



# Rational Vasopressor Selection

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# Disclosures

I have financial relationship(s) with:

**Grant / Research:**

*PCORI – Co-investigator, “Trajectories of Recovery after Intravenous Propofol vs. Inhaled Volatile Anesthesia (THRIVE)” PI: Kheterpal/Avidan*

**Grant / Research (current):**

*NIH R01 – Co-investigator, 1R01LM01389401 “A scalable service to improve health care quality through precision audit and feedback” PI: Landis-Lewis*

*NIH R01 - Co-investigator, 1R01DK13322601 “Cardiac sURgery anesthesia Best practices to reduce Acute Kidney Injury (CURB-AKI) PI: Mathis/Singh*

**Grant / Research:**

*NIH T32 Research Fellowship Grant – 5T32GM103730-07 (past)*

**Grant / Research:**

*Becton Dickinson and Company (past)*

# Learning Objectives

- Recall vasopressor pharmacology and physiology
- Critically evaluate the literature surrounding vasopressor selection
- Apply the evidence supporting use of various vasopressors to daily clinical practice

# Vasopressors

- Phenylephrine
- Ephedrine
- Vasopressin
- Dilute norepinephrine
- Concentrated norepinephrine
- Epinephrine
- Dopamine
- Angiotensin II

# Background

- End-organ dysfunction is a major issue for surgical patients significantly impacting quality of life, recovery after surgery, and cost of care <sup>1-8</sup>



- Improved outcomes while maintaining intraoperative blood pressures <sup>1-7</sup>
- Vasopressor therapies, specifically the choice between phenylephrine and norepinephrine, are debated <sup>9-13</sup>

# Hypotension & Postoperative Outcomes <sup>1-7</sup>

**ANESTHESIOLOGY**  
The Journal of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.  
Perioperative Medicine | August 2015

**ANESTHESIOLOGY**  
The Journal of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.  
Perioperative Medicine | September 2015

**Preoperative Risk and the Association between Hypotension and Postoperative Acute Kidney Injury**

# Vasopressors

- Phenylephrine
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- Epinephrine
- Dopamine
- Angiotensin II



# Rational Selection? Or Selection by Default?

- What patient or surgical factors contribute to your choice of vasopressor?
- What vasopressor options are available at each of your operative sites?
- Are there challenges to obtaining or using various options?
- Do we even know what the “best” option is?
- Which options are safe via peripheral IVs?

# Vasopressors

		Receptor					Physiologic Effect			
Drug		$\alpha 1$	$\beta 1$	$\beta 2$	V1	D	Cardiac Output	Vascular Tone	Blood pressure	Heart Rate
Phenylephrine		+++	0	0	0	0	↓	↑↑	↑↑	↓
Norepinephrine		+++	+	0	0	0	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↔
Vasopressin		0	0	0	++	0	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↔
Ephedrine		++	++	++	0	0	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑
Dopamine										
	Low	0	+	0	0	++	↑	↔	↔	↔
	Med	+	++	0	0	++	↑	↑	↑	↑
	High	++	++	0	0	++	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑
Epinephrine		+++	+++	++	0	0	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑

