ECMO Boosts Survival in Flu-Induced Acute RDS

BY KERRI WACHTER

ost patients in Australia and New Zealand who developed acute respiratory distress syndrome due to 2009 influenza A(H1N1) and were treated with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation survived, with a mortality rate of 21%. The results were drawn from data compiled during the winter season in these countries.

"Despite the disease severity and the intensity of treatment, the mortality rate was low," Dr. Andrew R. Davies of Monash University, Melbourne, and his colleagues reported.

"Our findings have implications for health care planning and the clinical management of patients with 2009 influenza A(H1N1) during the 2009-2010 northern hemisphere winter. Our results indicate that the incidence of ARDS [acute respiratory distress syndrome] sufficient to warrant consideration of ECMO ... exceeds 2.6 per million inhabitants."

With a similar incidence of ECMO use, the United States and the European Union could provide ECMO to approximately 800 and 1,300 patients, respectively, during their 2009-2010 winter season, the researchers wrote (JAMA 2009;302:doi:10.1001/JAMA.2009.1535).

The study by the Australia and New

Zealand Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Influenza Investigators included all adult and pediatric patients who were treated with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2009, in 15 ICUs in the two countries. Neonates and patients treated with ECMO for primary cardiac failure following heart and/or lung transplantation were excluded. All outcomes were censored at midnight Sept. 7, 2009.

A total of 252 patients were admitted with influenza to the participating ICUs. Of these, 201 received mechanical ventilation. A total of 68 received ECMO; 61 had confirmed H1N1 infection. The 68 ECMO patients had a mean age of 34 years; half were male. The most common comorbidities were obesity (body mass index greater than 30 kg/m^2), asthma, and diabetes mellitus. Six patients were pregnant, and four patients were

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post-partum. Three patients were children younger than 15 years. Of the 68 ECMO patients, 48 survived to ICU discharge (32 were discharged from the hospital and 16 were still hospital inpatients). Fourteen patients (21%) had died, and six remained in the ICU.

Among the 14 patients who died, intracranial hemorrhage (6 patients), other hemorrhage (4), and intractable respiratory failure (4) were the most common causes of death. Notably, 7 of the 10 pregnant/postpartum patients survived. All three of the children treated with ECMO were alive, though one was still in the ICU.

During ECMO, hemorrhagic complications occurred in 54% of patients and infective complications in 62%.

The researchers estimated the incidence of ECMO use for the combination of confirmed and suspected 2009 influenza A(H1N1) during the winter season to be 2.6 cases per million people. When only confirmed cases were considered, the incidence fell slightly to 2.0 cases per million. By comparison, 0.15 cases per million were treated with ECMO for ARDS in the preceding winter season.

The investigators also obtained data on 133 patients with confirmed H1N1 infection in the same ICUs who were treated with mechanical ventilation but not ECMO. Patients treated with ECMO had longer median durations of mechanical ventilation (18 days vs. 8 days), longer median ICU stays (22 vs. 12), and greater ICU mortality (14 vs. 12), compared with those who did not receive ECMO.

Dr. Davies treats patients in the ICU of Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. The authors reported that they have no relevant financial relationships.

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nemormagic stroke. **ADVERSE REACTIONS: CADUET:** CADUET (amlodipine besylate/atorvastatin calcium) has been evaluated for safety in ADVERSE REACTIONS: CADUET: CADUET (amlodipine besylate/atorvastatin calcium) has been evaluated for safety in 1092 patients in double-blind placebo controlled studies treated for co-morbid hypertension and dyslipidemia. In general, treatment with CADUET was well tolerated. For the most part, adverse experiences have been mild or moderate in severity. In clinical trials with CADUET, no adverse experiences peculiar to this combination have been observed. Adverse experiences are similar in terms of nature, severity, and frequency to those reported previously with amlodipine and atorvastatin. The following information is based on the clinical experience with amlodipine and atorvastatin. The Amlodipine Component of CADUET: Amlodipine has been evaluated for safety in more than 11,000 patients in U.S. and foreign clinical trials. In general, treatment with amlodipine was well tolerated at doses up to 10 mg daily. Most adverse reactions reported during therapy with amlodipine were of mild or moderate severity. In controlled clinical trials directly comparing amlodipine (N=1730) in doses up to 10 mg to placebo (N=1250), discontinuation of amlodipine due to adverse reactions was required in only about 1.5% of patients and was not significantly different from placebo (about 1%). The most common side effects are headache and edema. The incidence (%) of side effects which occurred in a dose related manner are as follows:

