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Role of diuretics in the harmful effects of beta blockers in patients with ascites

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I read the interesting article by Mandorfer M et al., which discussed the harmful effects of non selective beta blockers (NSBBs) in decompensated cirrhotic patients. (1) Approximately 50%-60% patients of cirrhosis with ascites will have varices at the time of diagnosis and majority will be treated with both NSBB and diuretics. However, in most of the original studies where NSBBs have been used for prophylaxis there is limited information about diuretic use, survival benefit, adverse events and control of ascites in this subgroup of patients. I would like to emphasize the role of diuretics and in combination with NSBBs which is out of the limelight in the recent controversy with the use of NSBB in advanced cirrhosis.

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