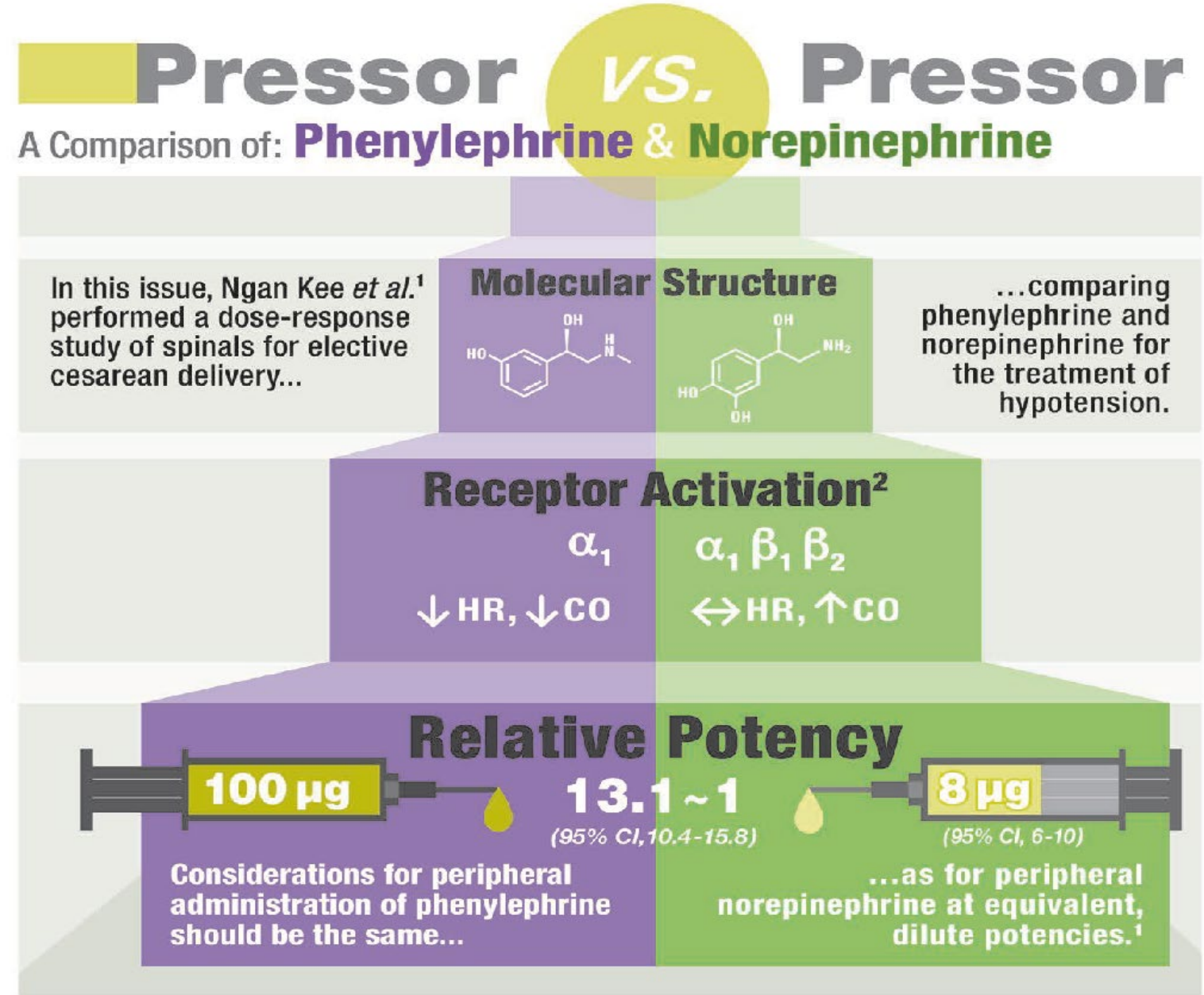
# Dose Equivalency

The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Drug	Dose	Norepinephrine equivalent
Epinephrine <sup>a</sup>	0.1 µg/kg/min	0.1 µg/kg/min
Norepinephrine <sup>a</sup>	0.1 µg/kg/min	0.1 µg/kg/min
Dopamine <sup>a</sup>	15 µg/kg/min	0.1 µg/kg/min
Phenylephrine <sup>b</sup>	1.0 µg/kg/min	0.1 µg/kg/min
Vasopressin	0.04 U/min	0.1 µg/kg/min

<sup>14</sup> Khanna A, English SW, Wang XS, et al. Angiotensin II for the Treatment of Vasodilatory Shock. *The New England journal of medicine*. 2017;377(5):419-430

# Dose Equivalency



Infographic created by Jonathan P. Wanderer, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Anesthesiology, 2017<sup>15</sup>

# Literature - Phenylephrine and Norepinephrine

- Studies show norepinephrine is potentially superior to phenylephrine for some patient populations, given improved cardiac output <sup>8-12</sup>

**ANESTHESIOLOGY**  
Comparison of Equi...  
Epinephrine, and P...  
Dysfunction ✓  
Nicolas Ducrocq, M.D.; Antoine Kim...  
Fatiha Maskali, Ph.D.; Sylvain Poussi...  
*Anesthesiology* May 2012, Vol. 116, 1...

**ANESTHESIA & ANALGESIA**  
**Should Norepinephrine, Rather than Phenylephrine, Be Considered the Primary Vasopressor in Anesthetic Practice?**  
Mets, Berend MBChB, PhD, FRCA, FFA(SA)

# Literature - Phenylephrine and Norepinephrine

- ICU patients: phenylephrine was associated with increased mortality during a norepinephrine drug shortage <sup>10</sup>

JAMA | **Original Investigation** | **CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT**

## **Association Between US Norepinephrine Shortage and Mortality Among Patients With Septic Shock**

Emily Vail, MD; Hayley B. Gershengorn, MD; May Hua, MD, MSc; Allan J. Walkey, MD, MSc;  
Gordon Rubenfeld, MD, MSc; Hannah Wunsch, MD, MSc

# Literature - Phenylephrine and Norepinephrine

- OB patients: improved cardiac indices were found with norepinephrine compared to phenylephrine when used during cesarean section <sup>12, 13</sup>

**ANESTHESIOLOGY**  
**Randomized Double-blind Study of Norepinephrine and Phenylephrine for Treating Hypotension during Spinal Anesthesia for Cesarean Delivery**  
Warwick D. Ngan Kee, M.B.Ch.B., M.D., F.A.N.Z.C.A., F.H.K.A.M.  
Shara W. Y. Lee, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.Sc., Ph.D.  
Perpetua E. Tan, B.Sc., M.Phil., Kim S. Khaw, M.D., F.A.N.Z.C.A., F.H.K.A.M.

**ANESTHESIOLOGY**  
**A Random-allocation Graded Dose-Response Study of Norepinephrine and Phenylephrine for Treating Hypotension during Spinal Anesthesia for Cesarean Delivery**  
Warwick D. Ngan Kee, M.D., F.A.N.Z.C.A., F.H.K.A.M.

# New Safety Data - Dilute Norepinephrine

- No association between dilute peripheral norepinephrine infusions and complications due to peripheral IV extravasation or adverse events in >14,000 patients <sup>16</sup>
- Other studies also showed no increase in complications of IV extravasation with dilute peripheral norepinephrine <sup>12, 13, 16-18</sup>

