

Hydroquinidine cuts serious arrhythmic events in SQTs

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(HealthDay)—Treatment with hydroquinidine (HQ) prolongs the QT

interval in patients with short QT syndrome (SQTS) and reduces the occurrence of life-threatening arrhythmic events (LAE), according to a study published in the Dec. 19 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

In a cohort study, Andrea Mazzanti, M.D., from the IRCCS ICS Maugeri in Pavia, Italy, and colleagues conducted a matched-period analysis for the occurrence of LAE in 17 SQTS patients who received long-term HQ and compared the annual incidence of LAE off- and on-HQ in 16 SQTS patients who survived [cardiac arrest](#).

The researchers found that 15 of the 17 patients receiving HQ therapy continued treatment for six \pm one years. In all patients, QTc prolongation was observed (by 60 \pm 6 ms; P

"We demonstrated for the first time that treatment with HQ was associated with a lower incidence of LAE in SQTS patients. These data point to the importance that quinidine, that in several countries has been removed from the market, remains available worldwide for [patients](#) with SQTS," the authors write. "In the present study, therapy with HQ has been proven to be safe, with a relatively low rate of side effects."

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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