

CLINICAL RESEARCH

ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME

Long-Term Effect of Early Metoprolol in STEMI

2356

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The objective of the METOCARD-CNIC (Effect of Metoprolol in Cardioprotection During an Acute Myocardial Infarction) trial was to evaluate the long-term effects of intravenous (IV) metoprolol administration before reperfusion on left ventricular (LV) function and clinical events. A total of 270 patients with Killip class \leq II anterior ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) were randomized to either pre-reperfusion IV metoprolol or a control. In patients with anterior Killip class \leq II STEMI undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention, early IV metoprolol before reperfusion resulted in higher long-term LVEF, a reduced incidence of severe LV systolic dysfunction and implantable cardioverter-defibrillator indications, and fewer admissions due to heart failure.

Editorial Comment: David Antoniucci, p. 2363

CARDIOMETABOLIC RISK

PCSK9 in Familial and Nonfamilial Hypercholesterolemia

2365

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The objective of this study was to assess whether elevated PCSK9 levels constitute a greater risk for individuals with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH) and already reduced low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR) levels. Circulating PCSK9 was measured in nontreated HeFH patients carrying LDLR missense mutations and in normolipidemic control subjects. PCSK9 dose-dependently reduced LDLR expression in control and familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) fibroblasts as well as reduced LDLR abundance in lymphocytes to similar extents. The results reveal that elevated PCSK9 levels are equally detrimental for HeFH and non-FH patients, and also explain why both types of patients respond to monoclonal antibodies targeting PCSK9.

Editorial Comment: Godfrey S. Getz, p. 2374

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