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Adverse Event				
	2.5 mg N=275	5.0 mg N=296	10.0 mg N=268	Placebo N=520
Edema	1.8	3.0	10.8	0.6
Dizziness	1.1	3.4	3.4	1.5
Flushing	0.7	1.4	2.6	0.0
Palpitations	0.7	1.4	4.5	0.6
Other adverse exp	eriences which were n	ot clearly dose related but	which were reported with an in	ncidence greater than
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Placebo-Controlled Studies				
Adverse Event	amlodipine (%) (N=1730)	Placebo (%) (N=1250)		
Headache	7.3	7.8		
Fatigue	4.5	2.8		
Nausea	2.9	1.9		
Abdominal Pain	1.6	0.3		
Somnolence	1.4	0.6		

For several adverse experiences that appear to be drug and dose related, there was a greater incidence in women than men associated with amindipine treatment as shown in the following table:

Adverse Event	amlodipine		Placebo	
THAT OF DETAILS	M=%	F=%	M=%	F=%
	(N=1218)	(N=512)	(N=914)	(N=336)
Edema	5.6	14.6	1.4	5.1
Flushing	1.5	4.5	0.3	0.9
Palpitations	1.4	3.3	0.9	0.9
Somnolence	1.3	1.6	0.8	0.3

Palpitations

1.4

3.3

0.9

0.9

Somnolence

1.3

1.6

1.6

1.8

0.8

0.8

0.3

The following events occurred in <1% but >0.1% of patients treated with amlodipine in controlled clinical trials or under conditions of open trials or marketing experience where a causal relationship is uncertain; they are listed or alert the physician to a possible relationship: Cardiovascular: arrhythmia (including ventricular tachycardia and atrial fibrillation), bradycardia, chest pain, hypotension, peripheral ischemia, syncope, tachycardia, postural dizziness, postural hypotension, vasculitis. Central and Peripheral Nervous System: hyposethsia, neuropath peripheral, paresthesia, tremor, vertigo. Gastrointestinal: anorexia, constipation, dyspepsia,** dysphagia, diarrhea, flatulence, pancreatitis, vomiting, gingival hypeplasia. General: altergic reaction, asthenia,** back pain, hot flushes, malaiser, pain, rigors, weight gain, weight decrease. Musculoskeletal System: artheniaja, arthrosis, muscle cramps,** myalgia. Psychiatric: sexual dysfunction (male** and female), insomnia, nervousness, depression, abnormal dreams, anxiety, depersonalization. Respiratory System: Gyspnea,** epistaxis. Skin and Appendages: angloedems, erythema multiforme, prufitus,** rash,** rash erythematous, rash maculopapular.**These events occurred in less than 1% in placebo-controlled trials, but the incidence of these side effects was between 1% and 2% in all multiple dose studies. Special Senses: abnormal vision, conjunctivitis, diplopia, eve pain, tinnitus. Urinary System: micturition frequency, micturition disorder, nocturia. Autonomic Nervous System: dry mouth, sweating increased. Metabolic and Nutritional: hyperglycemia, thirst. Hemopoletic: leukopenia, purpura, thrombocytopenia. The following events occurred in <0.1% of patients treated with amlodipine in controlled clinical trials or under conditions of open trials or marketing experience; loose stools, coughing, minitis, dysuria, polyuria, parsonia, taste perversion, abnormal visual accommodation, hospitalization have been reported in association with use of amlodipine. Amlodipine has been used safely in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, well-compensated congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, diabetes mellitus, and abnormal lipid profiles. The Atorvastatin Component of CADUET: Atorvastatin is generally well-tolerated. Adverse reactions have usually been mild and transient. In controlled clinical studies of 2502 patients, <2% of patients were discontinued due to adverse experiences attributable to atorvastatin calcium. The most frequent adverse events thought to be related to atorvastatin calcium were constipation, flatulence, dyspepsia, and abdominal pain. Clinical Adverse Experiences: Adverse experiences reported in \$2\% of patients in placebo-controlled clinical studies of atorvastatin, regardless of causality assessment, are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Adverse Events in Placebo-Controlled Studies (% of Patients)

