

# An analysis of response times for detection of changes in cardiac output in post-operative cardiac surgery patients

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## Introduction

Pulmonary artery catheters (PACs) are used to monitor cardiac output (CO) after cardiac surgery, and are considered the gold standard [1]. However, PACs that use the continuous thermodilution method (CO-CTD) may show a delayed response to changes in patient hemodynamics [2]. Multi-beat analysis (CO-MBA) is a novel method to continuously measure CO from an analysis of the arterial BP waveform. In this analysis we assessed the difference in response times between CO-CTD and CO-MBA.

## Methods

This is a post hoc analysis from data collected from adult post-operative cardiac surgery patients in the ICU at the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. The primary analysis was aimed at assessing the agreement between CO-CTD and CO-MBA. A standard of care, CO-CTD was measured routinely using a PAC and CO-MBA (Argos Monitor, Retia Medical) was validated against this.

To denote a rapid change in CO, data segments were identified where CO-CTD increased or decreased by greater than 20% over 30 minutes. From the 79 patients' data available, 46 such segments were identified in 37 patients. Within each segment, CO-CTD was incrementally shifted back in time from 0 to 30 minutes, and the correlation coefficient (r) with CO-MBA was computed for each increment. As CO-CTD is shifted back, its alignment with CO-MBA improves until the optimal time shift, after which the correlation starts decreasing with additional time increments, resulting in a typical inverted U shape (example in Fig. 2). The optimal time shift, when the correlation is highest, corresponds to the average difference in response time in CO-CTD, compared to the CO-MBA.

Of the 46 data segments, the inverted U shape was observed in 37 segments. In these, the r value at zero time shift was 0.67 [median, 95% CI 0.15 – 0.91], and at the optimal time shift was 0.88 [0.56 – 0.95] (Fig. 3). The optimal time shift was 12 [4 – 24] minutes.

