

Statements related to Blood Pressure Monitoring with electronic Home Monitors

The following listed quotations are extracts of the symposium:

"A centenary tribute to conventional blood pressure measurement: with blood pressure measurement in the next century?"

19. / 20. Juni 1996, Dublin, Ireland

Prof. Eoin O'Brien [The Blood Pressure Unit, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, Ireland]*

- "For it is somewhat ironic that the mercury sphygmomanometer, the cornerstone of the Riva-Rocci/Korotkoff technique, is likely to fall into disuse shortly, near the centenary of its introduction. There are three reasons for this eventuality: mercury is likely to be banned from hospital use because of the danger of toxicity, accurate automated devices are now available to replace the mercury sphygmomanometer and with the advent of 24-h ambulatory blood pressure measurement into clinical practice, more reliance is being placed on blood pressure behaviour than on casual measurement of blood pressure levels."

Prof. Bernhard Waeber [Division of Hypertension, University Hospital Lausanne, Switzerland]*

- "It is well known, however, that blood pressure measured conventionally by a doctor often poorly represents the blood pressure prevailing during the everyday activities of the patient."
- "The auscultatory method {means stethoscope method} has its shortcomings; foremost among these is observer inaccuracy and bias. There can exist large differences among observers measuring the same blood pressure and, furthermore, the observer frequently tends to choose either 0 or 5 as the last digit."
- "Fully automated devices, being simple to use, are probably the most suitable."

Dr. Paul L. Padfield [Department of Medicine, Western General Hospital Edinburgh, UK]*

- "Conventional measurement of blood pressure utilizing a mercury sphygmomanometer, although potentially accurate, is subject to a number of errors relate to both the observer and the patient."
- "In two separate studies we have shown that home or self-monitoring of blood pressure represents an effective way of detecting hypertensive patients."
- "We have demonstrated that simple home monitoring devices will identify the same proportion of patients who have white-coat hypertension as the more expensive ambulatory devices and thus we would recommend these for use in family practice. Given the high prevalence of hypertension, or apparent hypertension, we would advise all practitioners to invest in electronic self-monitoring devices..."

* all above are original extracts of scientific papers published in the journal "Blood Pressure Monitoring", Vol 1 Suppl 2, December 1996 (Rapid Science Publishers, 2-6 Boundary Row, London SE1 8HN, UK)