atorvastatin

			atorvastatin		
Body System/ Adverse Event	Placebo N=270	10 mg N=863	20 mg N=36	40 mg N=79	80 mg N=94
BODY AS A WHOLE					
Infection	10.0	10.3	2.8	10.1	7.4
Headache	7.0	5.4	16.7	2.5	6.4
Accidental Injury	3.7	4.2	0.0	1.3	3.2
Flu Syndrome	1.9	2.2	0.0	2.5	3.2
Abdominal Pain	0.7	2.8	0.0	3.8	2.1
Back Pain	3.0	2.8	0.0	3.8	1.1
Allergic Reaction	2.6	0.9	2.8	1.3	0.0
Asthenia	1.9	2.2	0.0	3.8	0.0
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM					
Constipation	1.8	2.1	0.0	2.5	1.1
Diarrhea	1.5	2.7	0.0	3.8	5.3
Dyspepsia	4.1	2.3	2.8	1.3	2.1
Flatulence	3.3	2.1	2.8	1.3	1.1
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM					
Sinusitis	2.6	2.8	0.0	2.5	6.4
Pharyngitis	1.5	2.5	0.0	1.3	2.1
SKIN AND APPENDAGES					
Rash	0.7	3.9	2.8	3.8	1.1
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYST					
Arthralgia	1.5	2.0	0.0	5.1	0.0
Myalgia	1.1	3.2	5.6	1.3	0.0
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MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Arthralgia

1.5

2.0

0.0

5.1

0.0

Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (ASCDT): In ASCOT (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLORY, Clinical Studies With Advanstatin) involving 10.305 participants treated with atorvastatin 10 mg daily (n=5,168) or placebo (n=5,137), the safety and tolerability profile of the group treated with atorvastatin was comparable to that of the group treated with placebo during a median of 3.3 years of follow-up. Collaborative Atorvastatin binology (CARDS): in CARDS (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Studies with Atorvastatin) involving (2ARDS): in CARDS (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Studies, Clinical Studies with Atorvastatin) involving 2838 subjects with type 2 diabetes treated with LIPTOR 10 mg daily (n=1428) or placebo (n=1410), there was no difference in the overall frequency of adverse events or serious adverse events between the treatment groups during a median follow-up of 3.9 years. No cases of rhabdomyolysis were reported. Treating to New Targets Study (TMT): In TIY (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Studies) involving 10.001 subjects with clinically evident CHD reated with LIPTOR 10 mg daily (n=5006) or LIPITOR 80 mg daily (n=4995), there were more serious adverse events and discontinuations due to adverse events event serious adverse event men (0.2%) individuals with atorvastatin 70 mg, Elevations of CK (3.10 x LIV) were low verifical studies in the high-dose atorvastatin studies in the high-dose atorvastatin reatment group (13, 0.3%) compared to the low-dose atorvastatin reatment group (13, 0.3%) compared to the low-dose atorvastatin group (6.1%). Incremental Decrease in Endpoints Through Aggressive Lipid Lowering Study (IDEAL). In IDEAL (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Studies) involving 8.888 subjects treated with LIPITOR 80 mg/day (n=4449) or simvastatin group (6.1%). Incremental Decrease in Endpoints Through Aggressive Lipid Lower

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