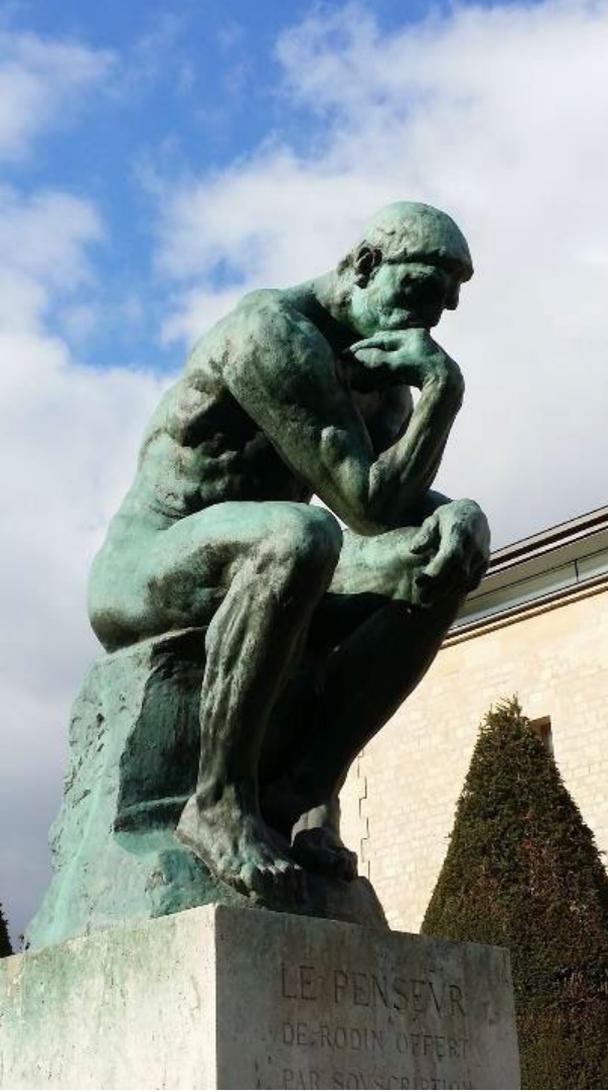


Falls in the Elderly: The Gravity of This Epidemic for EMS

Douglas F. Kupas, MD, EMT-P, FAEMS



Story

- 90 y/o male
 - Fall from wheelchair at SNF
 - PE: small contusion on head
 - PMH: dementia, pleasant, unaware
-
- What should your crew do?

Outcome

- 3/5 Fall from wheelchair
 - CT head, labs, DC (\$6,700)
- 3/6 Slipped backward, no complaints
 - CT head, ECG, DC (\$6,700)
- 3/7 Found on floor, no complaint
 - CT head/spine/chest/abd/pelvis, DC (\$30,000)
- 3/10 Fall, no complaints
 - CXR, Pelvis Xray, CT head, labs, DC (\$10,500)
- 3/14 Fall
 - CT head/C-Tspine, CXR, elbow Xray, labs, DC (\$12,100)

TOTAL: \$66,000



WHY?

You Call, We Haul, That's All

Is There a Better Way?





Alternative Approach ?

Alternative Approaches

- Lift Assist Response/ Team
- Shared decision-making with family/POA
- Treat-in-Place
 - Community Paramedicine/MIH
 - Consultation with medical direction/ telehealth



Improving Decisions About Transport to the Emergency Department for Assisted Living Residents Who Fall

Jefferson G. Williams, MD, MPH; Michael W. Bachman, MHS, EMT-P; Michael D. Lyons, BA, EMT-P; Benjamin B. Currie, EMT-P; Lawrence H. Brown, PhD; A. Wooten Jones, MPH, EMT-P; Jose G. Cabanas, MD, MPH; Alan K. Kronhaus, MD; and J. Brent Myers, MD, MPH

