

Hematuria Communication: Utilization of a Color Reference Guide and Specific Prompting can Improve Consistency

Robert Medairos, Zachary Prebay, Johnathan Doolittle, Vimal Gunasekaran, Jagan Kansal, Jay I. Sandlow and R. Corey O'Connor
Department of Urology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Introduction

- The description of gross hematuria can be a challenge for non-urologic health care providers.
- Tools to aid communication accuracy are lacking and not commonly incorporated in healthcare systems.

Purpose

- The aim of our study is to determine the current status of hematuria communication and assess the ability to improve consistency in description by using a color picture guide and specific assessment prompting.

Methods

- We prospectively performed a single-institution assessment of all inpatient floor nurses.
- A 15-item questionnaire was distributed electronically during a 4-week completion period.
- To evaluate hematuria communication, subjects were shown an image of catheter tubing filled with grossly bloody urine.
- Participants were asked to describe the hematuria image using 1) currently established electronic medical record selection choices, then 2) using a newly devised color reference guide with specific prompting to evaluate clarity and presence of clots.
- Comparisons were made between the two assessments to evaluate the number of unique responses and documentation rate of urine clarity and presence of clots.

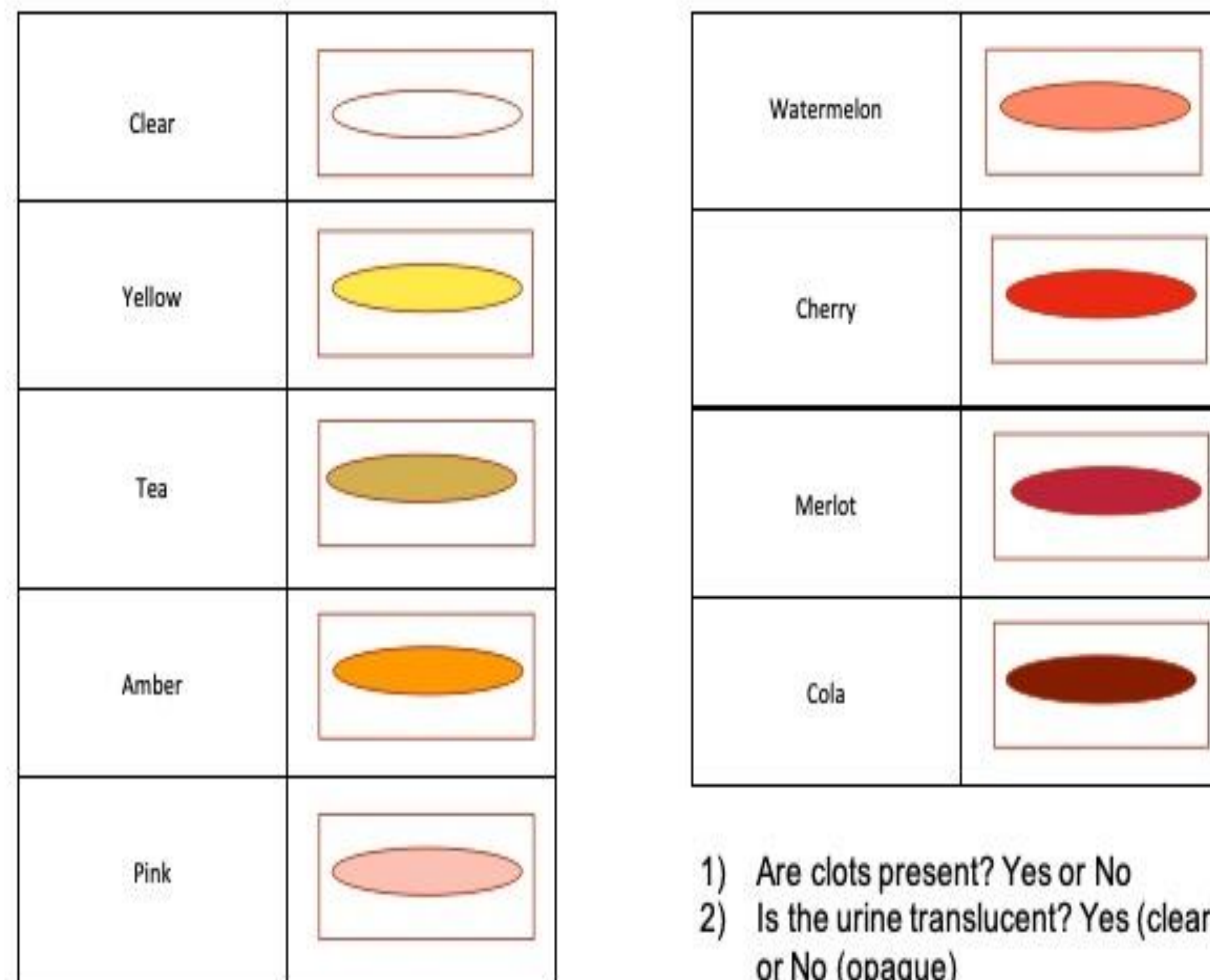
Figure 1

Image of Urine in Catheter Tubing for Assessment



Figure 2

Color Reference Guide and Specific Assessment Prompts



Results

- Vast majority of nurses described color reference guide as useful (97%)
- Almost unanimous interest in utilizing guide in clinical practice (98%)

