

ED Patient Complaining of Chest Pains



Robert is a 50 year old male. He arrived in the community hospital ED at 8 PM with a **complaint of chest pains.** Robert had no personal or family history of cardiac problems. He works out regularly in the gym and plays softball with the guys during the spring. For a man his age, Robert considered himself to be in fairly good physical shape.

There were several people in the waiting room. He was very nervous. The triage nurse recognized the symptoms and immediately sent him back for testing. Several tubes of blood were collected; a "gold top" (SST™) and a few others, and then they performed an EKG. **Robert just wanted to know – was he having a heart attack, or was it something else?** If it was a heart attack, would he survive? What about the camping trip he had planned with his sons for this weekend? Why was it taking so long? He glanced at his watch. **It was 1½ hours since they collected his blood, and the pain was still intense.** In the waiting room, his wife nervously waited for the doctors to give her some good news. She had never seen Robert complain like this and was very anxious. She just wanted to receive good news and go home.

Meanwhile, the doctors were trying to determine if Robert needed additional diagnostic tests. **The EKG results were inconclusive. They needed the Troponin results to complete the diagnosis and start therapy as soon as possible,** but they had not come back from the lab. The cardiologist was contemplating an additional expensive and risky procedure if he did not receive the results in the next 10 minutes. Robert's condition was deteriorating. If Robert was having a heart attack, every minute was precious.



Where were the test results?

- 30 minutes for the tube to clot
- 10 minutes for centrifugation
- Approximately 45 minutes in the analyzer.

Meanwhile, Robert and the cardiologist continued to wait.

There is an alternative.

BD Vacutainer® Rapid Serum Tube

- Clots in only 5 minutes
- May reduce laboratory turnaround time by up to 32 minutes

Faster turnaround time



Impact decision making



Improved patient care



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