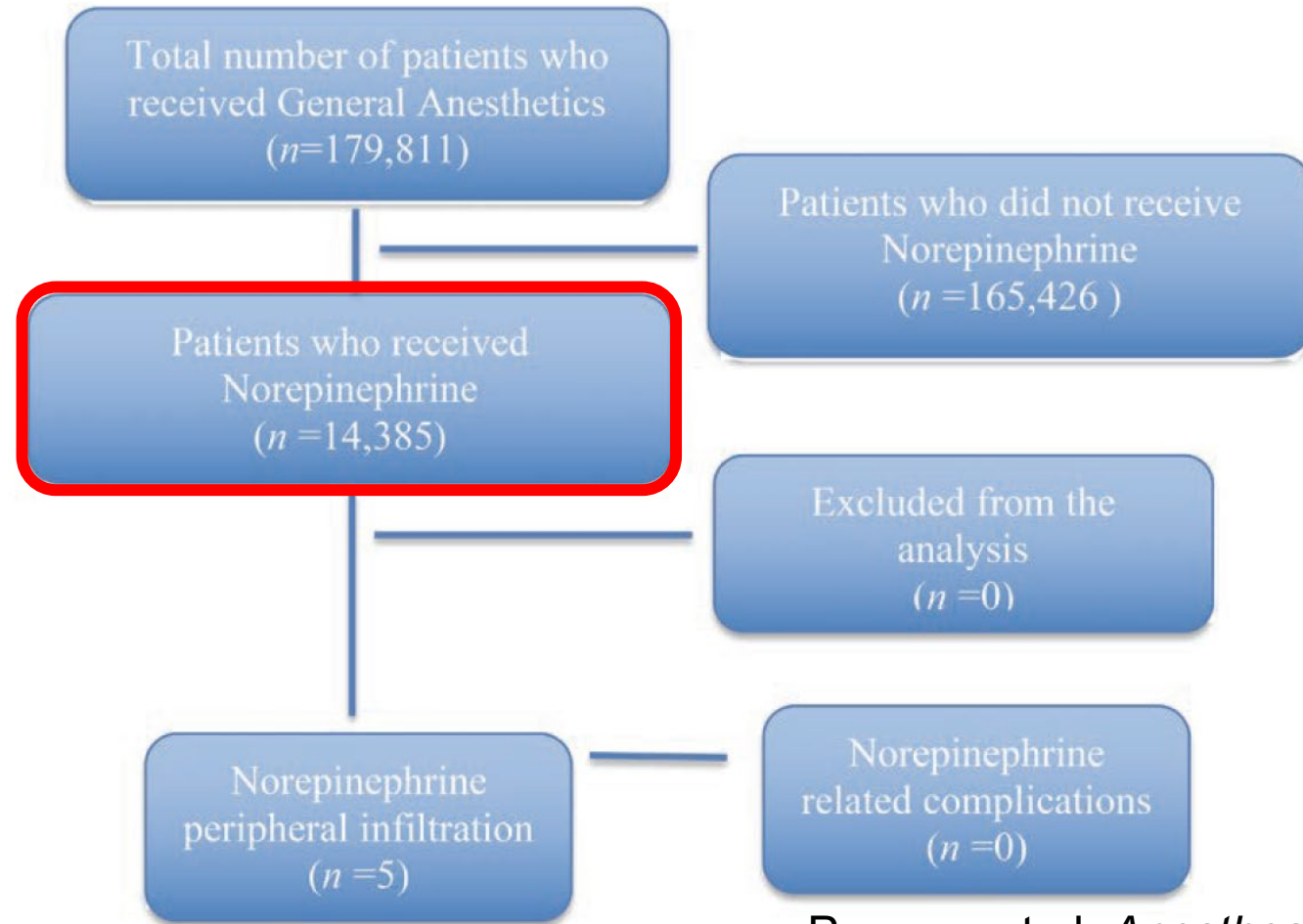
ANESTHESIA &  
ANALGESIA

## **Risk of Major Complications After Perioperative Norepinephrine Infusion Through Peripheral Intravenous Lines in a Multicenter Study**

Carlo Pancaro, MD,\* Nirav Shah, MD,\* Wietze Pasma, PhD,† Leif Saager, MD,\*  
Ruth Cassidy, MS,\* Wilton van Klei, MD, PhD,† Fabian Kooij, MD, PhD,‡ Dave Vittali, MSc,‡  
Markus W. Hollmann, MD, PhD, DEAA,‡ Sachin Kheterpal, MD,\* and Philipp Lirk, PhD, MD§

