

# Is a Change in End-tidal Carbon Dioxide concentration associated with Hypotension during Periods of General Anesthesia with Stable Mechanical Ventilation? Analysis of a Large Cohort

Rama Sreepada<sup>1,2</sup>, Vanessa Giesbrecht<sup>1</sup>, Matthias Görge<sup>1,2</sup>, Perseus I. Missirlis<sup>1,3,4</sup>

1. Dept of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, BC, Canada.
2. Research Institute, BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver.
3. Royal Columbian Hospital, Fraser Health Authority (FHA), New Westminster, BC, Canada.
4. Fraser Health Authority, Surrey, BC

## BACKGROUND

Significant decrease in end-tidal carbon dioxide concentration (etCO<sub>2</sub>) can indicate decreased cardiac output [1].

Non-invasive blood pressure (NIBP) readings are sampled every 5 minutes [2], etCO<sub>2</sub> is monitored every 3-9 seconds.

## OBJECTIVE

To determine if acute decreases in etCO<sub>2</sub> can predict hypotension in patients undergoing general anesthesia during otherwise stable mechanical ventilation.

## METHODS

Study approved by the UBC Research Ethics Board (H20-01248).

Population: Non-cardiac surgery patients undergoing general anesthesia at a FHA hospital between Jan'14-Jun'20.

Artifacts were removed [3]; Stable ventilation episodes identified using positive end-expiratory pressure and minute ventilation.

Hypotensive instance defined as MAP < absolute threshold (65 mmHg or 50 mmHg) and MAP decrease ≥20 mmHg from baseline measurement (10 mins prior).

Magnitude of delta etCO<sub>2</sub> within stable ventilation period used to predict hypotension.

Area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC) was computed, and confusion matrix values were computed using the delta etCO<sub>2</sub> at maximum Youden index.

## RESULTS

Data were available for N=66,683 procedures (Table 1). Delta etCO<sub>2</sub> was -2 mmHg at the maximum Youden index.

True positive rate was 59% for MAP threshold <65 mmHg and 69% for <50 mmHg (Figure 1b,d).

No correlation was found in the differences from previous measurement between MAP and etCO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 2).

## CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

We found no evidence that acute changes in etCO<sub>2</sub> were a reliable predictor of hypotension.

Advanced analysis will be explored before ruling out this potentially useful clinical warning sign.

## References

1. JAMA 1987 Jan 23-30;257(4):512-5. 2. Can J Anaesth. 2018 Jan;65(1):76-104. 3. Anesthesiology. 2017 Jan;126(1):47-65.

*In this study, end-tidal carbon dioxide changes were not predictive of intraoperative hypotension as detected by non-invasive blood pressure readings.*

