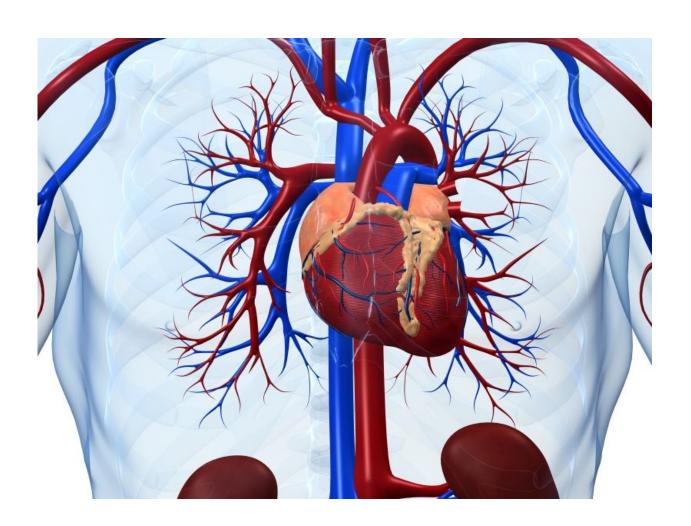


## Early administration of beta-blockers ups survival in ACS

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(HealthDay)—For patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS), early



administration of  $\beta$ -blockers is associated with increased short-term survival and improved left ventricular function, according to a study published in the March 1 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

Raffaele Bugiardini, M.D., from the University of Bologna in Italy, and colleagues examined whether earlier administration of oral  $\beta$ -blocker therapy correlates with increased short-term survival and improved left ventricular function in <u>patients</u> with ACS. Data were included for 5,259 eligible patients enrolled in the International Survey of Acute Coronary Syndromes in Transitional Countries registry.

The researchers found that oral  $\beta$ -blockers were administered soon after hospital admission ( $\leq$ 24 hours) in 1,377 patients and later during hospital stay for 3,882 patients. Early  $\beta$ -blocker therapy correlated with reduced in-hospital mortality and reduced incidence of severe <u>left</u> <u>ventricular dysfunction</u> (odds ratios, 0.41 and 0.57, respectively). When patients with Killip class III/IV were included as dummy variables, significant mortality benefits with early  $\beta$ -blocker therapy disappeared. Propensity score-matched analyses confirmed these results.

"In patients with ACS, earlier administration of oral β-blocker therapy should be a priority with a greater probability of improving <u>left</u> <u>ventricular</u> function and in-hospital survival rate," the authors write. "Patients presenting with acute pulmonary edema or cardiogenic shock should be excluded from this early treatment regimen."

**More information:** Abstract

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