Figure 3

Number of Unique Responses Using the Current Electronic Medical Record

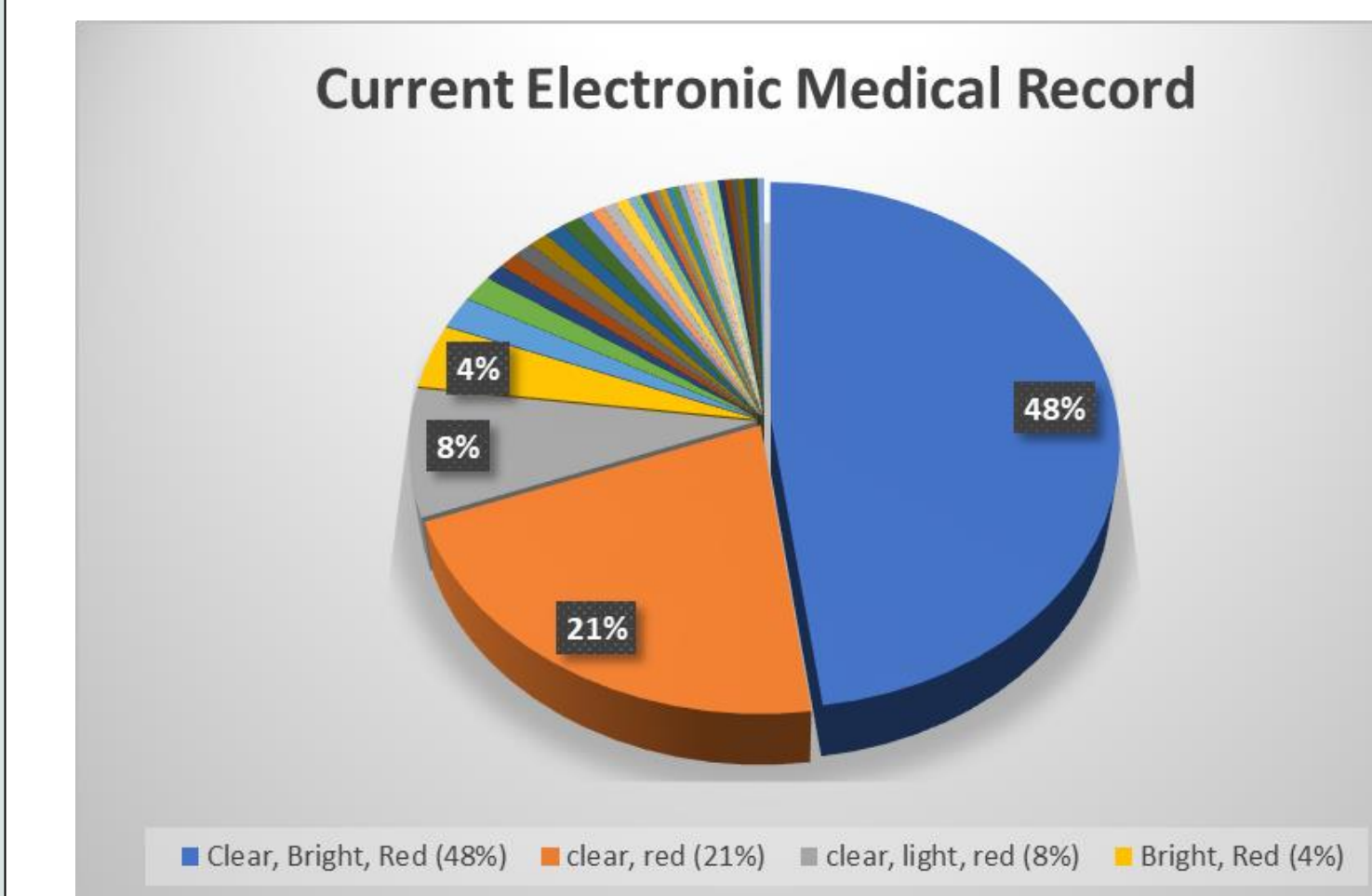


Figure 4

Number of Unique Responses Using the New Color Image Reference and Assessment Prompts