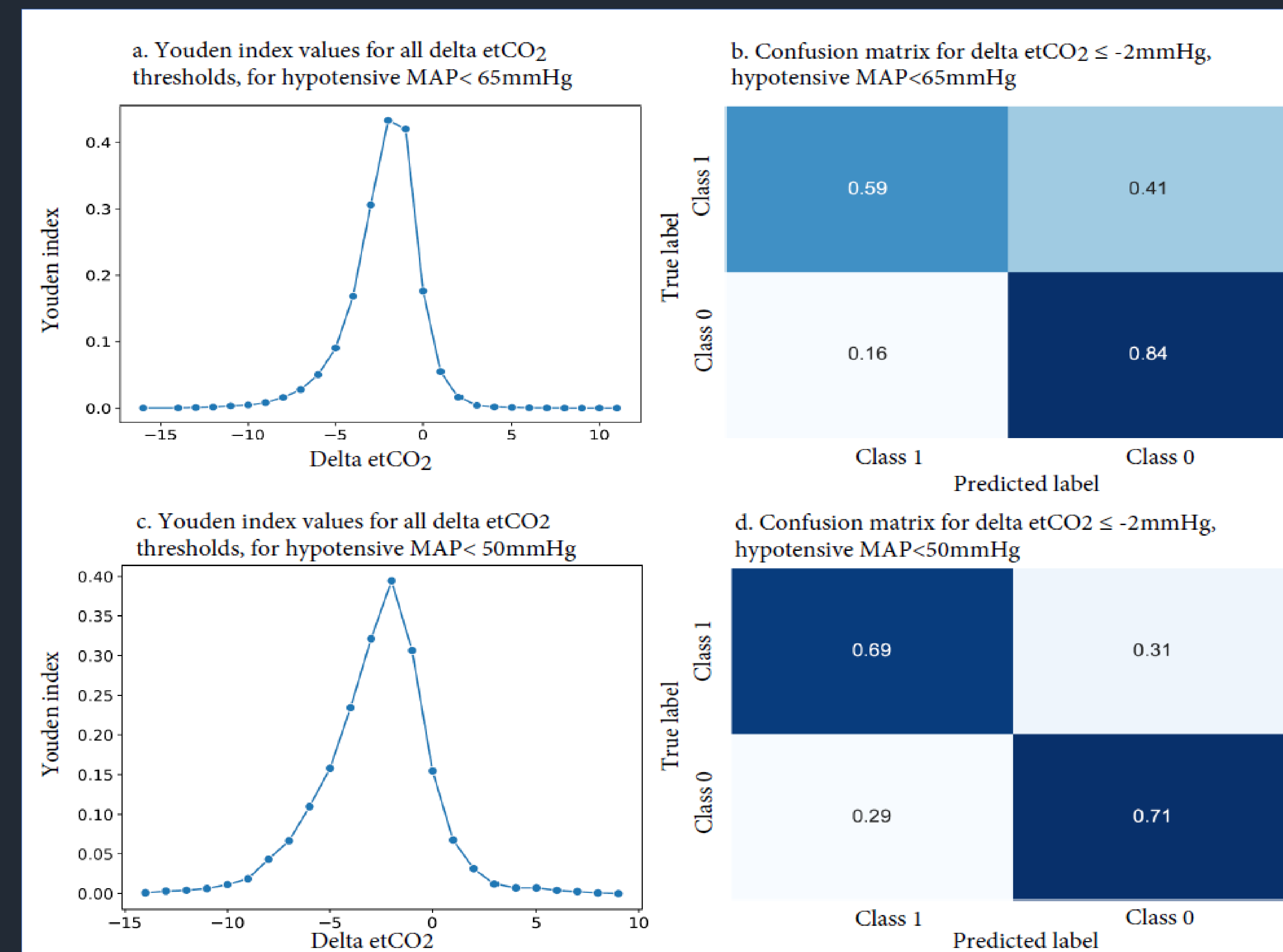


Figure 1: Youden indices for all delta etCO<sub>2</sub> thresholds and confusion matrices for etCO<sub>2</sub> ≤ -2 mmHg for hypotension defined as MAP <65 mmHg (a & b) and MAP <50 mmHg (c & d).



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Table 1: Number of procedures, candidate hypotensive episodes, and predictive performance for each definition of hypotension

	MAP <65 mmHg	MAP <50 mmHg
# procedures with ≥1 hypotensive episode	12,951 (19.4%)	7,903 (11.8%)
# episodes with MAP < threshold during stable ventilation	63,343	2,187
# episodes of stable ventilation with delta MAP ≥20 mmHg	7,456 (11.8%)	980 (44.8%)
AUROC (with 95% CI)	0.78 (0.77 to 0.78)	0.75 (0.73 to 0.77)
Maximum Youden index	0.43	0.40
Delta etCO <sub>2</sub> at maximum Youden index	-2	-2