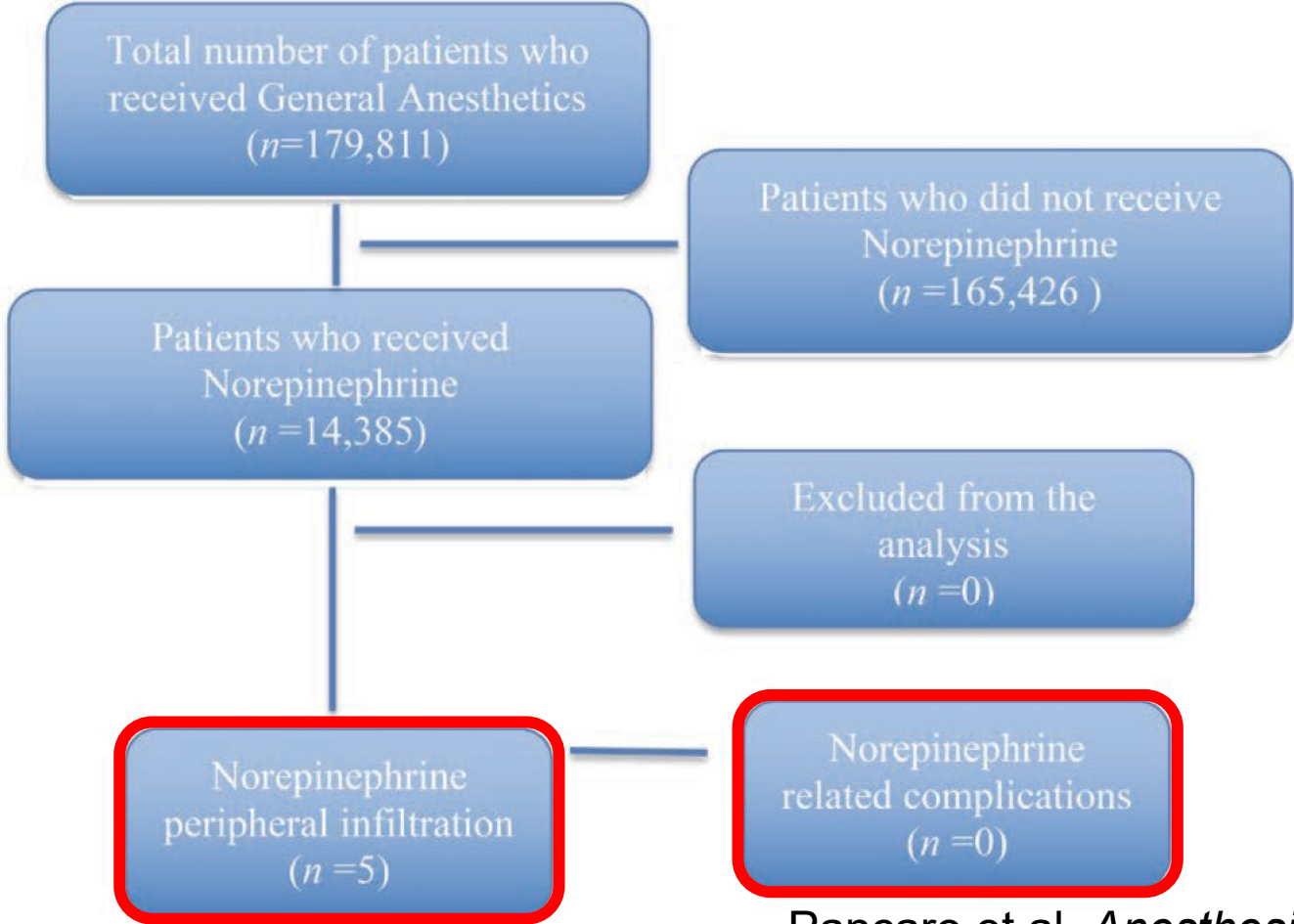


# New Safety Data - Dilute Norepinephrine



Pancaro et al, *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, 2019 <sup>16</sup>

# New Safety Data - Dilute Norepinephrine



Pancaro et al, *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, 2019 <sup>16</sup>

## New Safety Data - Dilute Norepinephrine

# Zero Complications

Estimated risk of **0–2 adverse events per 10,000 patients**  
(95% CI of 0%–0.021%)

Pancararo et al, *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, 2019 <sup>16</sup>


# Literature - Ephedrine

- A reduced the risk of postoperative organ dysfunction was found with norepinephrine compared to ephedrine, but this study is confounded by different blood pressure thresholds in each protocol <sup>5</sup>
- Ephedrine has been associated with worsened fetal acidosis compared to phenylephrine and norepinephrine <sup>19,20</sup>

<p>JAMA   <b>Original Investigation</b>   CARING FOR THE PATIENT</p> <p><b>Effect of Individualized vs Standardized Management Strategies of Hypotension Among High-Risk Patients Undergoing Major Abdominal Surgery: A Randomized Clinical Trial</b></p> <p>Emmanuel Futier, MD, PhD; Jean-Yves Lefrant, MD, PhD; Pierre-Philippe Cuvillon, MD, PhD; Sebastien Bertran, MD; Marc Leon, MD; Jacques Albanese, MD, PhD; Jean-Michel Julia, MD; Benoit Taveau, MD; Jean-Michel Constantin, MD, PhD; Bruno Pereira, PhD; Samir Jaber, MD, PhD</p>	<p> <b>ANESTHESIOLOGY</b></p> <p><b>Fetal and Maternal Effects of Phenylephrine and Ephedrine during Spinal Anesthesia for Cesarean Delivery</b></p> <p></p> <p>David W. Cooper, FRCA; Mark Carpenter, MRCP, FRCA; Paul Mowbray, FRCA; William R. Desira, FRCA; David M. Ryall, FRCA; Manmohan S. Kokri, FRCS, FRCA</p>
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# Literature - Vasopressin

- Vasopressin can be used as an adjunct to norepinephrine for septic shock but does not improved mortality <sup>21</sup>
- In the VANISH trial, early use of vasopressin compared with norepinephrine did not improve the number of kidney failure–free days <sup>22</sup>
- Preferential vasoconstriction of the systemic circulation, sparing the pulmonary circulation, great choice for pulmonary hypertension <sup>23</sup>

<p>The <b>NEW ENGLAND</b> <b>JOURNAL</b> of Medicine</p>	<p>Original Investigation August 2, 2016</p>	<p> <b>ANESTHESIOLOGY</b></p>
<p>ESTABLISHED IN 1812 FEBRUARY 28, 1812</p> <p>Vasopressin versus Norepi in Patients with Se</p> <p>James A. Russell, M.D., Keith R. Walley, M.D., Joel Singer, F.R.C.P., Paul C. Hébert, M.D., D. James Cooper, B.M., B.S., M.D., Ch ohn T. Granton, M.D., Michelle M. Storms, B.Sc.N., Deborah J. and Dieter Ayers, M.Sc., for the VA</p>	<p><b>Effect of Early Vasop on Kidney Failure in P The VANISH Randomi</b></p> <p>Anthony C. Gordon, MD<sup>1</sup>; Alexina J. Mason, PhD<sup>2</sup>; N</p> <p>» <a href="#">Author Affiliations</a>   <a href="#">Article Information</a></p> <p>JAMA. 2016;316(5):509-518. doi:10.1001/jama.2016</p>	<p><b>Vasoconstrictor Responses to Vasopressor Agents in Human Pulmonary and Radial Arteries: An <i>In Vitro</i> Study</b></p> <p>✓</p> <p>Dale A. Currigan, M.B.B.S.; Richard J. A. Hughes, B.Sc.Hons., M.Phil.; <a href="#">Christine E. Wright, B.Sc.Hons., Ph.D.</a>; James A. Angus, B.Sc.Hons., Ph.D.; Paul F. Soeding, B.Sc.Hons., Ph.D., M.B.B.S. ✉</p>

# Literature - Dopamine and Epinephrine

- For septic shock, dopamine is associated with greater mortality and a higher incidence of arrhythmic events compared to norepinephrine administration <sup>24</sup>
- Dopamine is able to be administered through a peripheral IV <sup>25</sup>
- Epinephrine for refractory hypotension or cardiac arrest

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Comparison of Dopamine and Norepinephrine in the Treatment of Shock

Daniel De Backer, M.D., Ph.D., Patrick Biston, M.D., Jacques Devriendt, M.D., Christian Madl, M.D., Didier Chochrad, M.D., Cesar Aldecoa, M.D., Alexandre Brasseur, M.D., Pierre Defrance, M.D., Philippe Gottignies, M.D., and Jean-Louis Vincent, M.D., Ph.D. for the SOAP II Investigators\*

