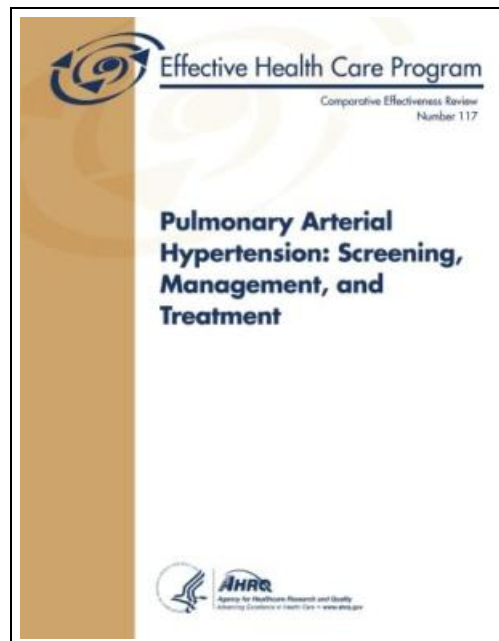


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PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION: SCREENING, MANAGEMENT, AND TREATMENT: COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW NUMBER 117



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Createspace. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 392 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.9in. Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a subcategory of pulmonary hypertension (PH), is a rare and progressive disease whose prevalence is estimated to be between 15 and 50 cases per 1 million adults. While the pathophysiology is not well understood, both genetic and environmental factors have been found to contribute to changes in the pulmonary vasculature, causing increased pulmonary vascular resistance. This increased resistance, if unrelieved, progresses to right ventricular pressure overload, dysfunction, and ultimately right heart failure and premature death. Before the availability of disease-specific therapy in the mid-1980s, the median life expectancy at the time of diagnosis was 2.8 years. There are two separate populations for which screening for PAH needs to be considered. First, there are patients with symptoms that raise the suspicion of PAH. The symptoms of PAH can be insidious and nonspecific and may include shortness of breath, fatigue, weakness, chest pain, syncope, leg swelling, and abdominal distention. Symptoms that are present at rest suggest advanced disease. Since these symptoms are nonspecific, screening may be necessary to help the physician decide whether the patient should undergo a diagnostic workup for PAH, or whether other conditions should be considered. The other population is patients with medical conditions that put them at risk for PAH. In these patients screening tests may be used to identify patients with asymptomatic elevation of pulmonary artery pressures, who might be more closely monitored for the development of symptoms or progressive disease or offered a diagnostic workup for PAH and possibly treatment for early disease. This comparative effectiveness review was funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). It was designed to evaluate the comparative validity, reliability, and feasibility of echocardiography and biomarker testing...

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