Title: Probabilistic Workflow Modeling of Transfused Injured Children and Adolescents at a Level 1
Trauma Center

Introduction: Hemorrhagic shock is the leading preventable cause of death in injured children and adolescents. Timely recognition and intervention of hemorrhagic shock are associated with improved outcomes in adults and children.

Methods: We performed a retrospective medical record and video review of 57 injured children and adolescents who received a blood transfusion at a level 1 pediatric trauma center within four hours of hospital arrival. We reviewed videos of all resuscitations to identify the presence and time to performance of actions necessary for successful transfusion. Using a Bayesian belief network designed to predict the probability of transfusion within four hours of arrival, we categorized patients into low (<20%), intermediate (20-40%), and high (>40%) probabilities of transfusion. We then generated data-driven workflow models to identify the general sequence and timing of transfusion activities within each probabilistic category. A medical expert reviewed the workflows and considered them logical or illogical based on domain knowledge.

Results: Most children had a low probability (n=33, 57.9%) of blood transfusion, followed by high (n=14, 24.6%) and intermediate (n=10, 17.5%). Thirty-three out of 57 patients (57.9%) received blood in the emergency department. From these 33, those with a high probability received blood fastest (9.6 min [SD 15.4]) followed by intermediate (17.7 min [SD 6.7]) and low (23.1 min [SD 15.4]) probabilities. A medical expert determined that the sequence of transfusion activities was logical for patients with low and high probabilities, but not for intermediate probabilities.

Conclusion: Identification of hemorrhage is difficult, especially in children. Our study showed that clinicians may not easily recognize the need to transfuse some patients based on clinical gestalt alone. A decision support aid to identify these patients may improve the timely recognition and management of hemorrhagic shock.