# Avoiding the 17-year lag<sup>26</sup>...



17 YEARS...

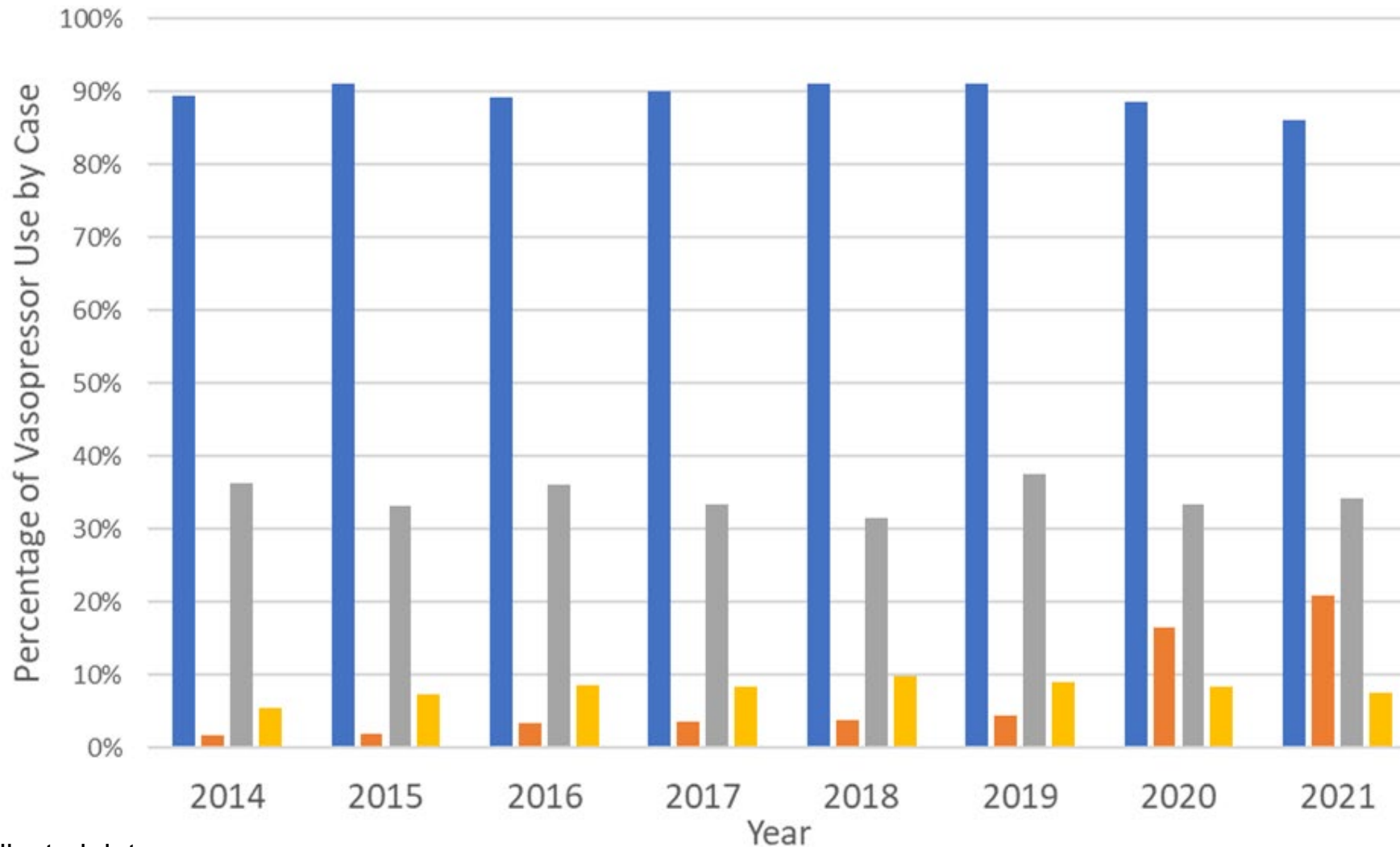


# Rational Selection? Or Selection by Default?

- What patient or surgical factors contribute to your choice of vasopressor?
- What vasopressor options are available at each of your operative sites?
- Are there challenges to obtaining or using various options?
- Do we even know what the “best” option is?
- Which options are safe via peripheral IVs?