Wake County, NC

Protocol for nontransport, discussed with physician

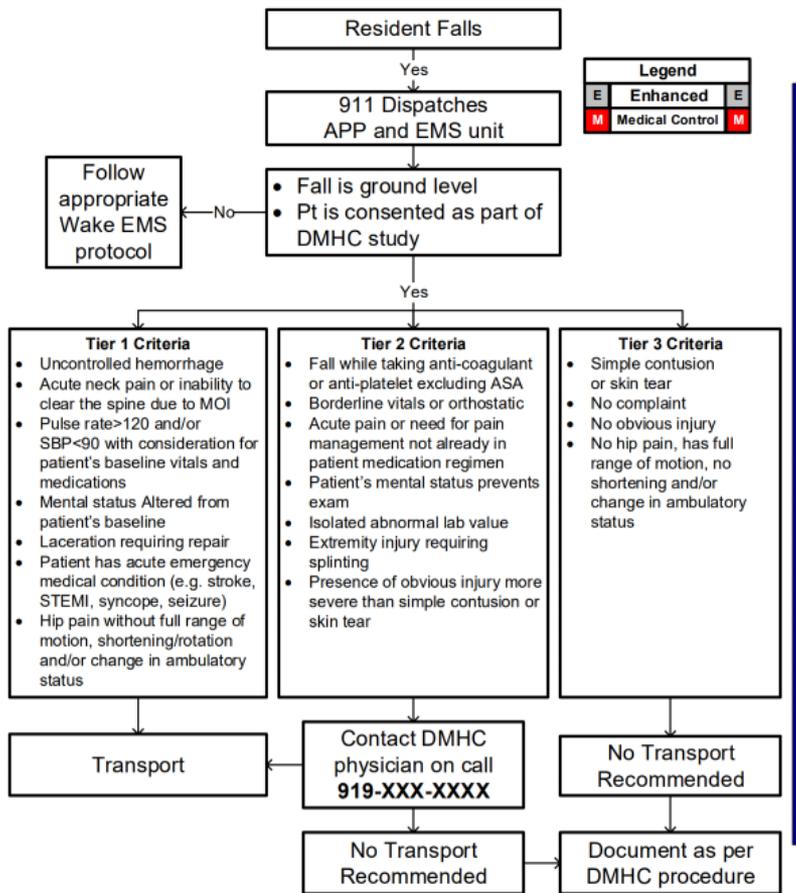
943 participants, 359 of them had 840 falls, over <2 years

528/840 (62.9%) fall patients avoided transport

549/553 (99.3%) with protocol nontransport received appropriate care

Conclusion: Shared decision making between paramedics and primary care physicians can prevent transport to the emergency department for many residents of assisted living facilities who fall.

