



CARDIOVASCULAR NEWS

Perindopril Reduces Dementia

New data from the worldwide landmark Perindopril Protection Against Recurrent Stroke Study (PROGRESS) study show that perindopril, a blood pressure lowering medication, slices the risk of dementia by nearly one third and the risk of severe cognitive decline following recurrent stroke by half. The data suggest that perindopril-based therapy may eventually be indicated for all patients with cerebrovascular disease, regardless of stroke type, initial blood pressure or concomitant drug therapy.

PROGRESS studied 6,105 patients with stroke or transient ischemic attack. Dementia and severe cognitive decline were assessed over a period of four years. Perindopril-based therapy was found to reduce the risk of dementia following recurrent stroke by 34%, the overall risk of severe cognitive decline by 19%, and the risk of severe cognitive decline following recurrent stroke by 45%.

Progress in Reducing Dementia and Severe Cognitive Decline in Stroke Patients. Prague, Czech Republic, June 25, 2002.

Acetaminophen Revives Hearts

Acetaminophen, the drug found in pain relievers such as Tylenol®, improves the recovery of heart muscle following ischemic attacks, according to new research from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Laboratory findings, reported by Professor Gary F. Merrill from the department of cell biology and neuroscience, suggest that acetaminophen exerts an antioxidant effect on heart muscle cells, shielding them against

potential damage caused by chemicals known as oxidants. Based on these findings, Professor Merrill attributed quicker post-ischemia recovery of the heart muscle function and circulation to the antioxidant properties of acetaminophen. Despite these conclusions, Professor Merrill does not recommend that acetaminophen users deviate from recommended dosages prescribed by their physicians.

Acetaminophen May Protect Against Heart Damage, according to Rutgers Research. Piscataway, New Jersey, July 22, 2002.

Diabetes Surpasses Smoking as Higher Risk Factor for CVD

Physicians ranked diabetes as the highest risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD), beating out smoking, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol or obesity, according to a survey presented at the American Diabetes Association's 62nd Annual Scientific Sessions.

Over 90% of the physicians participating in the survey reported that people with diabetes are "very" or "extremely" likely to have a cardiovascular event. Dr. John Buse, chair of the Association's Cardiovascular Initiative entitled "Make the Link! Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke," attributes the higher risk faced by diabetics to their insufficient knowledge about their increased risk and poor compliance with lifestyle modifications in treating CVD risk factors.



Physicians Rank diabetes as Higher Risk Factor for Cardiovascular Disease Than Smoking, New Survey Finds. San Francisco (California), March 28, 2002.