## Results

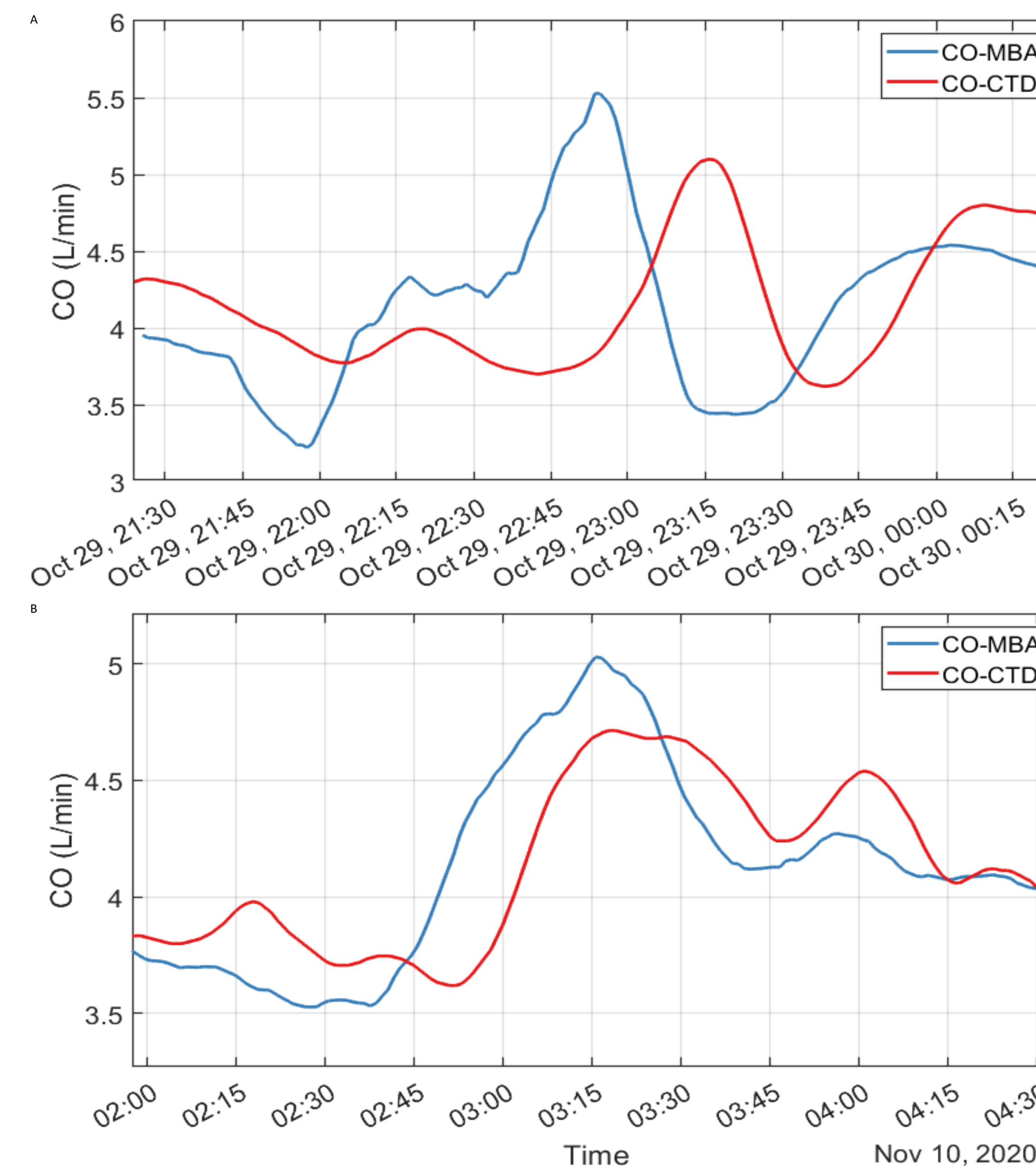


Fig. 1. CO-CTD and CO-MAB show similar but time-shifted patterns of CO changes

## Conclusion

The analysis presented here is a novel way to characterize differences in CO measurements timings from two methods. Aranda et al. found that the continuous thermodilution method has a response time of 11 minutes [2], and a manufacturer stated in an FDA adverse event report that the continuous thermodilution averaging time can exceed 20 minutes [3].

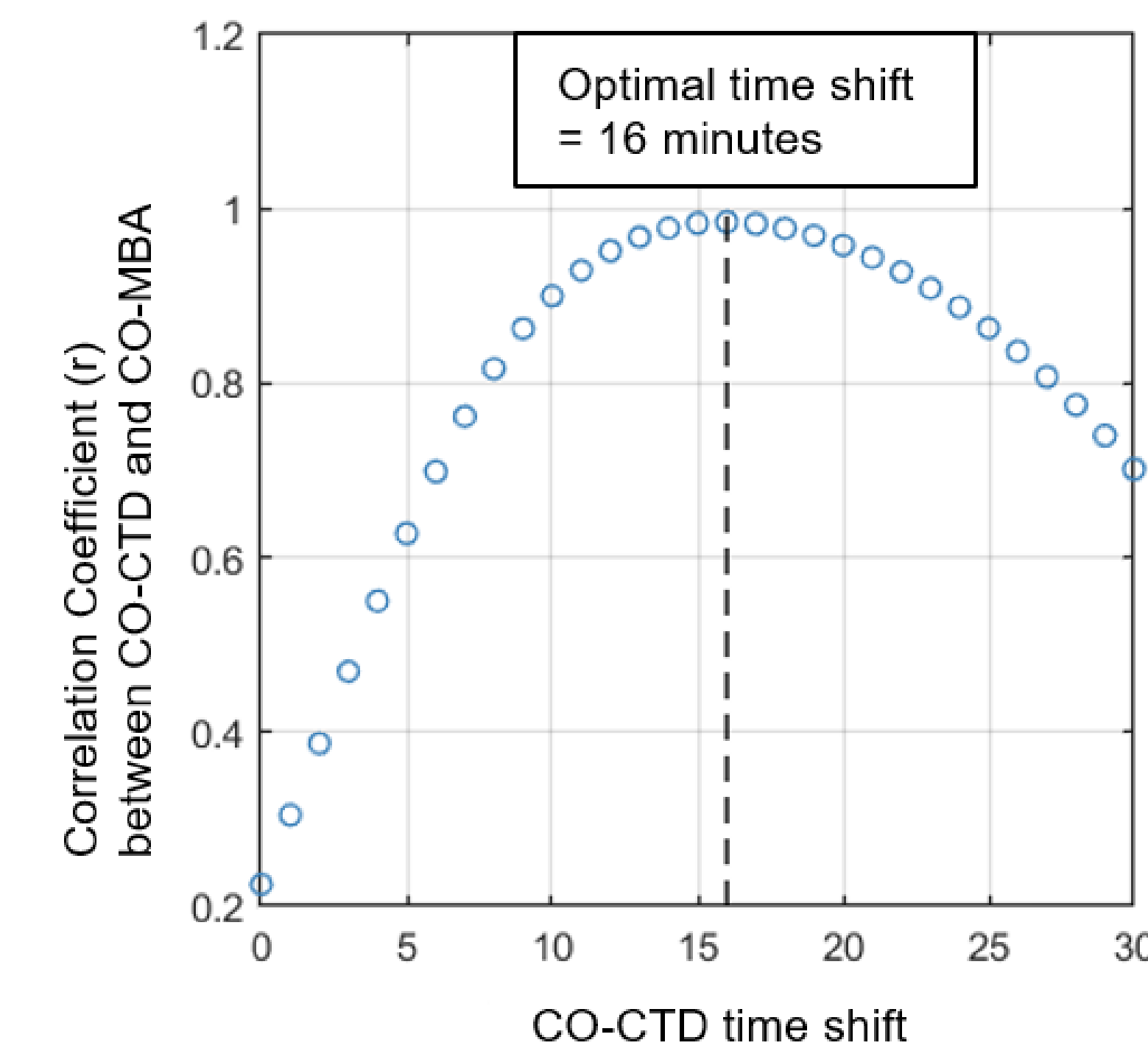


Fig. 2. Correlation coefficient at various time shifts.

