#### Identification of Risks in Medical Laboratories

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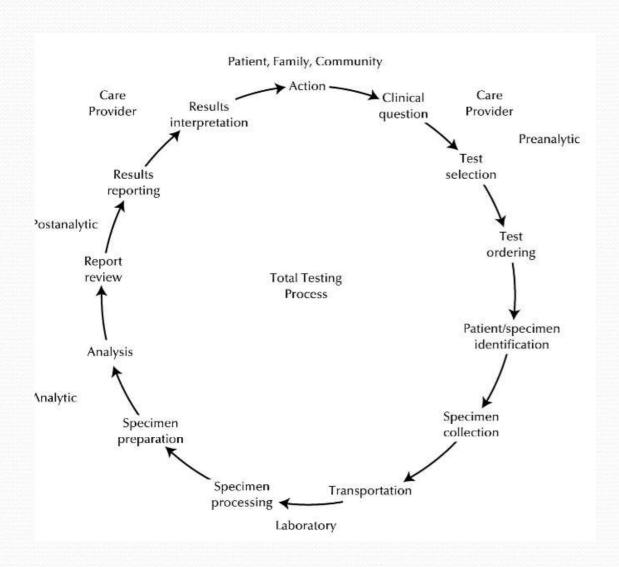
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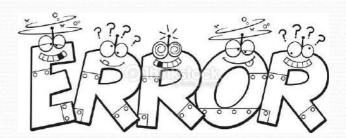
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# **Total Laboratory Process**



#### **Sources of Laboratory**



#### Errors within the total testing process



- Incorrect analysis ordered
- Orderer of the test not marked
- Incorrect test request
- Test request lost
- Patient identification error
- Patient preparation error
- Mislabelling of the test tube
- Sample collection error
- Incorrect handling of samples
- Transport error

- ·Sample lost
- ·Sample mix up
- Equipment failure
- ·Analytical error

- ·Test result lost
- Turnaround time
- Transcription error
- Incorrect interpretation

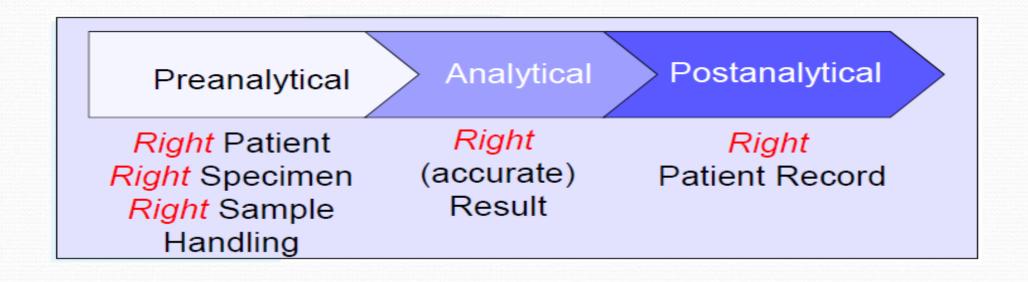
#### The Medical Laboratory has a wide Risk footprint



#### **Risk Definition**

- Risk, essentially, is the potential for an error to occur that could lead to patient/staff harm.
- Risk can be estimated through a combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm (ISO/IEC Guide 51, ISO 14971)

