

Certain cardiovascular medications may increase risk of falling

June 7 2017

A new analysis suggests that among older adults who take cardiovascular medications, those using non-selective beta-blockers may be at an increased risk of falling compared with those using selective beta-blockers. These types of drugs are already known to differ by their receptor binding properties and their systemic effects on the body.

In the analysis of data from 2 prospective studies involving more than 10,000 individuals, use of a selective [beta-blocker](#) was not associated with fall risk, but use of a non-selective beta-blocker was associated with a 22% increased risk. In total, 2,917 participants encountered a fall during follow-up.

The results indicate that fall risk should be considered when weighing the pros and cons of prescribing different beta-blocker classes for older individuals.

"Drug-related falls remain under-recognized, leading to preventable falls and related injury. Precise prediction of drug-related fall risk is of major importance for clinical decision-making," said Dr. Nathalie van der Velde, senior author of the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* study. "Knowledge of type-specific effects such as selectivity in beta-blockers can be expected to improve decision-making."

More information: Annelies C. Ham et al, Beta-blocker use and fall risk in older individuals; original results from two studies with meta-analysis, *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* (2017). [DOI:](#)

[10.1111/bcp.13328](https://doi.org/10.1111/bcp.13328)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Certain cardiovascular medications may increase risk of falling (2017, June 7) retrieved 8 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-06-cardiovascular-medications-falling.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.