## University of Michigan Vasopressor Use By Year



\*Unpublished, unadjusted data from MPOG DataDirect

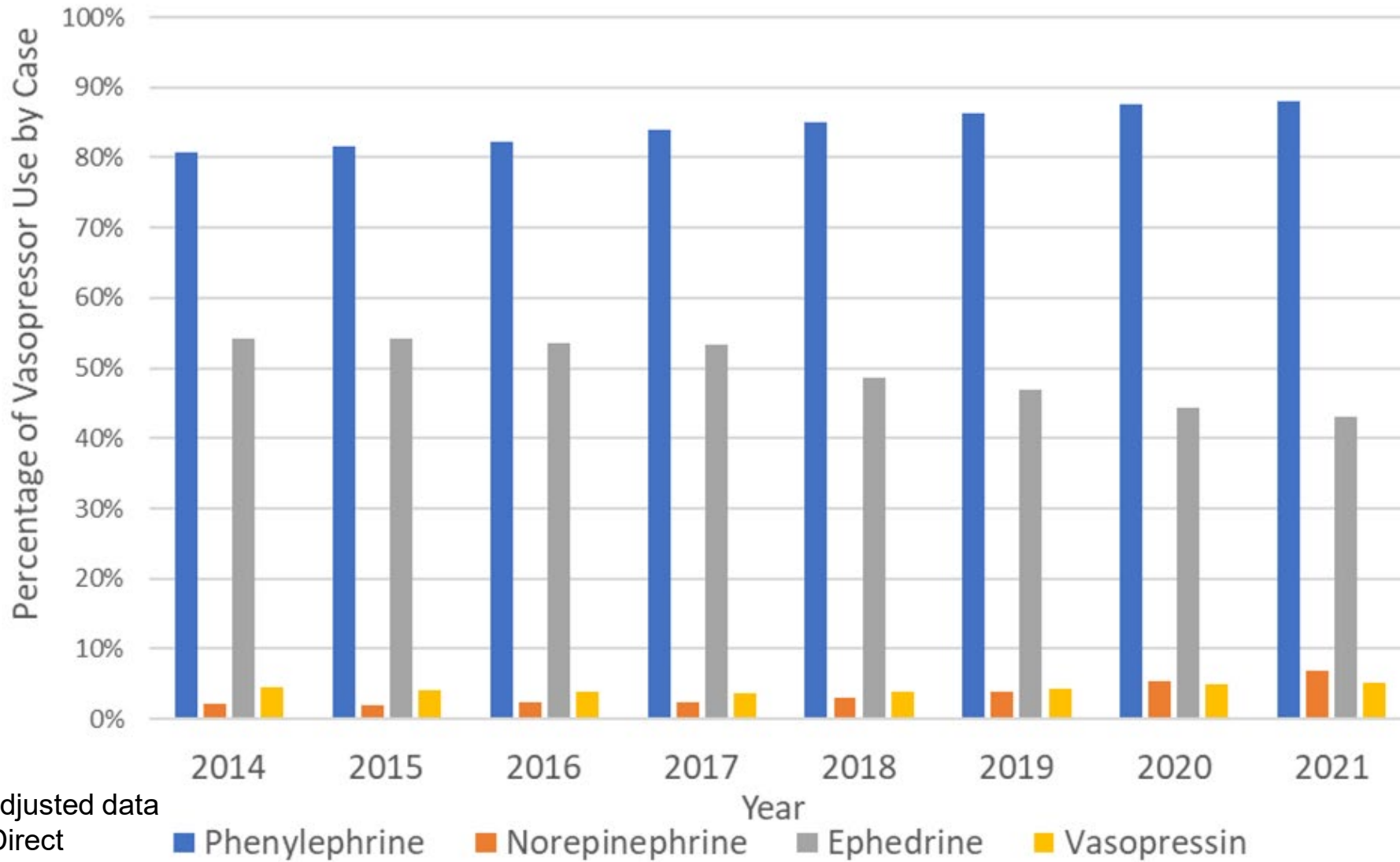
■ Phenylephrine ■ Norepinephrine ■ Ephedrine ■ Vasopressin

# Changes in Patterns of Use at Michigan Medicine

- For non-cardiac cases without a central line, dilute norepinephrine use has increased over time:

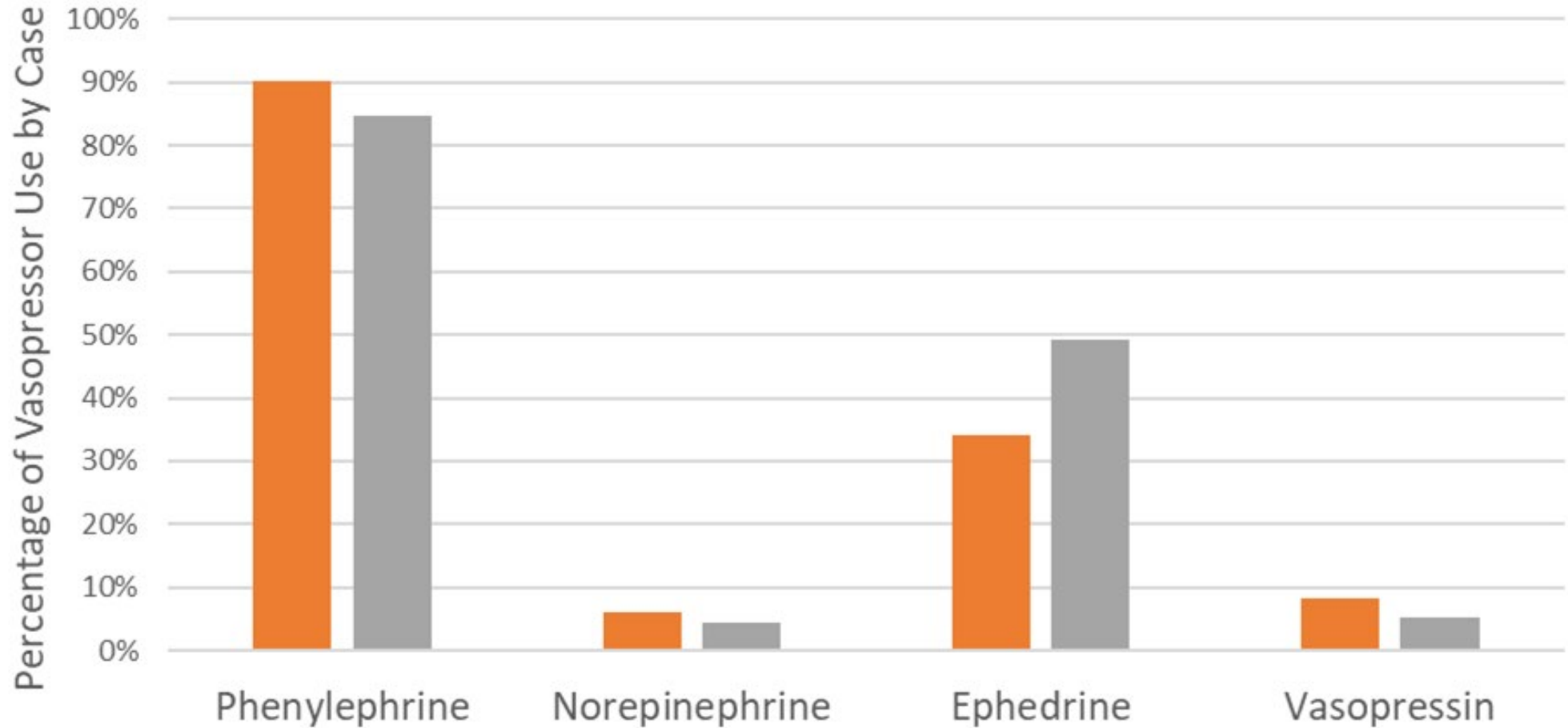
<b>Year</b>	<b>Dilute norepinephrine used in any case (%)</b>	<b>Dilute norepinephrine used in cases receiving any vasopressor (%)</b>
2019	2.1%	3.8%
2020	9.8%	17.3%
2021	12.3%	21.4%