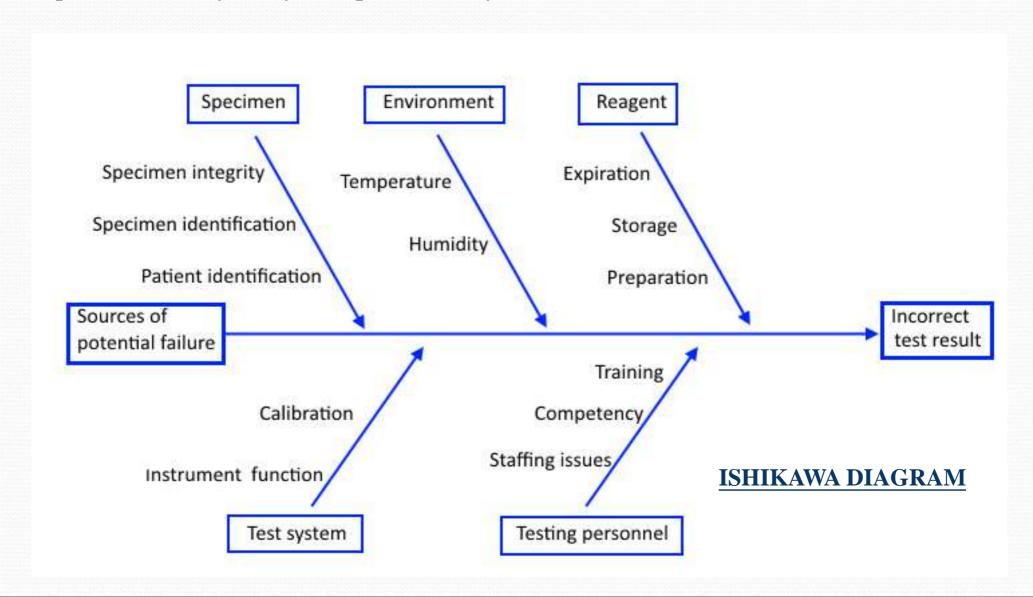
### **IQCP Development Process**



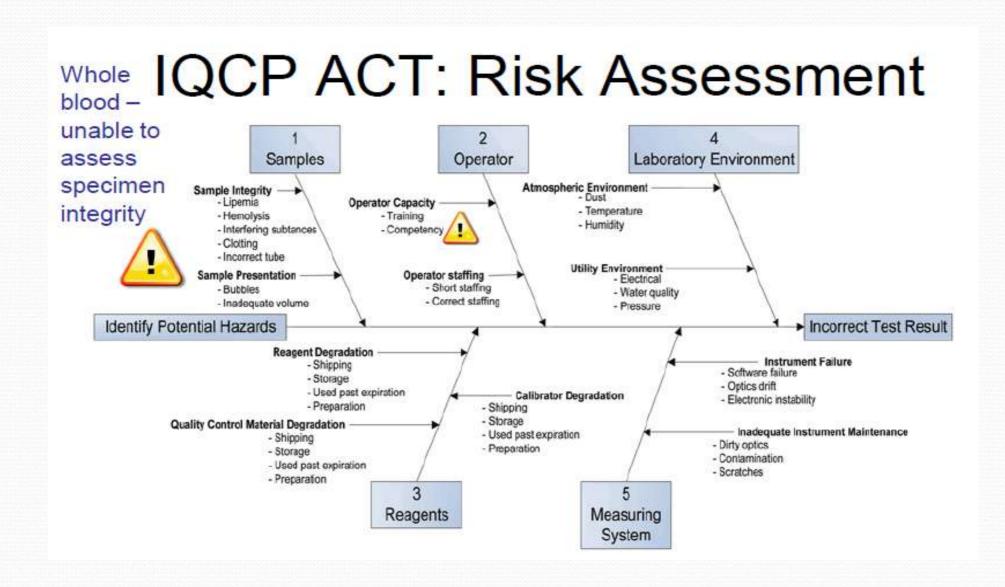
#### **Identify Risks**

Fish Bone diagram - tribute to its creator

-helps RCA- identity, analyze, improve Quality issues

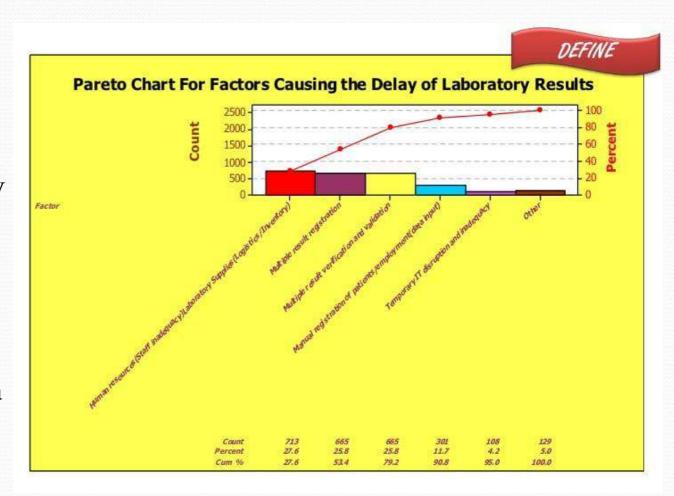


# Fish Bone Analysis

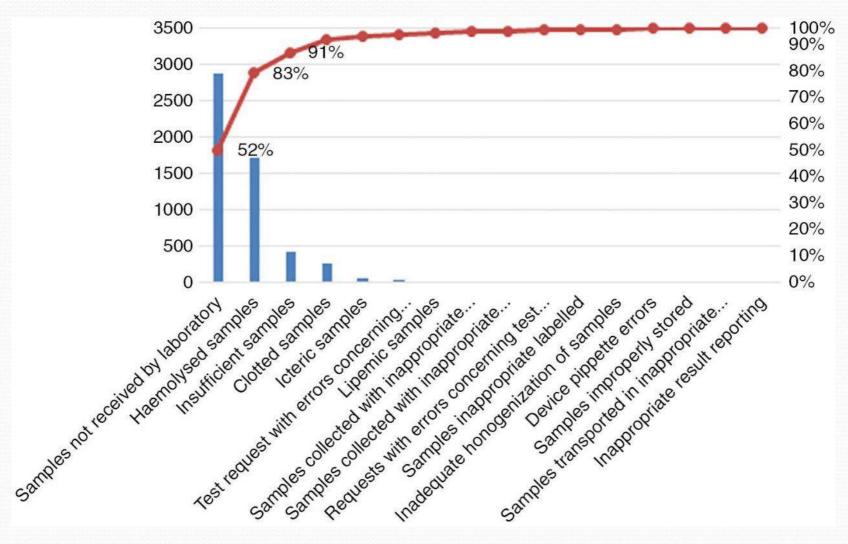


# Pareto Analysis – Quality Tool (TQM)

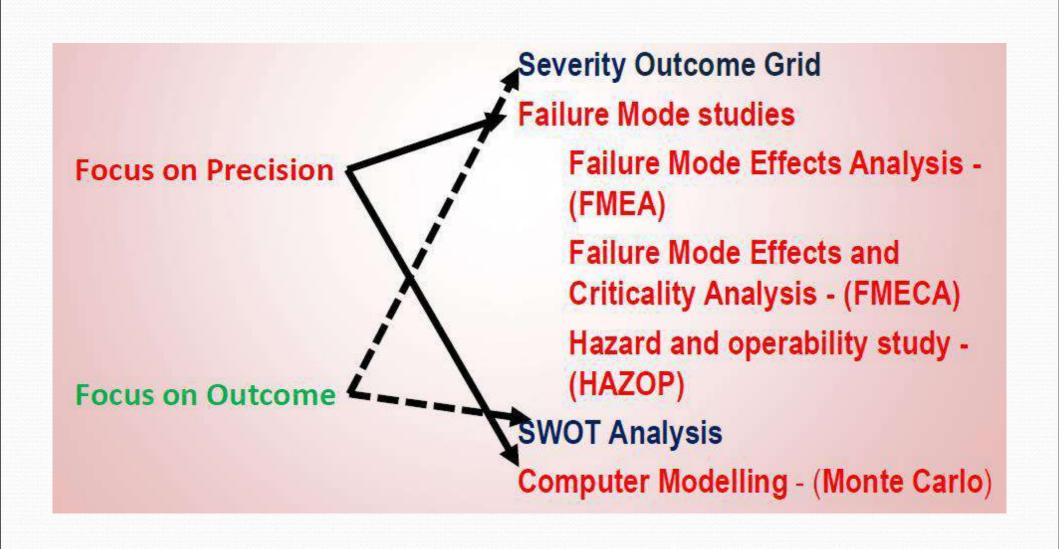
- Pareto Charts
- Trend Analysis:
- Pareto principle (80/20 rule) is that 80% of problems are produced by 20% of the possible causes
- Bar graph used to rank categories from most to least significant
- Helpful in displaying data presented for management review and action plans



# Impact of preventive action on rejection rates in pre analytical phase



## **Risk Identification/Reduction Tools**



- Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) systematic review that examines how failures can affect the instrument system or process; a "bottom-up" analysis.
- **FMECA**: "Failure Mode, Effects, and Criticality Analysis" estimates risk of failures & harm as part of analysis
- FRACAS: Failure Reporting & Corrective Action System- process by which failures are identified and analyzed so that corrective actions can be implemented.
- FTA: Fault tree analysis -systematic review of an instrument or system to identify potential sources of failure that starts by assuming a main system failure and determines what could cause it; a "top-down" analysis
- FTA and FMEA analyze comprehensive top-down and bottom-up risk analysis.
- FMEA/FTA is conducted in clinical laboratory before an assay or an instrument system is implemented/purchased.
- It is important to include preanalytical (preexamination) and postanalytical (postexamination) process steps in an FMEA/FTA.

