Stroke Prevention: Indapamide, a Forgotten Option?

To the Editor:

We have read with interest the article by MacWalter et al.,1 the comment made by Fournier et al.2 and the authors’ reply. We would like to comment.

We disagree with some of the comments made by MacWalter et al. The recommendation of the use of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs) cannot be made on the basis of the findings of PROGRESS.3 The risk reduction observed with perindopril was a nonsignificant 5%. As has been described elsewhere, the lack of a factorial design, which must have included a group on indapamide alone, makes it impossible to know how much, if any, of the reduction observed with the combination therapy is attributable to perindopril.4,5

We agree that the use of ACEI might be beneficial, but, although members of a drug class share main actions, they may have clinically important differences in terms of efficacy and safety,6 which might explain the differences encountered with the efficacy of ramipril7 and indapamide alone.1 Comparative clinical effectiveness can be determined only by large randomized outcome trials comparing these 2 drugs head-to-head, and without that information we cannot recommend the use of perindopril. In the view of the beneficial effects of ramipril7 and indapamide,8 it will be very interesting to know if the combination therapy with ramipril and indapamide is more effective than with each drug separately.

Finally, we would like to remark that it is now clear, in opposition to MacWalter et al, that indapamide is renoprotective. Since Gambardella et al published in 1991 the renoprotective effect of long-term indapamide treatment, defined as a reduction in urinary protein loss in patients with type 2 diabetes and persistent microalbuminuria,8 many other authors have reported the renoprotective effect of indapamide, this drug being as effective as ACEIs.9,10

Note: Please address all correspondence to Dr Parra Ruiz.

Jorge Parra Ruiz, MD
Leopoldo Muñoz Medina, MD
Francisco Miras Parra, MD
José Manuel de la Higuera Torres-Puchol, MD
Service of Internal Medicine B
“San Cecilio” Clinic Hospital
Granada, Spain

Stroke Prevention: Indapamide, a Forgotten Option?
Jorge Parra Ruiz, Leopoldo Muñoz Medina, Francisco Miras Parra and José Manuel de la Higuera Torres-Puchol

Stroke. published online August 28, 2003;
Stroke is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2003 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0039-2499. Online ISSN: 1524-4628

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://stroke.ahajournals.org/content/early/2003/08/28/01.STR.0000089019.38390.71.citation

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Stroke can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Stroke is online at:
http://stroke.ahajournals.org/subscriptions/