## MPOG-Wide Vasopressor Use by Year



\*Unpublished, unadjusted data from MPOG DataDirect

# Single Center and MPOG Vasopressor Use, 2014-2021



\*Unpublished, unadjusted data from MPOG DataDirect



University of Michigan

MPOG-wide



# Road to Change



# Approved Vasopressors at Michigan Medicine

- Phenylephrine (peripheral or central)
- Ephedrine (peripheral or central)
- Vasopressin (ideally central)
- Concentrated norepinephrine (central only)
- Dilute norepinephrine (peripheral or central)
- Epinephrine (ideally central)
- Angiotensin II (central only)

# Approved Vasopressors at Michigan Medicine

- Phenylephrine (peripheral or central)
- Ephedrine (peripheral or central)
- Vasopressin (ideally central)
- Concentrated norepinephrine (central only)
- **Dilute norepinephrine (peripheral or central)**
- Epinephrine (ideally central)
- Angiotensin II (central only)

# Case example: Dilute Norepinephrine at Michigan Medicine

- Peripheral administration of dilute (4 mcg/ml) norepinephrine for bolus and/or infusion up to 0.08 mcg/kg/min, for use in adult patients in operating rooms and procedural rooms only and access limited to anesthesia providers
- 18g PIV or larger and adequate access to the PIV to assess site



# Measures for Implementation

- M&M Conference presentation
- CRNA staff meeting presentation
- Resident lecture presentations for each class
- Multiple small-group presentations for all PACU areas
- Emails and quality & safety announcements

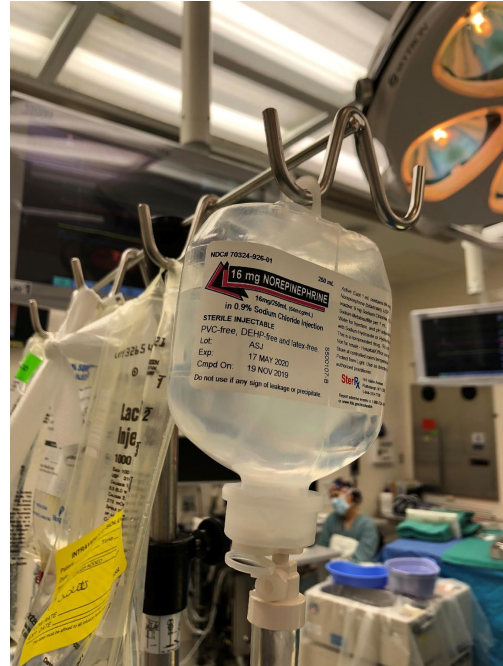


## Peripheral Dilute Norepinephrine

# Central Concentrated vs. Dilute Peripheral Dose

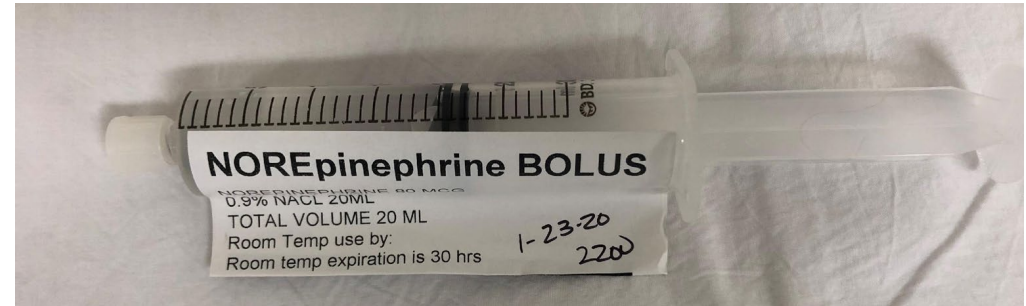
## Concentrated for Central Access:

- 64mcg/mL
- Only formulation is the infusion bag via central line



## Dilute for Peripheral Access:

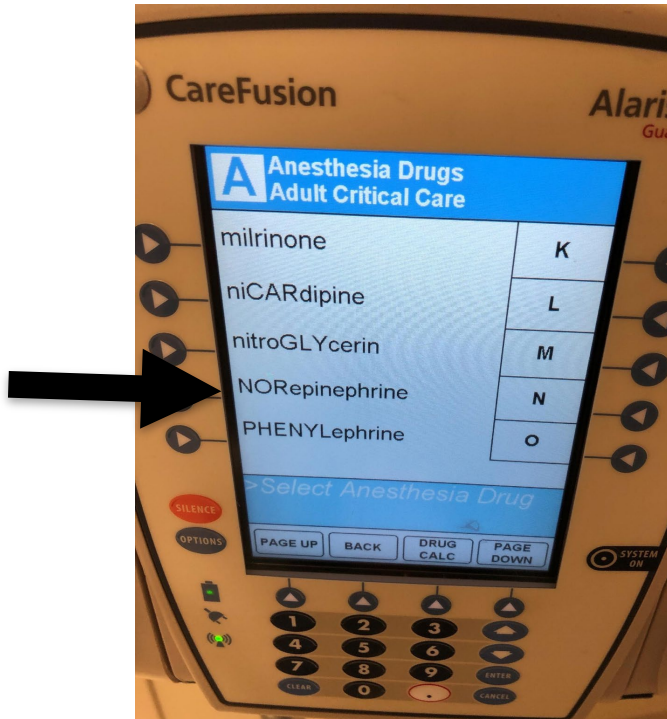
- 4mcg/mL
- May be used as a bolus or as an infusion using syringe pump