#### FRACAS and CAPA

- FRACAS is sometimes confused with Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA).
- The difference for a manufacturer of FRACAS and CAPA – is the FOCUS!!!
- PRACAS, usually conducted by the Research and Development (R&D) department, focuses on design control measures. In a FRACAS conducted before release by a manufacturer, customer complaints do not exist, only *events*. These events could be harmful or could lead to customer complaints.
- CAPA, conducted by Operations Department and required by regulatory bodies, focuses on preventing the recurrence of nonconformities, which in some cases, can result in design control measures.





# Risk Identification





Analytical



Post analytical

### IQCP ACT: Risk Assessment

#### Severity of harm

	Negligible	Minor	Serious	Critical	Catastrophic
Frequent	not ok	not ok	not ok	not ok	not ok
Probable	ok	not ok	not ok	not ok	not ok
Occasional	ok	ok	ok 🤇	not ok	not ok
Remote	ok	ok	ok	ok	not ok
Inconceivable	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok

ISO 14971

Frequent = once/week
Probable = once/month

**Probability** 

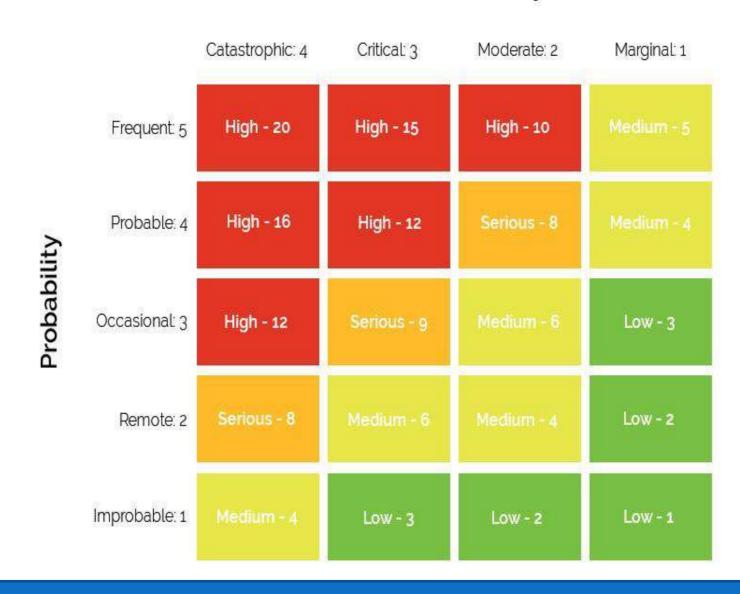
Occasional = once/year

Remote = once every few years Inconceivable = once in the life of the measuring system Negligible = inconvenience or temporary discomfort Minor = temporary injury or impairment not requiring professional medical intervention

Serious = injury or impairment requiring professional medical intervention

Critical = permanent impairment or life-threatening injury Catastrophic = results in patient death

# Risk Evaluation- Acceptability Chart (ISO 14971) Severity

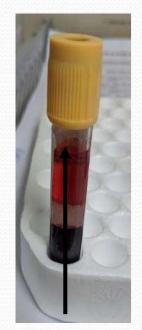


The Risk need to be evaluated against criteria approved by the lab director !!!

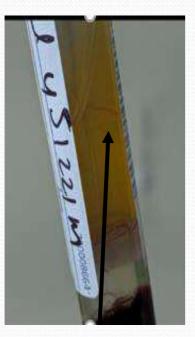
Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	in which   Failure/   Cause/RCA   Effect   Risk				CAPA			
	Sample Quality Compromised	lity		Probability	Severity	Criticality		
Pre analytical Errors (pre- examination)	Hemolyzed Sample (145/8285) 1.75%	Sample collection protocol not followed strictly	Repricks Patient harm TAT	5	2	10	<ul> <li>Sister on duty informed.</li> <li>Repeat Sample requested and received.</li> <li>Staff training</li> <li>Roving Phlebos</li> <li>Closed Collections – ECD</li> </ul>	
nalytical Error examination)	Clotted Sample (92/8285) 1.11%	Sample collection protocol not followed strictly	Repricks Patient harm TAT	5	2	10	<ul> <li>Sister on duty informed.</li> <li>Repeat Sample requested and received.</li> <li>Staff training</li> </ul>	
Pre a	QNS Quantity not sufficient (4/8285) 0.04%	Sample collection protocol not followed strictly	Repricks Patient harm TAT	4	2	8	<ul><li> Sister on duty informed.</li><li> Repeat Sample requested and received</li></ul>	

Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Inciden	Cause/RCA	Effect	Ris	Risk		CAPA	
ė.	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality		
Pre analytical Errors (pre- examination)	Lipemic (7/8285) 0.08%	Sample collection protocol not followed strictly	Comromised sample	4	2	8	<ul><li> Sister on duty informed.</li><li> Repeat Sample</li><li> Report on request</li></ul>	
Pre analytic	Wrong collection (5/8285) 0.06%	Sample collected from IV site or diluted Sample	Erroneous Results/ Repricks/ Patient harm	4	3	12	<ul> <li>Sister on duty informed.</li> <li>Repeat Sample requested and received.</li> <li>Staff retraining.</li> </ul>	

#### **Risk Identification & CAPA**



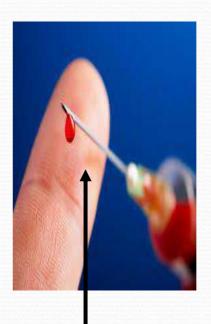
Hemolysis



**Fibrin Mass** 



**EDTA Under fill** 



Needle Stick Injury



Fibrin threads& poor barrier formation

**CAPA**: Shifting to <u>closed collection system in IPDs & ICUs</u> can reduce the burden of **pre-analytical errors** 

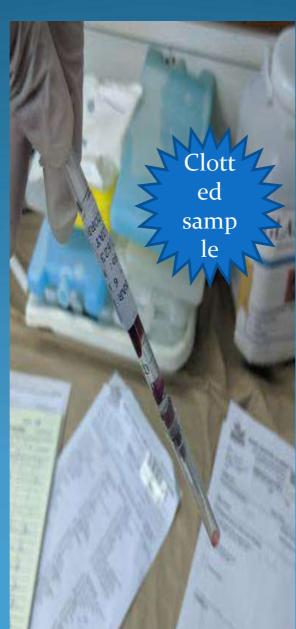
REDUCE – DOUBLE PRICKS, SAMPLE CLOTS, INAPPROPRIATE SAMPLE VOLUMES, NSIs, SPILLAGE, etc.



