

Cruising the cardiology lit.: Recent articles that will change your practice

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The D2B Alliance has a goal of door-to-balloon in under 90 minutes for at least 75% of all STEMI patients. The “door” time actually begins with first contact with the health care provider, so D2B may have to be thought of as “EMS to Balloon Inflation.”

ACEP, AAEM, SAEM and ENA along with many other organizations have joined this ACC-AHA Alliance. Unfortunately, many patients wait longer than 90 minutes to have their arteries open. EPs who want to have their EDs look the best should do the following: Be sure EPs are authorized to activate the PCI team; be sure that they only need to make one call; have regular reviews with cardiology on all time metrics; be open to changing how you deal with STEMI patients and how and where ECGs are done; communicate to all EPs and RNs how good (or bad) your times are; be sure you are working with EMS to have their alert whenever they see a STEMI on 12-lead ECG. If possible, they should transmit it. Recently, one study showed that almost 90% of patients could have a D2B under 90 minutes if the ECG was sent, compared to 37.5% if no ECG was done.

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