# Alaris Pump Changes for Infusions

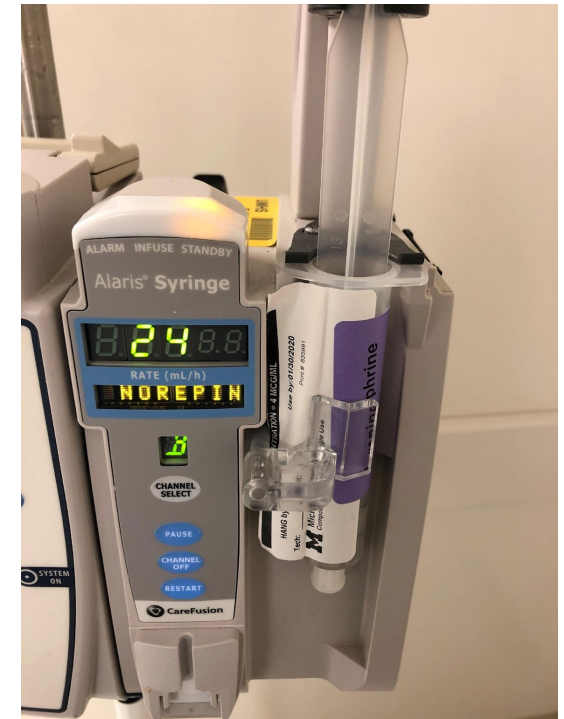
## Concentrated for Central Access:

- 64mcg/mL
- **Bag** Alaris Pump Library

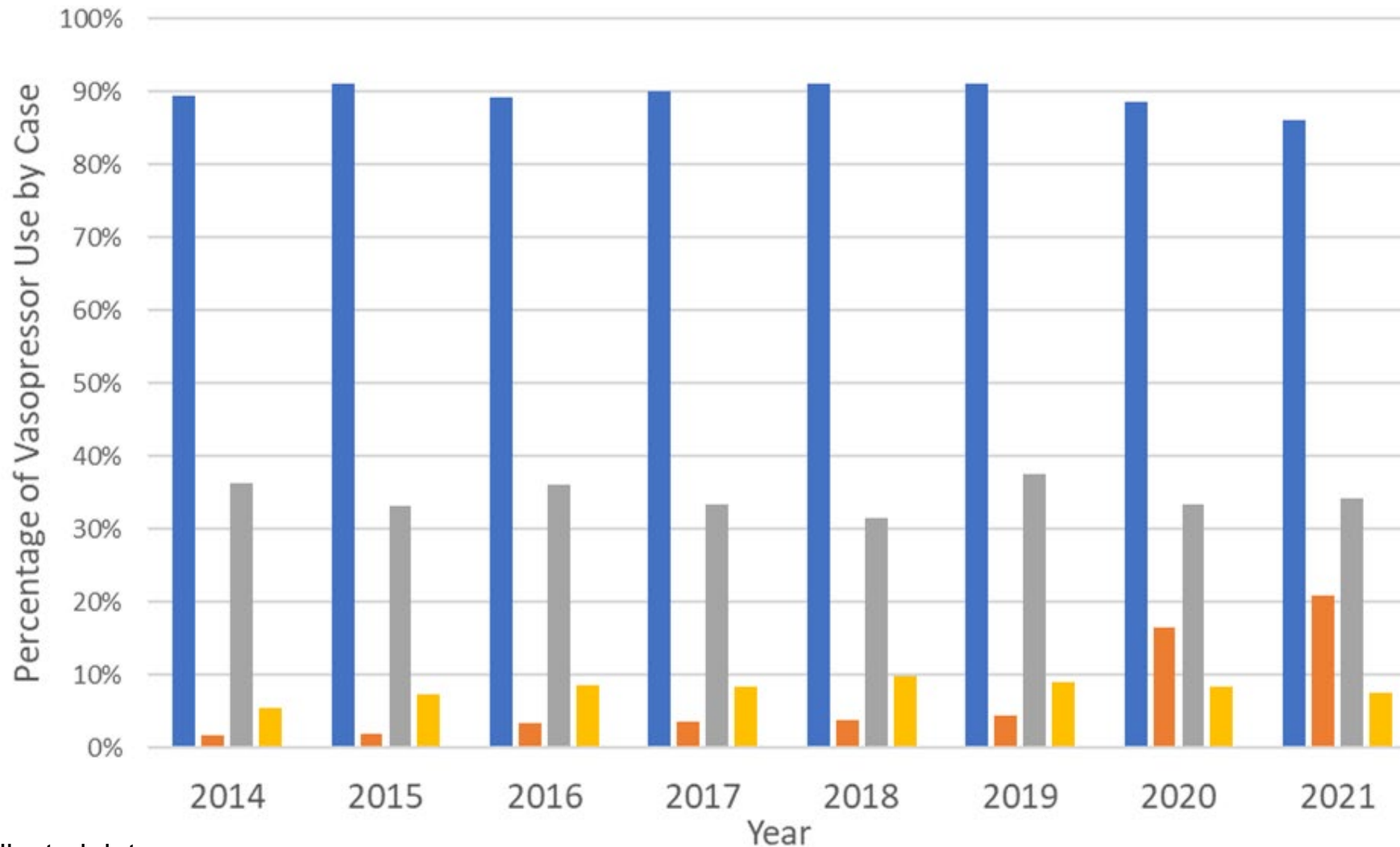


## Dilute for Peripheral Access:

- 4mcg/mL
- **Syringe** Alaris Pump Library



## University of Michigan Vasopressor Use By Year



\*Unpublished, unadjusted data from MPOG DataDirect

■ Phenylephrine ■ Norepinephrine ■ Ephedrine ■ Vasopressin

# Future Studies and Directions



Initiative for Multicenter  
Pragmatic Anesthesiology  
Clinical Trials (IMPACT)



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# Questions?

Thank you for your time!

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