

Eliminating Amylase from the Evaluation of Pancreatitis in the Emergency Department

The Problem

Historically alterations in serum biomarkers amylase and lipase have been used to evaluate for pancreatitis in the Emergency Department. Several studies have shown lipase to be more accurate than amylase in diagnosing pancreatitis and that amylase plus lipase does not improve accuracy over lipase alone yet both tests continue to be ordered in evaluating abdominal pain in the Emergency Department.

Aim/Goal

To determine effects of interventions to decrease unnecessary testing of amylase in the evaluation of pancreatitis in the Emergency Department.

The Team

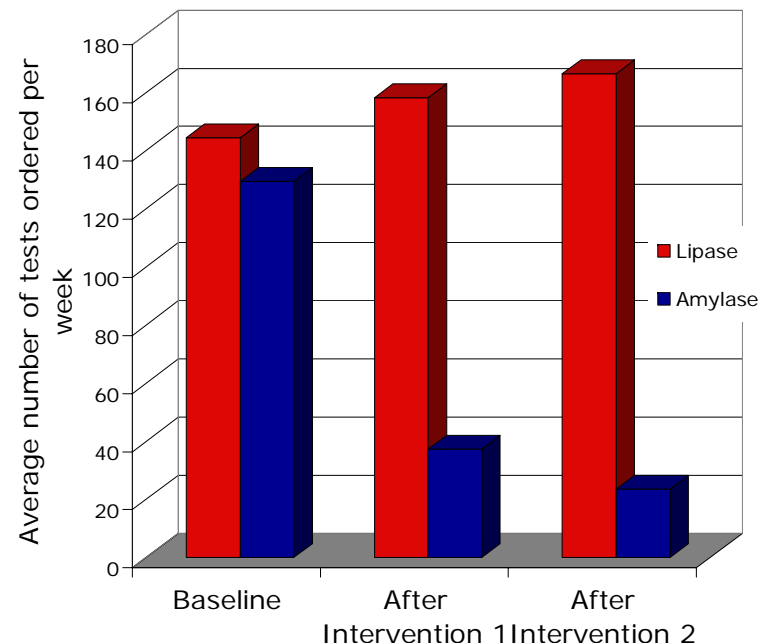
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- Nina Joyce, Emergency Medicine
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The Interventions

- Intervention 1:
 - Oral instructions to physicians to order lipase without amylase
 - Deleting amylase from bedside paper order forms
- Intervention 2:
 - Deleting amylase from trauma order forms
 - Decoupling amylase and lipase in the Provider Order Entry system

The Results/Progress to Date

Lipase and Amylase Ordering in the Emergency Department



Lessons Learned

Simple structured interventions in the Emergency Department can reduce amylase ordering. The reduction in amylase tests results in decreased cost burden for patients.

