

EVALUATION OF AN INNOVATIVE QTc MONITORING AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM: A PILOT STUDY (B4), Ederlyn Dia, Harminder Sikand. Scripps Mercy Hospital, Cardinal Health, San Diego, CA. (dia.ederlyn@scrippshealth.org) IRB approval is received.

Electrocardiographic (EKG) monitoring is an important tool in early detection and treatment of arrhythmias. Scripps Mercy Hospital currently uses continuous telemetry monitoring to determine risk of arrhythmias and prevent an adverse event when possible. Measurement of the QT interval corrected for heart rate (QTc) provides us with information on risk of a malignant ventricular arrhythmia called torsades de pointes (TdP). Medication induced QTc prolongation can be a potentially serious side effect of a number of commonly prescribed medications. Our goal is to determine if Scripps Mercy Hospital QTc monitoring program in telemetry monitored patients will have a positive impact in improving patient safety, identify patients at risk for developing TdP and minimize the occurrence of this fatal arrhythmia. All eligible telemetry monitored patients with QTc prolongation, who presented to Scripps Mercy Hospital during the time period of November 2008 to April 2009 will be enrolled. Patient medical records will be reviewed for baseline QTc, age, gender, disease states, history of QTc prolongation, long QT syndrome diagnosis, new and current medications. This study will provide the means to better understand if a multidisciplinary QTc monitoring and intervention program will improve patient safety in our

institution and minimize the occurrence of TdP. Results and conclusion will be presented.