



CARDIOVASCULAR NEWS

Study shows losartan-based treatment significantly reduces BP

In a population of patients seen in family physician settings, the TITRATION-EXTENSION study demonstrated that the approach of using Cozaar® (losartan potassium), Hyzaar® (losartan potassium/hydrochlorothiazide) and Hyzaar® DS (losartan potassium/hydrochlorothiazide) significantly reduced systolic and diastolic BP in absolute mean numbers, by about 21 mmHg and 11 mmHg, respectively. Results of this new study were presented for the first time at the opening of the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in Montreal in October 2005.

“Since there was a high incidence of obesity and diabetes in the patient population for this study, results

suggest this titration approach is effective for the management of hypertension in a real-life setting,” said Dr. Howard Rudner, study investigator, Family Practitioner and Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

An estimated five million Canadians over the age of 18 have high BP and nearly 43% do not know they have it. High BP is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease—the higher the BP, the greater the risk of stroke, heart attack, heart failure and kidney disease.

TITRATION-EXTENSION study shows losartan-based treatment significantly reduced blood pressure in real-life practice settings. Press release. Montreal, Quebec, October 24, 2005.

BMI challenged as best obesity measure

Waist-to-hip ratio, not body mass index (BMI), is the best obesity measure for assessing a person's risk of heart attack, concludes a global study published in a recent issue of *The Lancet*.

The authors state that, compared with BMI, waist-to-hip ratio is three times more effective than BMI in predicting the risk of heart attack. If obesity is redefined using waist-to-hip ratio instead of BMI, the proportion of people at risk of heart attack increases threefold.

The investigators looked at BMI, waist-to-hip ratio, waist measure and hip measure in more than 27,000 people from 52 countries. Half the participants previously

had a heart attack and half were age and sex-matched controls (individuals who have not had a heart attack and were the same age and sex as cases). The team found that BMI was only slightly higher in heart attack patients than in controls, with no difference in the Middle East and South Asia. By contrast, heart attack patients had a strikingly higher waist-to-hip ratio than controls, irrespective of other cardiovascular risk factors. The researchers found that this observation was consistent in men and women, across all ages, and in all regions of the world.

Obesity measure should be redefined to accurately assess heart attack risk. Press release. Hamilton, Ontario, November 3, 2005.

MHI receives \$3.5M for new equipment from Quebec government

At a press conference held recently at the Montreal Heart Institute (MHI), Mr. Henri-François Gautrin, MLA for Verdun and Minister for Online Government, announced, on behalf of his colleague Philippe Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, that Quebec was contributing \$3,460,000 to the MHI.

The new cardiac catheterization room and electrophysiology room will both be furnished with leading-edge advanced technology equipment in cardiac angiography. This equipment is distinguished by its completely digital solar collector technology, which produces a better image quality than the traditional systems.

In terms of catheterization, the equipment paves the way to new techniques in rotation imaging, three-dimensional reconstruction and stent enhancement, making it possible to reduce the length of procedures and optimize treatments. In terms of electrophysiology, the equipment will improve imaging techniques necessary for the treatment of arrhythmias by catheter ablation.

These new acquisitions will allow the MHI to steadily improve the quality of care it gives to its clientele and solidify its position as a cardiology leader.

The Montreal Heart Institute receives \$3.5 million from the Québec government for the purchase of hi-tech medical equipment. Press release. Montreal, Quebec, November 7, 2005.

Lilly's Actos® reduces risk of further heart attack in diabetes

New results from a secondary analysis of the landmark PROspective pioglitAzone Clinical Trial In MacroVascular Events (PROactive) study found that Actos® (pioglitazone) significantly reduced the occurrence of fatal and non-fatal heart attacks and acute coronary syndrome in high-risk patients with Type 2 diabetes who had previous non-fatal heart attacks. Importantly, these benefits were above and beyond those seen with standard care treatment.

The findings, which were revealed recently at the 2005 American heart Association Scientific Sessions, build on previously reported results from the PROactive Study, showing that Actos significantly

reduced the combined risk of non-fatal heart attacks, strokes and death by 16% in patients with Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

“PROactive is helping map uncharted waters and will enable us to provide a better standard of care for this high-risk population with Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease,” said Dr. Michael George, Managing Director of the Takeda Europe Research and Development Centre. *PCard*

Takeda's Actos® (pioglitazone) reduces risk of further heart attack by 28 per cent in patients with Type 2 diabetes. Press release. London, United Kingdom, November 16, 2005