Doctors Making House Calls Falls in Assisted Living



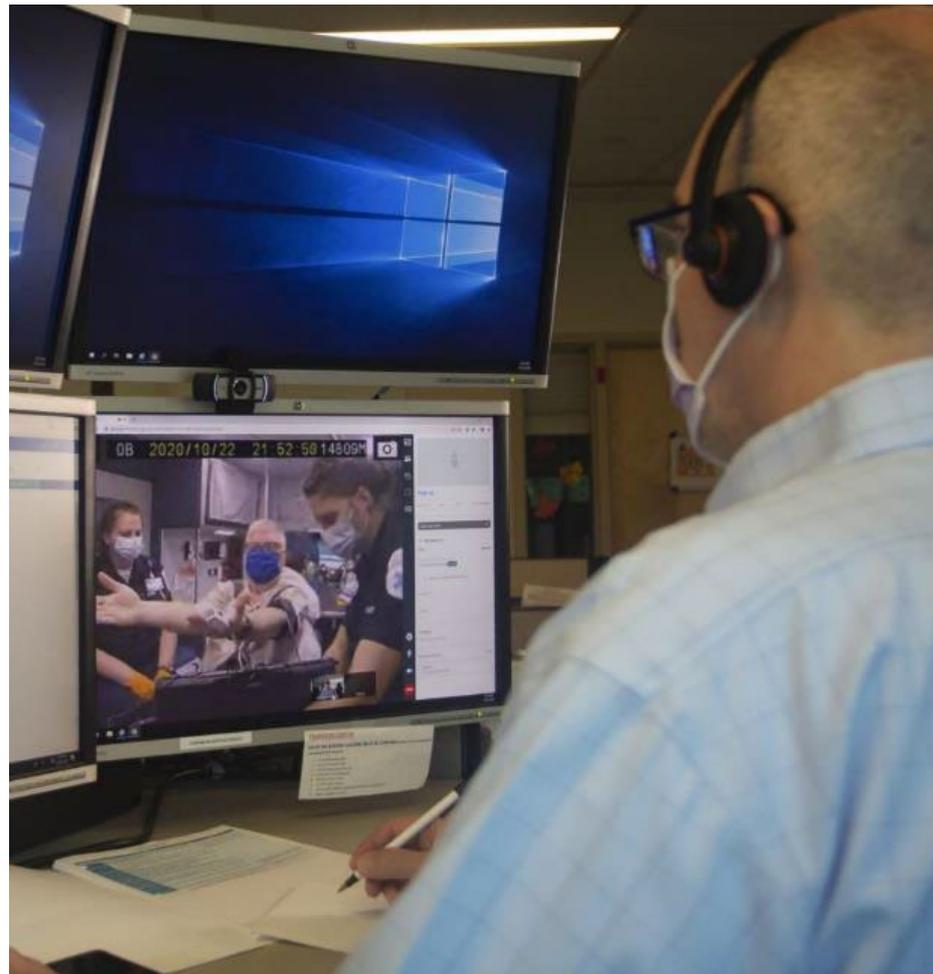
Medical Protocols

Protocol

This protocol is unique to the Wake County EMS System



- EMS makes house calls (ET₃)



Alternative Approach (Futuristic)



TRACK-TBI NET

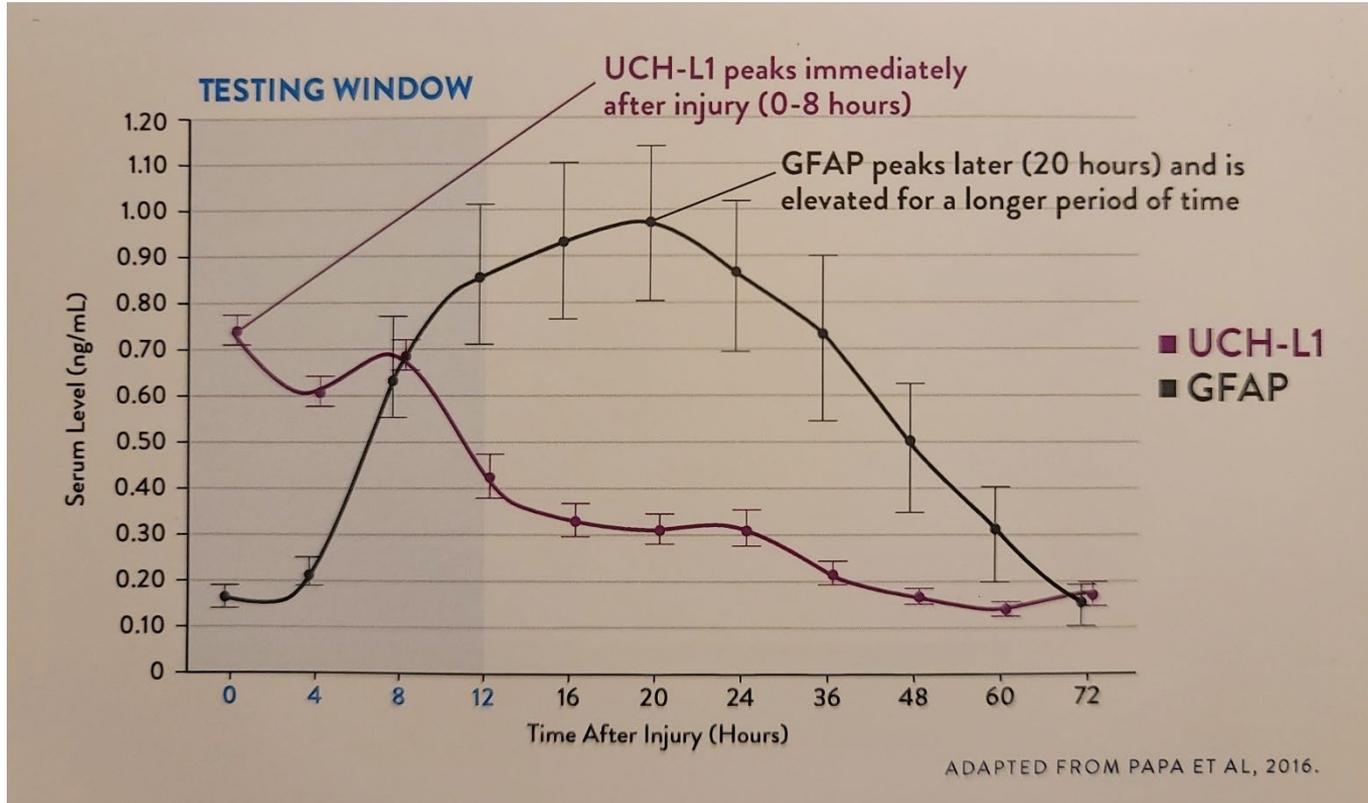
Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge
in Traumatic Brain Injury Network