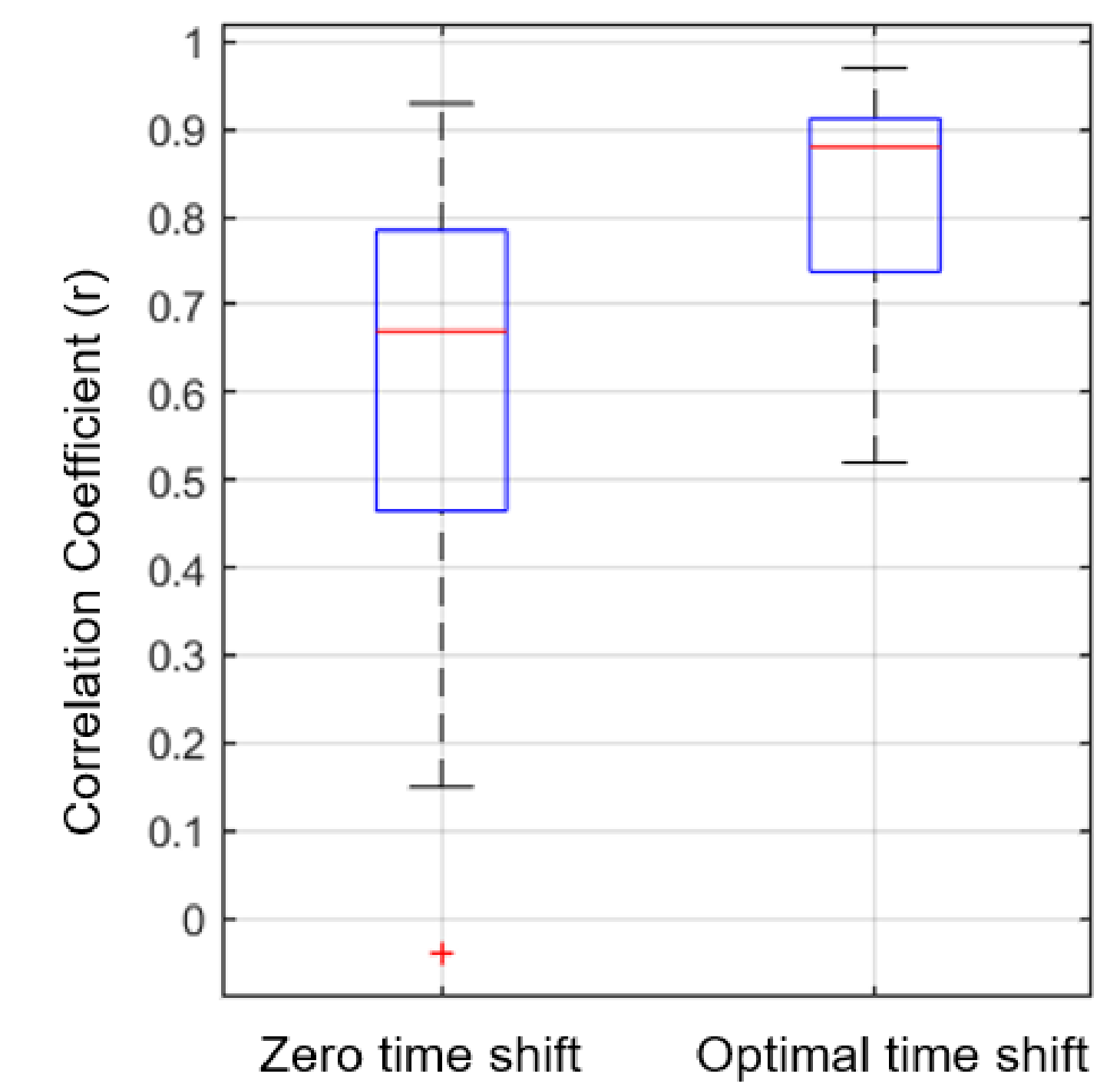


Fig. 3. Improvement in correlation after delay is taken into account.

Pulse-contour analysis methods such as the MBA algorithm have a near real-time response due to its sampling time of 20 s (see discussion in [4]), and show consistent accuracy, including the ability to maintain accuracy during SVR changes [5]. These devices may therefore be considered as a supplement for a PAC or a path to de-escalation of invasive monitoring for post-cardiac surgical patients. Further studies are needed to investigate the clinical relevance of these differences in response times in cardiac output measurement devices.

## References

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