



CARDIOVASCULAR NEWS

Canadian Blood Services' holiday promotion a success

Canadians donated 111,748 units of blood, plasma and platelets between December 2, 2004 and January 14, 2005, in response to the Canadian Blood Services' "More the Merrier" holiday promotion.

The success of the five-week promotion enabled the organization to achieve 103.6% of its collection target of 107,825 units.

The promotion encouraged Canadians to be everyday heroes and spend a special hour with friends, family or co-workers by donating blood together.

A recent Canadian Blood Services survey indicated nearly 30% of eligible Canadians say they intend to donate blood in the next year, but in reality, only 4% of them do.

"As you decide on a cause to take up in 2005, please consider joining the everyday heroes of the blood system," said Dr. Graham Sher, Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Blood Services.

Patients Have a "More than Merry" Holiday Season Across Canada. Ottawa, Ontario, January 18, 2005.

ASCOT study shows significant benefit with perindopril

The antihypertensive arm of the multinational, randomized Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (ASCOT) compared the ability of two different treatment regimens to reduce a composite end point of nonfatal myocardial infarction and fatal coronary heart disease in more than 19,000 patients with hypertension.

Patients were randomized to receive a treatment regimen of the beta blocker, atenolol and the diuretic, bendroflumethiazide or a treatment regimen of the calcium channel blocker, amlodipine and the angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, perindopril.

The ASCOT steering committee stopped the study early after observing significant benefits in the amlodipine/perindopril arm of the study which would have made it unethical to continue.

Results from ASCOT are expected to be presented at an upcoming medical conference. Further information on ASCOT can be found at www.ascotstudy.org.

ASCOT Study, Which Included Perindopril, Stopped Early Due to Significant Benefit in Treatment Arm of Study. Palo Alto, California, December 15, 2004.