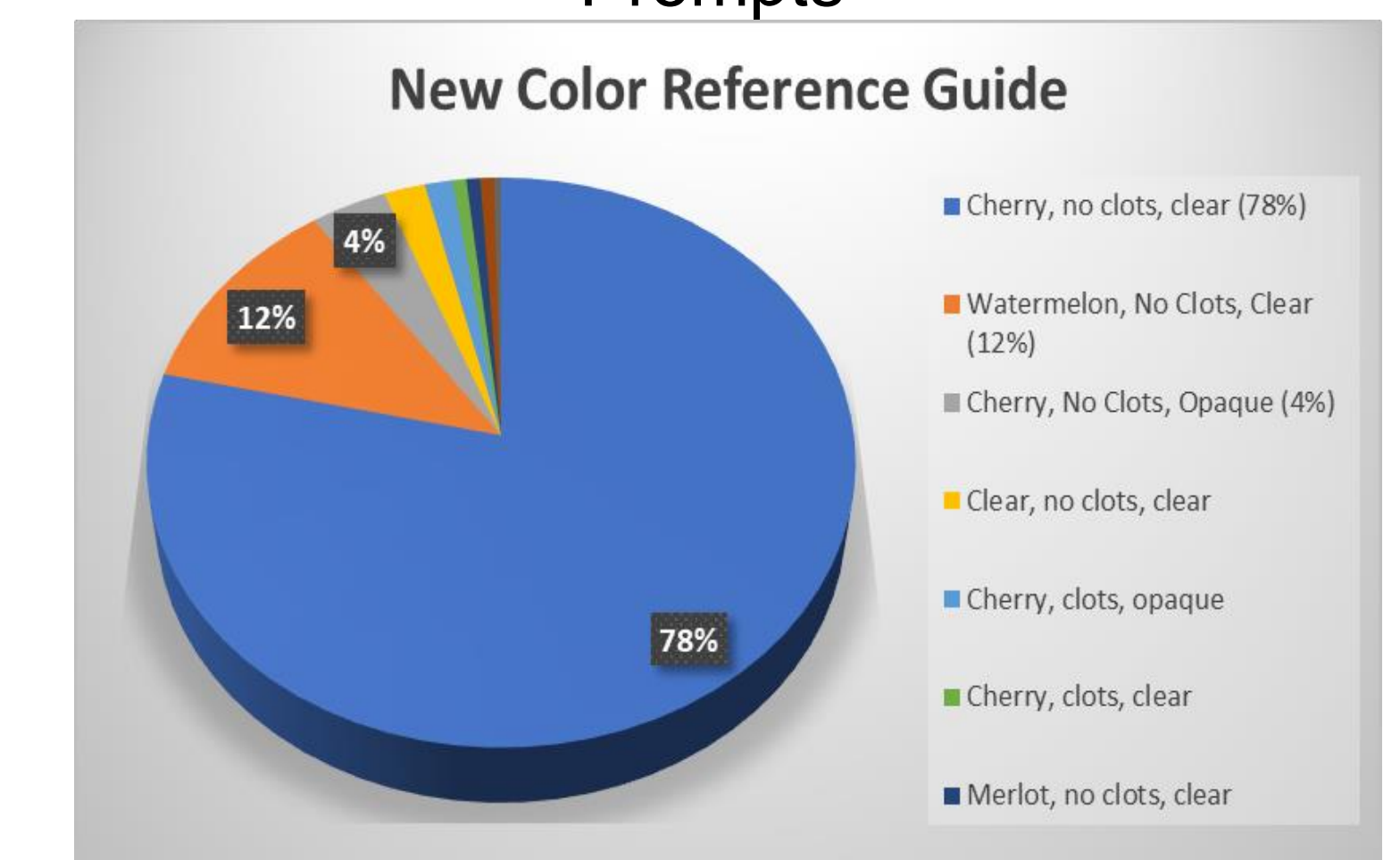


Table 1

Assessment Using the New Color Reference and Specific Prompts

	Color			Clot Presence		Clarity	
	Cherry	Watermelon	Other	Yes	No	Yes	No
Urology Nurse (n = 17)	71%	29%	0%	0%	100%	94%	6%
Non-Urology Nurse (n = 294)	84%	11%	5%	2.4%	97.6%	94%	6%
Urology Provider (n = 23)	61%	26%	13%	0%	100%	96%	4%

Conclusion

- A newly devised hematuria color guide and prompting assessment significantly reduced variations in hematuria descriptions from health care providers.
- Nearly all surveyed nursing personnel would prefer to utilize such methodology.
- Prospective implementation to assess impact is warranted to evaluate the potential benefit with hematuria communication.