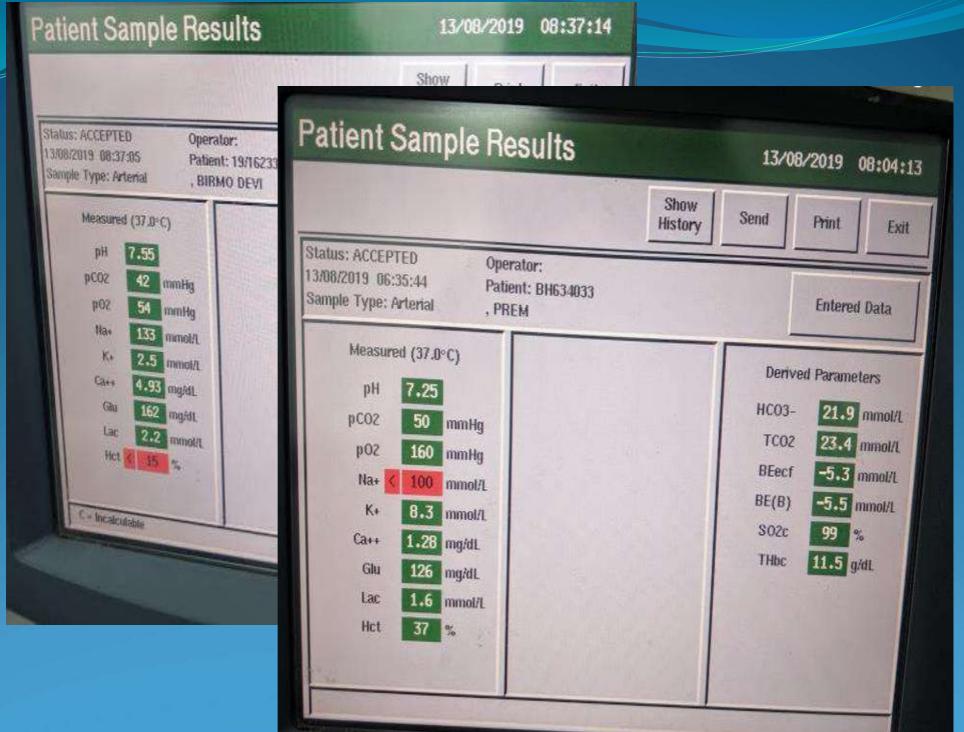
#### **Gaps in Arterial blood collection**

Sample flushed with liquid Na Heparin

Diluti onal effect of liquid hepari n



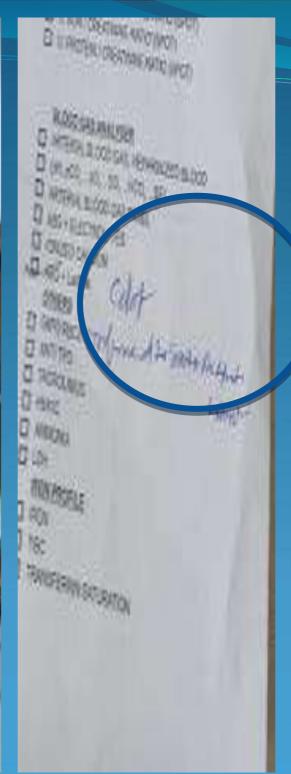






ABG sample taken in 5 mL syringe





				Timbers	is Brok		
11/10/14/19/13/1			PC00	PO	DE.	H062	M
14/163-624 130-756	Di-	N.	60	74-	-121	1704	7.5
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					<u> </u>		

Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Incident	Cause/RCA	Effect	Risk		CAPA	
	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Pre analytical Errors (pre- examination)	<ul> <li>Na is 118 in ABG</li> <li>Discussed with clinician</li> <li>Not acceptable</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Dilutional</li> <li>hyponatremia due to liquid Heparin in tuberculin (non-BD ABG syringe)</li> <li>NON VALIDATED</li> <li>(Wrong collection)</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Patient discomfort</li><li>delay management</li></ul>	5	3	15	<ul> <li>Repeat ABG sample received in BD syringe</li> <li>RV Na: 132</li> </ul>
Pre analy	<ul> <li>O2 saturation 37 in ABG</li> <li>Discussed with clinician</li> <li>Not acceptable</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Suspected VBG</li><li>collection</li><li>(Wrong collection)</li></ul>	<ul><li>Patient discomfort</li><li>delay management</li></ul>	5	3	15	<ul> <li>Repeat ABG sample received</li> <li>RV O2: 97</li> </ul>

# BD Critical Care blood collection syringes BD blood gas syringes

### 5.2.1 Sample Device

In most instances, the ideal collection device for arterial blood sampling is a 1- to 3-mL self-filling, plastic, disposable syringe, containing a small amount of an appropriate anticoagulant, such as lyophilized heparin. The choice of the type of heparin depends on the specific analytes to be determined and the method of analysis. Because ordinary heparin can bind to ionized calcium and other electrolytes that are often analyzed with blood gases and pH, special preparations of heparin are available, which virtually eliminate the interference from heparin binding of these electrolytes.



