## Cheetah Medical™ Education presents —

# **FAST FLUID FACTS**



### CAN TOO MUCH FLUID HARM MY PATIENT?

by Sarah Mobley, RN

It seems well understood that not enough fluid can result in tissue hypoperfusion and cause damage to vital organs, but too much fluid can also cause damage.

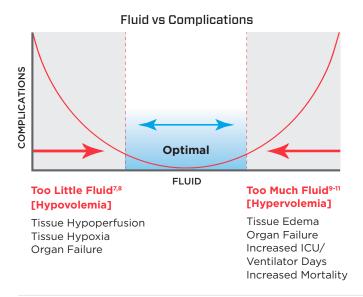
Both over and under resuscitation has been linked to suboptimal outcomes for patients.

In addition to lung and kidney injury, fluid overload has been found to increase the need for fluid-related medical interventions.<sup>2</sup> It is independently associated with both the inability to ambulate on hospital discharge, and discharge to a healthcare facility instead of home.<sup>3</sup>

Fluid overload places patients at a higher risk for hospital mortality and is considered to be an *independent* risk factor for mortality.<sup>4</sup>

That's a lot to consider when you think about how often patients are given IV fluids!

### IV fluids are drugs and should be dosed according to patient response.



Therefore, remember to always ask, "Will my patient benefit from IV fluid administration?"

Testing fluid responsiveness before you treat may lead to shortened time on vasopressors and less time in the ICU, as well as decreased need for mechanical ventilation and for hemodialysis<sup>5</sup>.

And remember, only ~50% of hemodynamically unstable patients will respond to fluids.<sup>6</sup> If your patient is not fluid responsive, this should raise questions about the value of further fluid.

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