Biomarkers released after brain injury

UCH-L1 = ubiquitin carboxy-terminal hydrolase L1

GFAP = glial fibrillary acidic protein

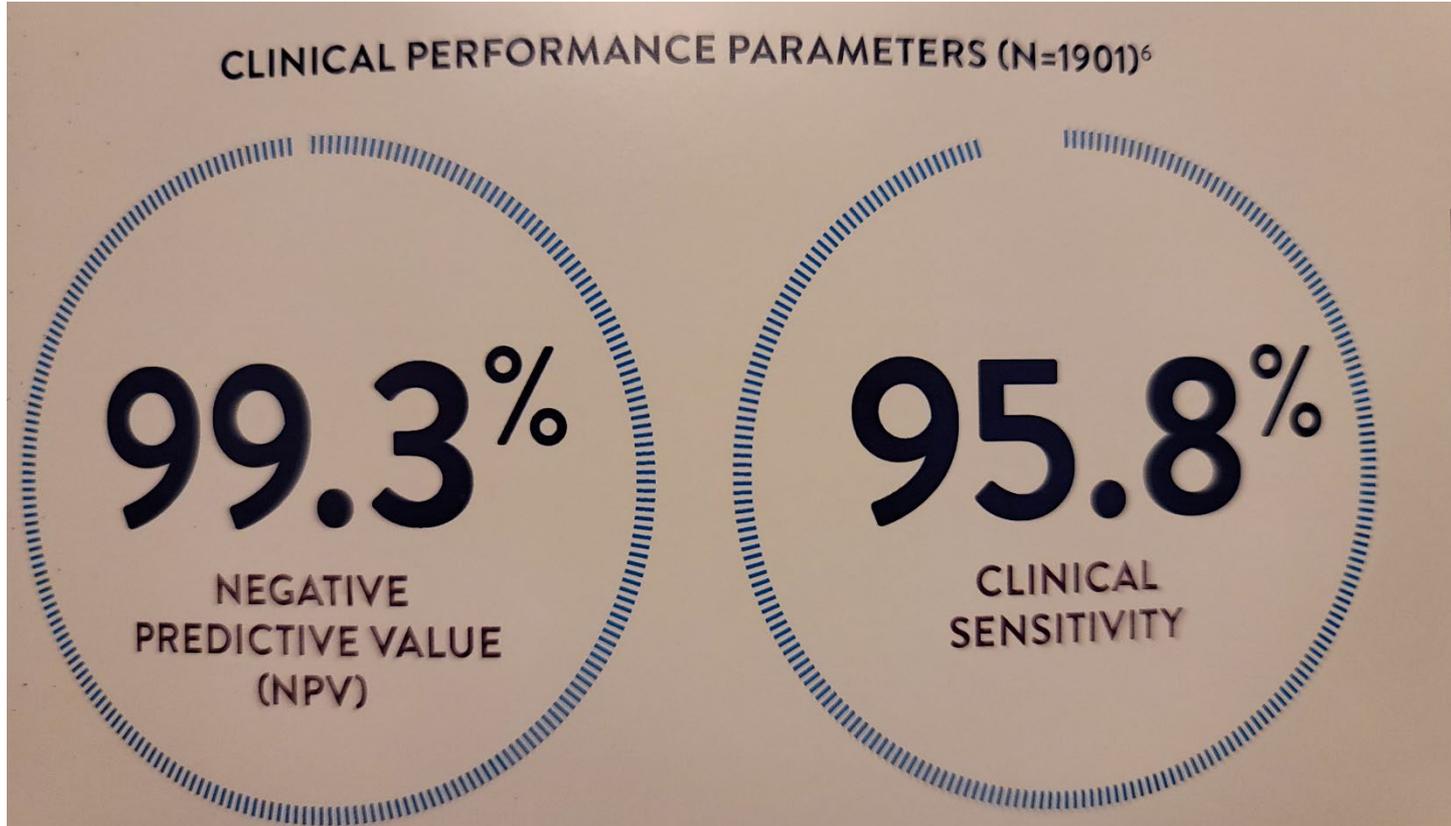


iStat TBI POC Assay

- for evaluation of mild TBI (GCS 13-15)
- > 18 y/o
- within 12 hours of injury
- requires plasma



iStat TBI Plasma Test (Abott)



We Need a Better Way

...or the future is bleak