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Recording the rate of the cranial rhythmic impulse.

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Abstract

The rate of the cranial rhythmic impulse can be obtained by both palpation and instrumentation. However, the literature has reported higher rates obtained by instrumentation compared with palpation. The cranial rhythmic impulse has been demonstrated to be synchronous with the Traube-Hering oscillation, measured in blood flow velocity. The current study demonstrates that physicians tend to palpate the cranial rhythmic impulse and Traube-Hering oscillation in a 1:2 ratio. This finding provides an explanation for the difference between palpated and instrumentally recorded rates for the cranial rhythmic impulse.