

EVALUATION OF PAPER

Validation of the Oregon Scientific BPW810 blood pressure monitor according to the European Society of Hypertension Protocol.

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The plots are not in colour as the caption suggests. However, in enlarged format, it is possible to pick out different shades of grey. (Different shapes should be used when colour is not available). However, all 99 points are accountable as follows:

	Range	Black	Light Grey	B+2LG
SBP	Low	32	1	34
	Medium	40	3	46
	High	17	1	19
	Total	89	5	99

	Range	Black	Dark Grey	Light Grey	B+2DG+3LG
DBP	Low	23	1	1	28
	Medium	46	6	1	61
	High	10	0	0	10
	Total	79	7	2	99

While some fall in BP is to be expected, the fact is that there are less than half the expected 33 points in the high range of both SBP and DBP. In evaluating studies, a minimum of 22 points is expected to be in each range. Below this, the number of measurements in each range is guaranteed to be significantly different from the expected 33 x 3.

The substantial falls in blood pressure from the entry measurement in so many subjects is far outside expectations but is unexplained.

There are only 19 points below -5 on the SBP Plot and 6 point above +5 on the DBP Plot. This is inconsistent with the reported mean differences of -5.1 and +5.0 respectively.

There is no proper explanation of the recruitment process. It is unlikely that the first 33 subjects perfectly fitted all ranges. A full explanation should have been provided.

There are major unexplained questions regarding this study. In particular, the pressures used in the validation are substantially different than those for which the passing criteria were designed. The conclusion is therefore unreliable.