### ABG CAPA - Validation Studies

- > ABG BD pre-heparinized syringes Vs 1ml tuberculin liquid heparinizised syringes
- Data analysis: Inter syringe comparison
- Huge variations in electrolytes
- False hyponatremia (Na+) > 10% diff due to dilutional effect of liquid heparin
- <u>False low Calcium</u> since Heparin binds Calcium of blood unlike Lyophilized Heparin saturated with Calcium to avoid any Ca chelation from blood.
- Erratic results Other analytes ie. lactate, Hct, HCO<sub>3</sub>-, TCO<sub>2</sub>, Glucose, etc. ? dilutional effects
- Effect on pCO2 and pO2- spuriously low in tuberculin syringes, due to the <u>diffusion of gases</u> from thin plastic wall of syringes, while with BD ABG syringe, due to the thick walled ABG syringe and rubber stopper to maintain the anaerobic state, the effect was not there
- \* MEASURE, MONITOR, REDUCE OCCURRENCE
- ❖ Management Review : − Circulars − MD
- ❖ Trainings BD retrainings -Induction plan Regular plan of all ICUs, wards, ER.
- \* ABG 10 clots/day to 0-1 Nil today

# The Covid-19 challenges!!!









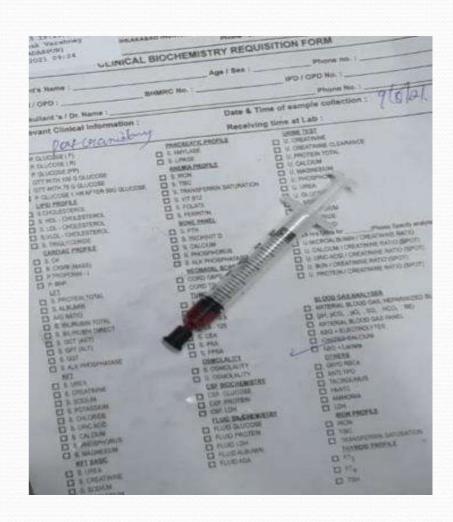


#### Case 1: The Covid Stories...

#### ABG sample: Discrepancy found in patient name on ABG sample & TRF

#### Pre-analytical (Risk!!)

- **▶**Wrong labelling/Wrong Identification
- > Huge Patient Influx
- >Over-burdened staff
- >Staff mistake in carelessness//hurry
- >PPE issues
- **≻**Effect- Patient safety/harm
- >CAPA- Fresh ABG sample, redo work, report ok
- **►Incident Report Raised**
- >DNS Informed/Staff counselling/retraining

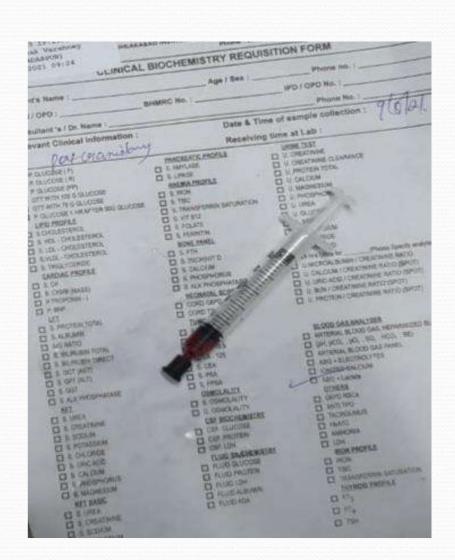


#### Case 2: The Covid Stories...(2nd wave...)

#### **ABG** sample - Without label

#### Pre-analytical (Risk!!)

- **➤**Sample quantity compromised?
- **➤**Without label ABG sample received in lab
- >RCA- labelling Error/ Patient Identification
- **≻**Effect Patient risk/safety
- >CAPA- Sample run after discussion with ER Head
- >RPAs-Internal/Third party
- **➤**Training Modules/Retraining



PRE ANALYTICAL ERROR (PRE-EXAMINATION) Case 3: The Covid Stories...

Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Incident	Cause/RCA	Effect	Risk			CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised		Probability	Severity	Criticality		
Pre analytical Errors (pre- examination)	<ul> <li>Wrong report of patient detected by Delta checks</li> <li>CRP</li> <li>Day 1:180</li> <li>Day 2:24</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Labeling error due to overburden of staff in pandemic situation</li> <li>(Wrong identification)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The Covid Story</li> <li>Staff shortage</li> <li>PPE</li> <li>Misleading information to clinician</li> <li>Provisional report uploaded</li> </ul>	4	3	12	<ul> <li>Fresh sample collected &amp; analyzed</li> <li>CRP Day 2         RV:380     </li> <li>Correlating clinically with patient's condition</li> <li>Final corrected report released</li> </ul>

Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Incident	Cause/RCA	Effect	Ris	Risk		CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Pre analytical Errors (pre-examination)	<ul> <li>K value 7.6,</li> <li>Phos- 8.2,</li> <li>Ca- 8.0;</li> <li>Not acceptable to clinician</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tight         tourniquet         application         suspected</li> <li>Incorrect         report</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Patient risk</li> <li>Psuedo- hyperkalemia</li> <li>Result uploading provisional report</li> <li>Lab - clinical validation by lab staff</li> </ul>	4	3	12	<ul> <li>Fresh sample collected properly repeated from other arm after stopping dextrose drip for 2 mts.</li> <li>Fresh sample taken and analyzed</li> <li>K- 4 .7,</li> <li>Phosphorus-3.4,</li> <li>Ca - 8.5</li> <li>Training of nursing staff -IP</li> </ul>

Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Incident	Cause/RCA	Effect Risk		Risk		CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Pre analytical Errors (pre- examination)	• K value >10, • Ca <2.0 • Not acceptable	Suspected KCL mix up (Wrong collection)	RESULT HALTED BY LAB (NIL) RISK MITIGATED	4	2	8	<ul> <li>Fresh sample collected after stopping drip and analyzed</li> <li>RV K 4.6 Ca 9.0</li> <li>clinically correlating</li> <li>Report released</li> </ul>
Pre analyt	<ul> <li>Na &gt;200 (NaF)</li> <li>ALP &lt;5 (Low due to EDTA in NAF vial – chelating effect)</li> <li>Not acceptable</li> </ul>	Serum analyte picked from Glucose vial, Wrong barcode generation (IT error- right click error)	RESULT HALTED BY LAB (NIL) RISK MITIGATED	3	2	6	<ul> <li>Repeat barcode generated for serum sample</li> <li>Sample reanalyzed</li> <li>Values ok</li> <li>Report released</li> </ul>

