLEN, B.SC., MBCHB, MRES, PH.D., LANCASHIRE TEACHING HOSPITALS, UNITED KINGDOM.

In patients matched on complexity and acuity presenting to the emergency department with chest pain and abdominal pain, the care delivered by advanced practice providers (APPs) and emergency physicians is largely similar with respect to diagnostic test ordering and admission decisions. That is the finding of a study just published in the January 2021 issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine* (AEM), a journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM).

The lead author of the study is Jesse M. Pines, MD, MBA, MSCE of US Acute Care Solutions, Canton, Ohio and the Department of Emergency Medicine, Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The findings of the study are discussed in a recent AEM podcast titled, "What a Difference an APP Makes? Diagnostic Testing Differences Between APPs and Physicians."

The authors recommend that future research should continue to explore the optimal use of advanced practice providers in the emergency department and the best ways to deploy this expanding part of the United States [emergency department](#) workforce.

More information: Jesse M. Pines et al, Emergency Physician and Advanced Practice Provider Diagnostic Testing and Admission Decisions in Chest Pain and Abdominal Pain, *Academic Emergency Medicine* (2020). [DOI: 10.1111/acem.14161](https://doi.org/10.1111/acem.14161)

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