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A Comparison of Opioid Abuse Screening Tools for Detection of High Risk Patients in the Inpatient Setting

Grace Gu, MD, Albert Cheng, MD, Darren Rahaman, MD, Shyh-Jeun Wang, MD | HCA

Introduction

- The United States is currently experiencing an opioid epidemic, which claims 115 lives daily by overdose.
- Tools for identifying patient at increased risk for abuse: Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients with Pain (SOAPP-R) and Opioid Risk Tool (ORT).
- However, there lacks studies which compare the two most commonly used opioid screen tools (SOAPP-R and ORT).
- We hope to compare the effectiveness of these screening tools for patients being discharged from hospital who have no “red flags” for abuse.

Background

- The awareness of opioid abuse/overdose for those at-risk patients is at all time high amongst providers.
- General medicine patient being discharged with an opioid prescription is mandated to complete ORT to assess their risk for potential abuse (Nevada law).
- ORT is a 10 question screening tool placing patient into three categories: low, moderate or high risk.
- SOAPP-R consists of 24 questions: low, moderate or high risk.
- We want to know which tool helps providers identify those who do not have obvious “red-flags” but are at increased risk for abuse.

Methods

- Identified eligible patients being discharged from the hospital with new opioid prescriptions.
- Those who consented to participate filled out both SOAPP-R and ORT with the researcher’s assistance.
- SOAPP-R and ORT were scored for each patient.
- Based on the score of each screening tool, patients were divided into low, moderate or high risk.
- PMP was checked for each patient and it was used as a gold standard for identifying high risk patients.
- PMP positive: 4 or more providers AND 4 or more prescriptions within the last 12 months.

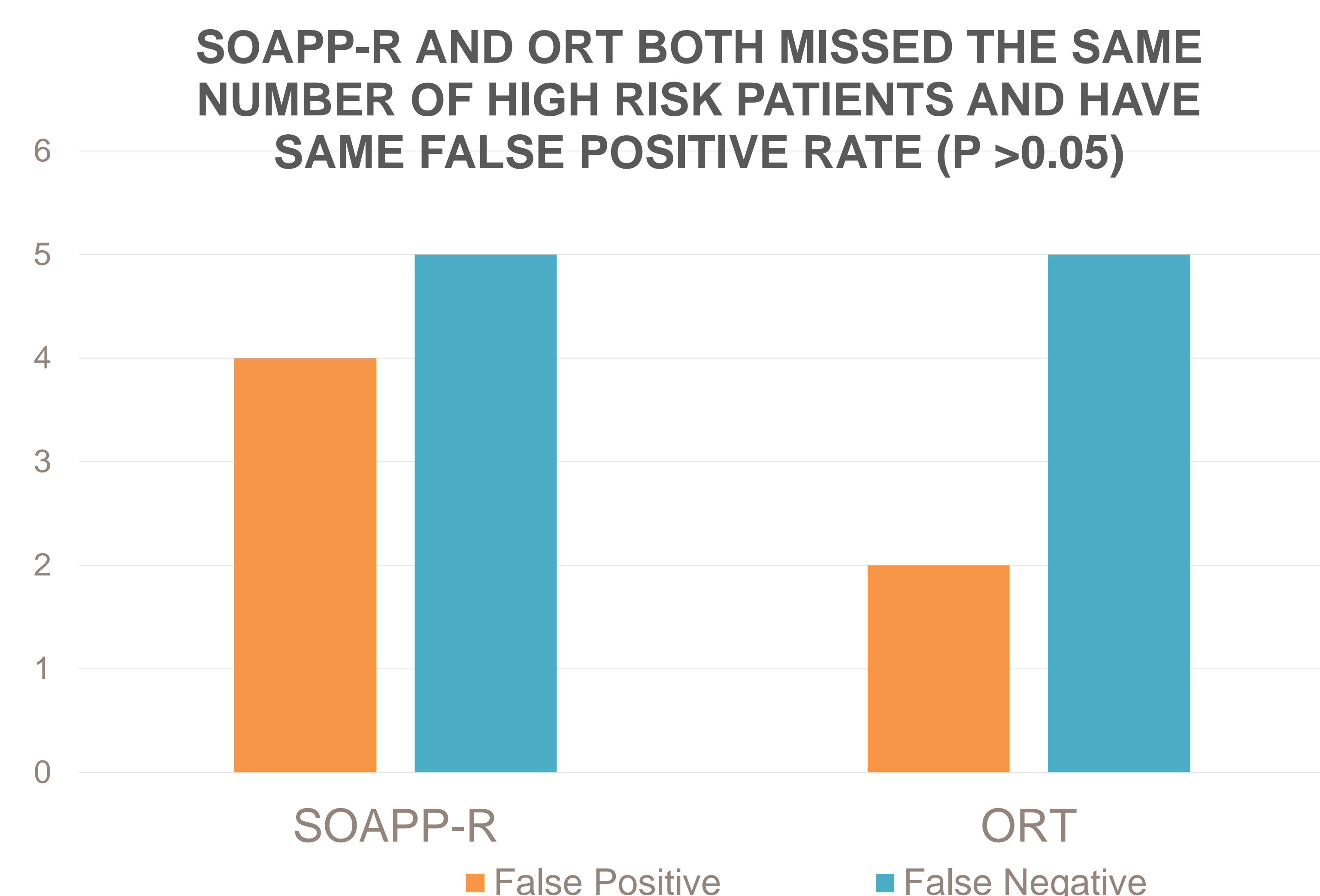
Results

Preliminary results:

- 56 patients provided consent and enrolled in the study.
- SOAPP-R
 - Low risk: 37 (66.1%); moderate risk: 15 (26.8%); High risk: 4 (7.1%)
- ORT
 - Low Risk:49 (80.4%); Moderate risk: 5 (8.9%); High risk: 2 (3.6%).
- PMP
 - High risk: 5 patients (8.9%). Characteristics shown below
- ORT had 2 counts of mislabeling patients, however not statistically significant.

Characteristics of PMP Positive Patients

Sex	3 Females, 2 Males
Age	50-75
ORT score	Low to Moderate Risk
SOAPP-R score	Low to Moderate Risk
MME	758-1355
# of prescriptions	4-6



Conclusion

- Both SOAPP-R and ORT missed some patients at increased risk of opioid abuse who did not have “red flags.”
- SOAPP-R had 4 counts of mislabeling low risk patients as high risk.
- A larger sample size may shed more light on the effectiveness of these two screening tools.

References

Weiner, et al “A comparison of an opioid abuse screening tool and prescription monitoring program in the emergency department” Alcohol Drug Depend. 2016 Feb 1; 159: 152-7.