

PRACTICE GUIDELINE: FOCUSED UPDATE

2009 ACCF/AHA Focused Update on Perioperative Beta Blockade

A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines

Developed in Collaboration With the American Society of Echocardiography, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, Heart Rhythm Society, Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society for Vascular Medicine, and Society for Vascular Surgery

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Preamble

A primary challenge in the development of clinical practice guidelines is keeping pace with the stream of new data on which recommendations are based. In an effort to respond more quickly to new evidence, the American College of

Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association (ACCF/AHA) Task Force on Practice Guidelines has created a “focused update” process to revise the existing guideline recommendations that are affected by the evolving data or opinion. Prior to the initiation of this focused approach, periodic updates and revisions of existing guidelines required up to 3 years to complete. Now, however, new evidence will be reviewed in an ongoing fashion to respond more efficiently to important science and treatment trends that could have a major impact on patient outcomes and quality of care. Evidence will be reviewed at least twice a year, and updates will be initiated on an as-needed basis as quickly as possible, while maintaining the rigorous methodology that the ACCF and AHA have developed during their 25 years of partnership.

These updated guideline recommendations reflect a consensus of expert opinion after a thorough review primarily of late-breaking clinical trials identified through a broad-based vetting process as being important to the relevant patient population, as well as of other new data deemed to have an impact on patient care (see Section 1.1., Methodology and Evidence Review, for details regarding this focused update). This focused update is not intended to represent an update based on a full literature review from the date of the previous guideline publication. Specific criteria/considerations for inclusion of new data include the following:

- publication in a peer-reviewed journal;
- large, randomized, placebo-controlled trial(s);
- nonrandomized data deemed important on the basis of results impacting current safety and efficacy assumptions;
- strength/weakness of research methodology and findings;
- likelihood of additional studies influencing current findings;
- impact on current performance measure(s) and/or likelihood of need to develop new performance measure(s);
- requests and requirements for review and update from the practice community, key stakeholders, and other

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