

The Body of the Abstract should include the following headings (in Bold) Background/Objectives:

Methods:

Results:

Conclusions:

## MAXimum Length = 1 page

## Sample Abstract

**Unobtrusive Gait Velocity Measurement in a Geriatrics Outpatient Clinic** Laura Hatchman<sup>1</sup>, Zhaoyan Fan<sup>1</sup>, Robert X Gao<sup>1</sup>, George A Kuchel<sup>1</sup>, Lisa C. Barry<sup>1</sup>

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Background/Objectives: Gait velocity is a simple, robust predictor of health outcomes in older persons. Yet clinicians rarely measure this "5<sup>th</sup> vital sign." Its routine, objective, and unobtrusive measurement in "real-world" clinical settings is needed to translate this research into everyday practice. We sought to establish the validity and feasibility of using a radio frequency identification device (RFID) for measuring gait velocity in geriatrics clinic patients. Methods: Geriatrics clinic patients were recruited over 4 weeks. Participants (N=50) wore an armband containing a RFID tag with a unique ID and were instructed to walk down the clinic hallway at their usual pace. Wall-installed RFID readers recorded time to walk 4.3-meters. Participants' walks were simultaneously timed via a stopwatch, the "gold standard." Two gait velocity measurements, based on RFID and stopwatch recordings, were calculated for each participant and difference scores (RFID gait velocity - stopwatch gait velocity) were plotted. Ttests determined if difference scores varied according to patient characteristics. Participants and 9 clinic staff were also asked questions regarding acceptability of using the device. Results: Mean age was 80.9+8.0 (62-99) and 66% were female. Average gait velocity (m/s) via RFID was 0.849+0.268 (0.132 to 1.471) and via stopwatch was 0.852+0.269 (0.126 to 1.466). Average difference score was -0.003+0.035. Participants who reported difficulty walking a guarter mile(42%), used an assistive device(24%) or reported fair/poor health(18%) had higher (worse) gait velocity using either RFID or stopwatch (p<0.01 for each comparison). However, these characteristics did not impact difference in gait velocity. Overall, 50(100%) and 46(92%) participants agreed/strongly agreed that they felt comfortable having their gait velocity measured and that they wanted their providers to track this over time. Also, 8 of 9 providers indicated that measuring gait velocity did not interrupt office procedures.

**Conclusions**: Measuring gait velocity using RFID technology is unobtrusive and provides measurements comparable to the research "gold standard." Integrating gait velocity measurement into "real-world" clinical settings may help to support T2 translation and the Precision Medicine effort.

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## References:

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