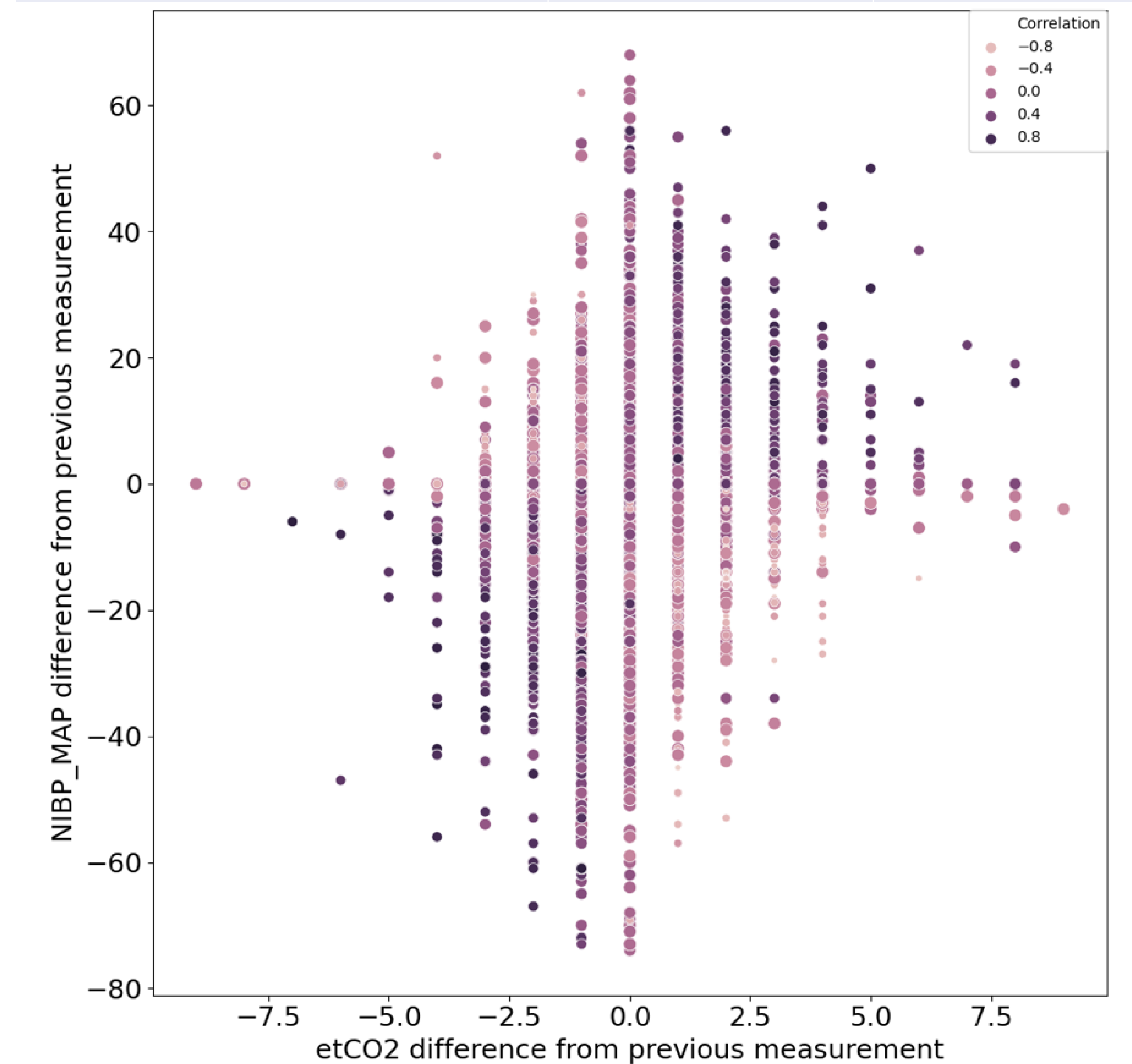


Figure 2: Correlation in the differences from previous measurement for non-invasive mean arterial pressure (NIBP\_MAP) and end-tidal carbon dioxide (etCO<sub>2</sub>); bubble size indicates the number of measurements at that point.



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