Introduction: Endotracheal intubation (EI) is frequently performed in the emergency department (ED). Although this procedure is generally life-saving, EI is also known to cause adverse effects, such as hemodynamic alterations. A systolic blood pressure <90 mmHg is the most commonly accepted definition of hypotension; however, systolic blood pressure naturally increases with age. The National Trauma Triage Protocol now states that this threshold could be raised to 110 mmHg in older patients. Objective: to determine the impact of increasing the post-intubation hypotension (PHI) threshold to 110 mmHg on hospital length of stay and mortality in older patients.

Methods: Design: A historical cohort of patients admitted in a level-I trauma center ED between 06/2011 and 05/2016 was constituted. Population: Patients were included if pre-EI vital signs were available, their intubation was performed in the resuscitation room, they were aged ≥65, if no surgical access was needed and if EI was performed in ≤3 attempts. Measures: All clinical data including vitals were prospectively recorded using the software ReaScribe. Main outcome was in-hospital mortality. Analyses: Univariate and multivariate analyses assessed the relation between PHI and outcomes. Results: A total of 181 patients were included. When using the 90-mmHg threshold, 92 patients suffered from PHI. Mean length of stay for these PHI patients was 18.9 days, compared to 12.0 days for non-hypotensive patients (P = 0.06). Mortality rate at 24 hours was 9.78% and 15.83% for PHI and non PHI patients, respectively (p = 0.2). The 110-mmHg threshold identified 33 additional PHI patients (n = 125) and their mean length of stay was 17.8 compared to 10.2 days for non PHI patients (P = 0.02). Mortality rate at 24 hours was 9.90% for PHI patients and 21.43% for non PHI patients (P = 0.02). Conclusion: PHI was associated with a significant increase in LOS when the PHI threshold is set at 110. Mortality rate is high in the intubated ED older patient and that increasing hypotension threshold for older patient seem to have no impact on patient mortality at 24 hours. Since our sample is limited, more research is needed to confirm these results. Keywords: geriatric, hypotension, intubation

Introduction: Hypotension is known to severely impact the prognosis of patients in need of acute care. Endotracheal intubation (EI) is a procedure that is often used in the emergency room for patients with severe conditions. Post-intubation hypotension (PHI) is a well-known adverse effect of EI, although the impact of PHI on mortality is still unclear. The objective of this study was therefore to evaluate the association between post-intubation hypotension (PHI) and in-hospital mortality rates and length of stay (LOS). Methods: Design: A historical cohort of patients admitted in a university-affiliated emergency department (ED) between 06/2011 and 05/2016 was constituted. Population: Patients aged ≥16 were included if pre-EI vital signs were available, if their intubation was performed in the resuscitation room, if no surgical access was needed and if EI was performed in ≤3 attempts. Measures: All clinical data including vitals were prospectively recorded using the software ReaScribe. Hypotension was defined as a systolic blood pressure <90 mmHg. The occurrence of PHI was assessed at 5, 15, 30 minutes and any time after intubation. Main outcomes were in-hospital mortality and hospital length of stay. Analyses: Univariate and multivariate analyses assessed the relation between PHI and outcomes. Results: A total of 497 patients were included in our analyses. Of these patients, 63 (12.7%) suffered from PHI at 5 minutes, 120 (24.1%) at 15 minutes, 168 (33.8%) at 30 minutes and 209 (42%) at any moment after intubation. Mortality rates were 42.9% (n = 27), 35.8% (n = 43), 33.9% (n = 57) and 30.6% (n = 64) for patients who presented PHI at the 4 time periods, respectively, while 26.74% patients died in the normotensive group. PHI at 5 (p = 0.006), 15 (p = 0.04) and 30 minutes (p = 0.05) was associated with a significant increase in overall post-intubation mortality. Mean LOS for patients who suffered from PHI was 16.7, 18.9, 17.3, 17.4 days compared to 19.5 (p = 0.22) days for the normotensive group. Conclusion: Early post-intubation hypotension at 5 minutes was strongly associated with an increased mortality. As for the in-hospital length of stay, PHI was not associated with an increased LOS. Our results show that PHI within 30 minutes of intubation is associated with an increased mortality rate and should therefore be aggressively treated or prevented. Keywords: hypotension, intubation, mortality

Introduction: Morbidity and mortality from opioid overdoses continue to be a significant issue worldwide. In Alberta, there was a 40% increase in accidental opioid-related deaths from 2016 to 2017. In response to this crisis, Alberta Health Services has dramatically expanded access to Naloxone with a province-wide program for the distribution of take-home naloxone (THN) kits. Edmonton Zone ED’s began dispensing these kits in 2016. The objectives of this study are to assess the trends in THN kit distribution from these sites in 2016 and 2017. Methods: The Edmonton Zone is a health region that comprises eleven tertiary, urban community and rural community ED’s. THN kits in Edmonton Zone ED’s were distributed through Pyxis, an automated medication dispensing and tracking system. Pyxis data for THN kits in 2016 and 2017 was extracted for each Edmonton Zone ED and the raw numbers and trends were examined. The National Ambulatory Care Reporting System database was also analyzed to determine the number of opioid related visits to Edmonton Zone ED’s over that same time period. Results: A total of 686 THN kits in the Edmonton Zone were distributed over 2016 and 2017. The two tertiary centers distributed 502 kits, while the urban and rural community emergency departments collectively distributed 184 kits. Comparing 2016 (n = 245) to 2017 (n = 441), there was an 80% overall increase in the number of kits distributed, with tertiary center ED’s dispensing 92% more kits, urban community ED’s 51% more and rural ED’s 63% more. Over the same time period, the number of opioid related visits increased in tertiary center ED’s by 78%, in urban community sites by 26%, and in rural ED’s by