

Electrocardiograms Make the Beat Go On



One in 300 youth has an undetected heart condition that puts them at risk for sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). That's why we lose a reported 23,000 kids under age 18 each year (NEMSIS). Electrocardiograms (ECGs) help identify those at risk for SCA and should be part of well-child exams and preparticipation physical evaluations (PPEs).

~72% of youth stricken by SCA reported at least one symptom before the event

Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine, 2012;25(4):408-415

~49% of youth stricken by SCA had a significant family heart history

American Journal of Cardiology, 87(2), 129-135

Signs about being at risk for SCA are often missed by both patients and by practitioners

Pediatrics, 2012;129:e1094-1102

The American Heart Association 14-point evaluation misses 90% of youth at risk

Journal of the American Heart Association, 2019;8:e012235

ECG outperforms the AHA 14-point by all measures of statistical performance

Journal of the American Heart Association, 2019;8:e012235

ECGs are the most effective tool to identify youth at risk for SCA with the lowest false positive rate

American Journal of Cardiology 2016; 118:754-759