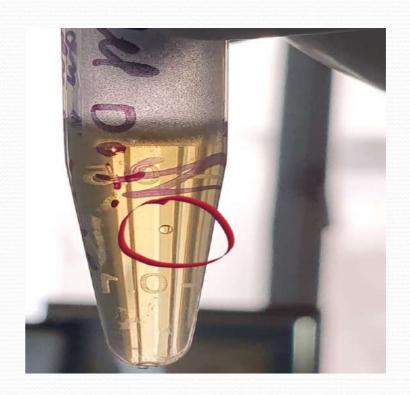
Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Incide nt	Cause/RCA	Effect	Ris	k		CAPA
4	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Pre analytical Errors (pre- examination)	<ul><li>Na Value</li><li>&gt;200</li><li>Not</li><li>acceptable</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Suspected Saline         mix up</li> <li>(Wrong         collection)</li> </ul>	Reprick	4	2	8	<ul> <li>Fresh sample collected &amp; analyzed</li> <li>RV 145</li> <li>Acceptable</li> </ul>

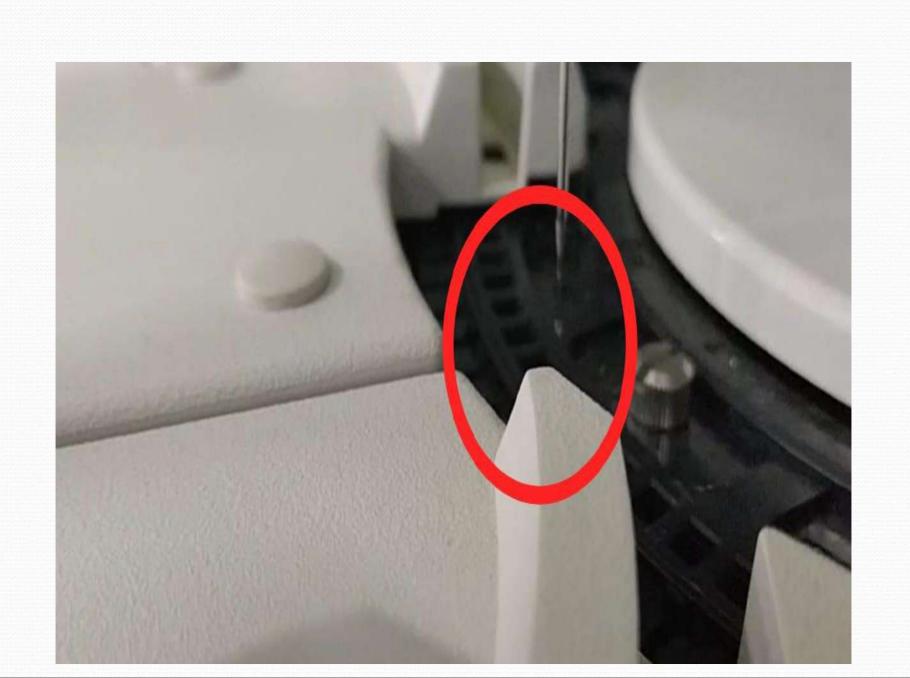
#### **ANALYTICAL ERROR (EXAMINATION)**

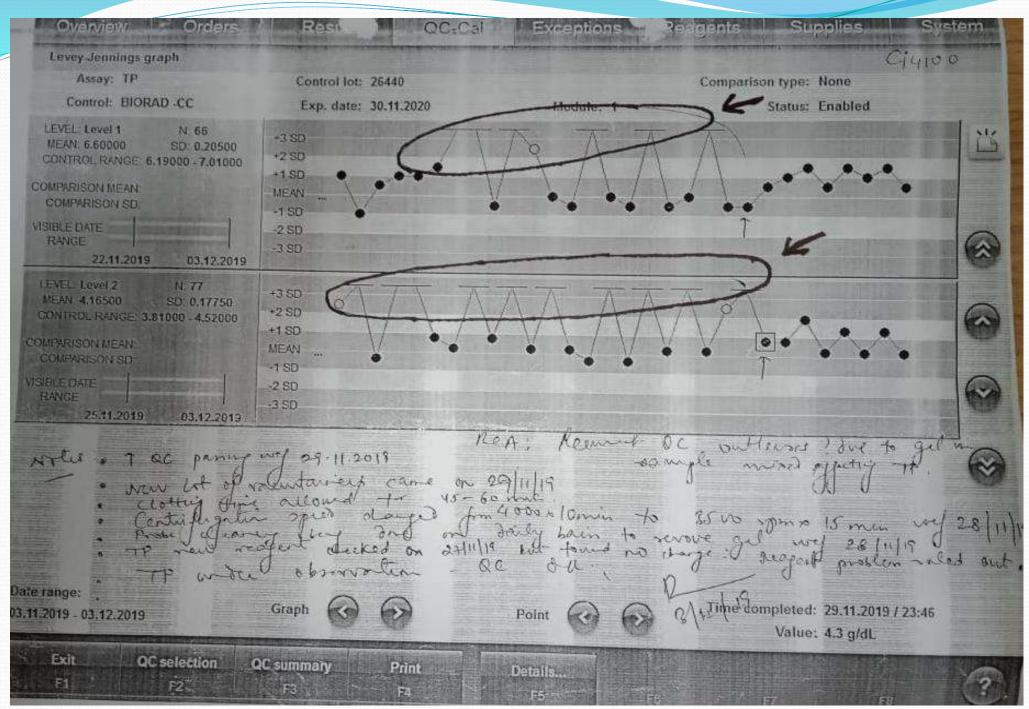
Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Inciden t	Cause/RCA	Effect	Risk			CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised		Probability	Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Analytical Errors (Examination)	<ul> <li>Frequent and Multiple random errors:1-3s     QC failures</li> <li>Observed in TP, Alb,     Calcium etc.</li> <li>Equipment Flag 3375.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Aspiration errors.</li> <li>Gel admixture getting sipped</li> <li>Gel found on sample probe</li> <li>Observed gel on some random BD SST tubes, samples</li> <li>RCA: BD gel melted during centrifugation.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Chaos</li> <li>Redo work</li> <li>Over     cautious     working</li> <li>Staff under     stress/</li> <li>TAT     challenges!!!</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> (Improbable)	3	3	<ul> <li>Complaint raised with company</li> <li>BD vacutainer lot changed.</li> <li>Changed probe.</li> <li>Changed centrifugation speed from 4000rpm for 10mts to3500rpm for 15mts.</li> </ul>

