

# Benefits and Harms of Routine Preoperative Testing: Comparative Effectiveness: Comparative Effectiveness Review Number 130



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## **BENEFITS AND HARMS OF ROUTINE PREOPERATIVE TESTING: COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS: COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW NUMBER 130**

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 190 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.4in.Traditionally, preoperative testing has been part of the preoperative care process to inform patient selection by determining fitness for anesthesia and identifying patients at high risk for perioperative complications. The American Society of Anesthesiologists defines routine preoperative tests as those done in the absence of any specific clinical indication or purpose; they typically include a panel of blood tests, urine tests, chest radiography, and electrocardiogram. These tests are performed to find latent abnormalities, such as anemia or silent heart disease, that could impact how, when, or whether the planned surgical procedure and concomitant anesthesia are performed. Many hospitals have instituted protocols to perform a series of laboratory tests prior to any operative procedure under the assumption that this information will enhance safety for surgical patients and reduce liability for adverse events. During the past three decades, routine preoperative testing has been challenged by several academic publications with concerns about the sizable cost of testing, overtesting, the consequences of false-positive tests, and the unknown benefit to patients. In addition to increasing the cost of surgical care, nonselective preoperative testing may result in false-positive or borderline results, which require further investigation. Additional investigation may cause unnecessary psychological and economic burdens, postponement of surgery, and even morbidity and mortality. As all routine testing does, preoperative testing will find some abnormal test results that will lead to new diagnoses but it is unclear whether the benefits accrued from responses to true-positive tests outweigh the harms of false-positive preoperative tests and, if there is a net benefit, how this benefit compares with the resource utilization required for testing. There is no common terminology among anesthesiologists and surgeons regarding the alternative preoperative testing strategies....

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