

ACE inhibitor and angiotensin-receptor blocker – A deadly combination

NEWS

ACEI, ARB combination therapy may increase risk of kidney failure, death.^[1]

VIEWS

The above news is an extract from the study to determine the safety of ACE inhibitor (ACEI), an angiotensin-receptor blocker (ARB) or a combination of the two. It was found that elderly patients on combination therapy had a higher risk of end-stage renal disease and death. Further with combination

therapy most patients stopped the drug intake probably due to low blood pressure.^[2]

It is particular to note that ACE inhibitor/ARB combination therapy has been shown to offer no significant clinical benefits over monotherapy, instead was associated with a worse safety and tolerability profile. No morbidity and mortality data for direct renin inhibitor (DRI)/ACEI or DRI/ARB combinations are currently available.^[3]

As of now it seems ACEI and ARB combination seems to invite trouble at a double speed.

News and Views

REFERENCES

1. Available from: <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20110322/ACE-ARB-combination-therapy-may-increase-risk-of-kidney-failure-death.aspx> [Last accessed on 2011 June 16].
2. McAlister FA, Zhang J, Tonelli M, Klarenbach S, Manns BJ, Hemmelgarn BR. Alberta Kidney Disease Network. The safety of combining angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitors with angiotensin-receptor blockers in elderly patients: A population-based longitudinal analysis. *CMAJ* 2011;183:655-62.
3. Düsing R, Sellers F. ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers and direct renin inhibitors in combination: A review of their role after the ONTARGET trial. *Curr Med Res Opin* 2009;25:2287-301.