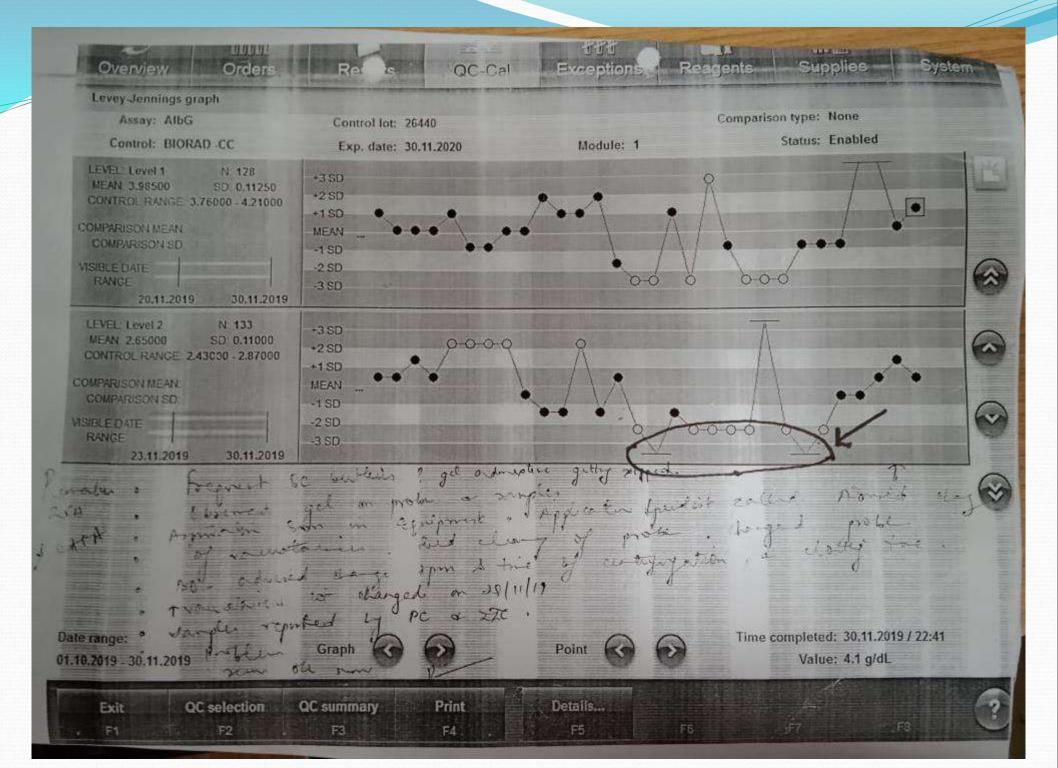
# Gel in Serum Sample

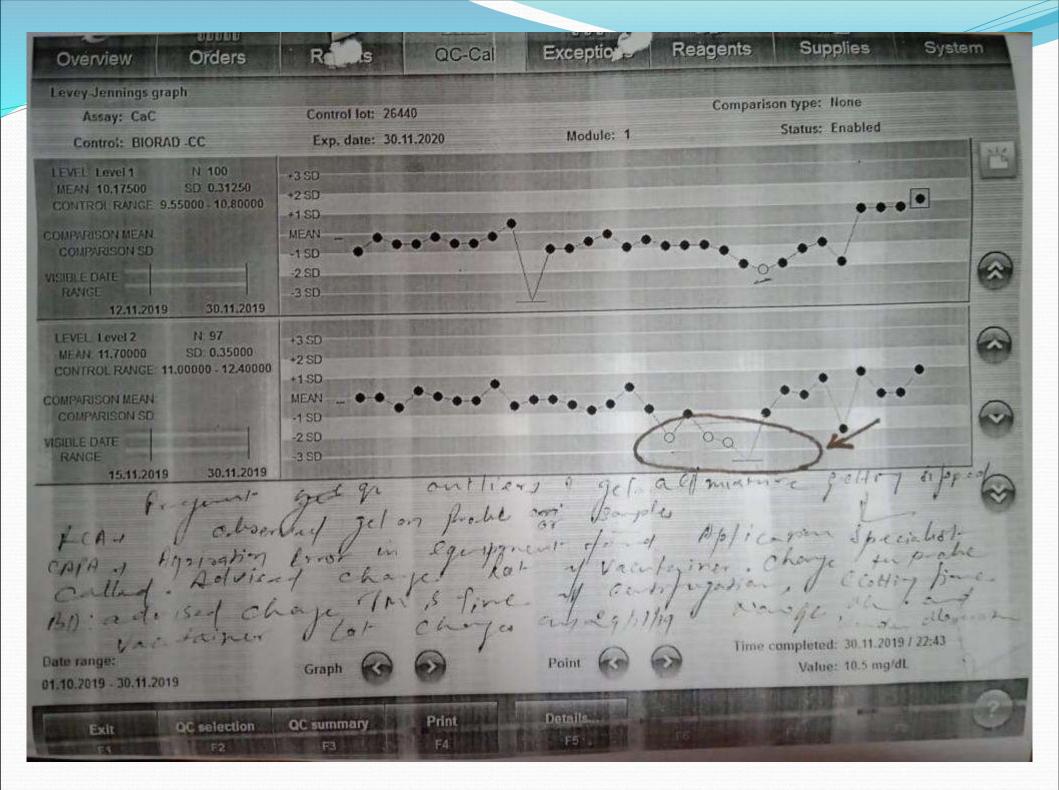












Steps/Ty pe of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Inci dent	Cause/RCA	Effect	Risk			CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Analytical Errors (Examination)	Multiple analyte QC failures (1/39688)	<ul> <li>Poor feed water quality? TDS250</li> <li>RO Filtration failed</li> <li>Post filter TDS:7</li> <li>VERY HIGH</li> <li>Acceptable Limits TDS &lt;1</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All WORK HALTED!!!</li> <li>Wrong report released of one patient report</li> <li>UA 6.8, Chol 341, HDL-C 63, LDL- C 106, TG 892</li> <li>Risk !!!</li> </ul>	1	4	4	<ul> <li>All reports reviewed</li> <li>One report which was released was recalled</li> <li>Entire water pipeline of water supply to equipment was cleaned</li> <li>Equipment daily maintenance,</li> <li>QC rerun – ok</li> <li>Patient sample reanalyzed:</li> <li>UA - 7.3, CHOL 195,HDL-C 29, LDL-C 79,TG 531</li> <li>Amended Report issued</li> <li>Internal protocol for feed water to lab - revised</li> <li>Water systems –Pipeline changed</li> </ul>

#### **ANALYTICAL ERROR (EXAMINATION)**

Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Inciden t	Cause/RCA	Effect	Risk			CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Analytical Errors (Examination)	Ca value is 17.5  Not acceptable!!!	<ul> <li>Fibrin picked by machine and error given was ignored by technician.</li> <li>Equipment Flagged 3375 missed by technician</li> </ul>	Mitigated -discussed with Clinician	3	4	12	<ul> <li>Serum defibrinized</li> <li>Same sample rerun</li> <li>rerun</li> <li>Ca 8.5</li> <li>CAPA: retraining of technical staff on error codes</li> <li>Lab protocol to inform supervisor/HOD/clini cian</li> </ul>

#### POSTANALYTICAL ERROR (POSTEXAMINATION)

Steps/Type of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Inciden t	Cause/RCA	Effect	Risk			CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Postanalytical Errors (Postexamination)	•Wrong typed Vitamin B12 value 21.2 released	•Typographical error  (Post dispatch error)	•Mitigated	3	2	6	<ul> <li>Report recalled</li> <li>Vit B12 115 retyped correctly</li> <li>Amended report issued</li> </ul>

#### POSTANALYTICAL ERROR (POSTEXAMINATION)

Steps/Ty pe of error in which failure occurs	Failure/Incident	Cause/RCA	Effect	Risk			CAPA
	Sample Quality Compromised			Probability	Severity	Criticality	
Postanalytical Errors (Postexamination)	• Wrong value of  HbA1C typed 0.34 by  typist	•Typographical error (Pre dispatch error)	•Mitigated	3	2	6	• HbA1C value 6.0, corrected during authentication
	• Report typed without comments of Biological reference interval	•Typographical error (Pre dispatch error)	•Mitigated	3	1	3	<ul> <li>Report corrected during authentication</li> <li>Re raining of typist</li> </ul>

# A Note on What Are and Are Not Failures

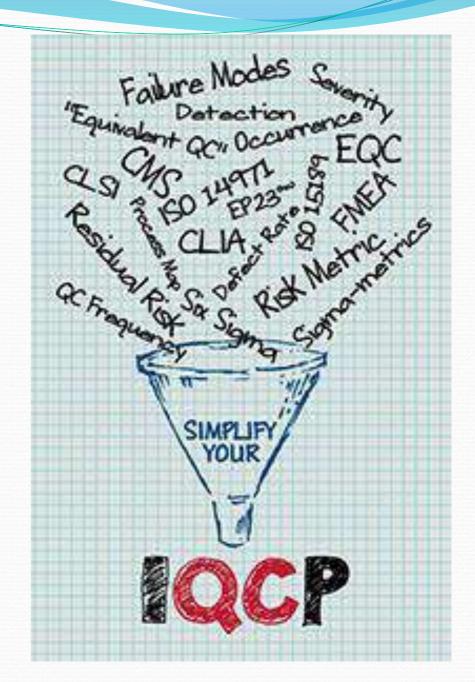
- Some failures occur at interfaces between the clinical laboratory and the clinician
- If a clinician makes an incorrect medical decision, but benefits from better information provided in a laboratory report, errors can be minimized
- Case 1
- 40 year male patient CKD, regular visitor for dialysis unit
- Lab Investigations: Urea: 109; Cr: 4.0; iPTH: 5250 pg/ml vv high
- Lab advisory: Hyperparathyroidism, need for further evaluation to rule out PTH tumor
- Case discussed with Nephrologist: candidate for surgical parathyroidectomy!!!

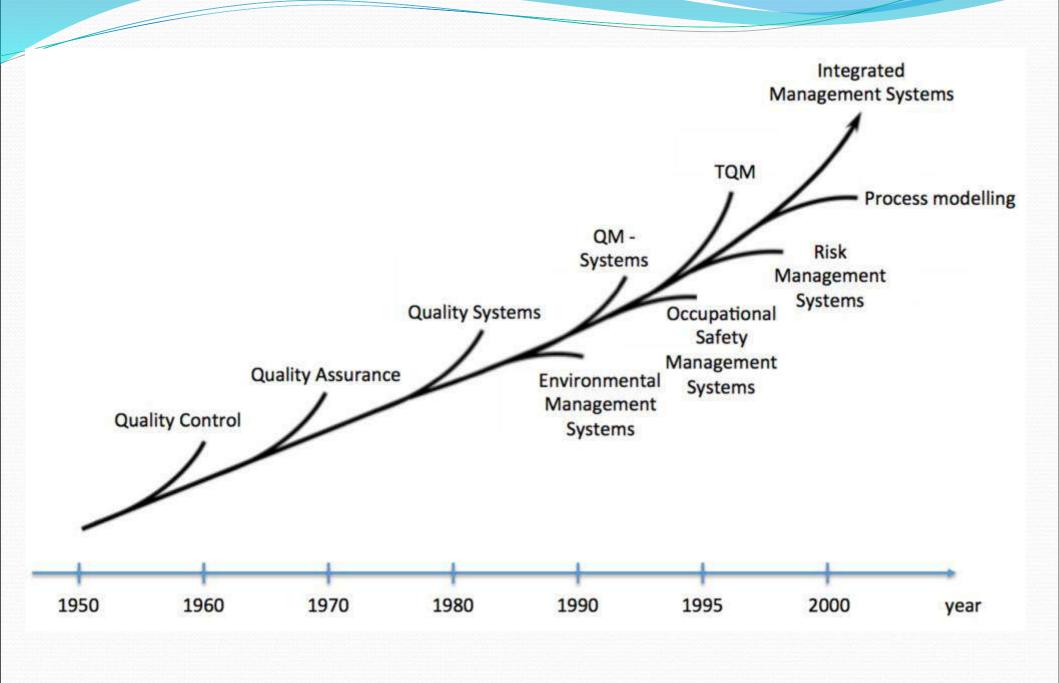
# A Note on What Are and Are Not Failures

- Case 2
  - Specimen: Pancreatic Juice/Fluid: For CEA, CA19.9, Amylase
  - CEA <0.5ng/ml; CA 19.9 < 2.0 U/ml; Amylase: 3.0 U/L
  - Cytology acellular findings
  - D/D : Psuedocyst, Mucinocyst
  - So probable diagnosis by Lab report is <u>Simple Hydatid Cyst</u>

# IQCPANIC?







#### REFERENCES

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- ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014

#### THE UNSUNG LAB HEROS!!!













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