

# Beta-blockers have no impact on cocaine-related chest pain

3 June 2014

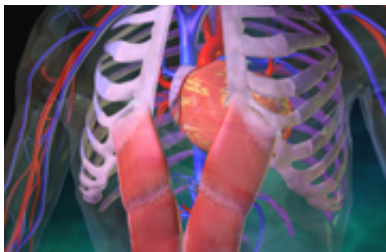


Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

(HealthDay)—For patients with cocaine-associated chest pain, there are no differences in outcome for those treated with or without  $\beta$ -blockers, according to a study published in the June 1 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

Zaher Fanari, M.D., from the Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Del., and colleagues compared in-hospital outcomes for patients with cocaine-associated chest pain who were treated with and without  $\beta$ -blocker therapy. After adjustment for clinical characteristics, propensity scores were used to assess the independent correlation between  $\beta$ -blocker use and the composite primary end point of myocardial infarction, stroke, ventricular arrhythmia, or all-cause mortality.

The researchers found that  $\beta$ -blockers were used in 44 percent of the 376 patients with cocaine-related chest pain. Patients treated with  $\beta$ -blockers were more likely than those with no  $\beta$ -blockers to describe anginal chest pain, have known [cardiovascular risk factors](#), and receive other antiatherosclerotic therapies. Patients treated with  $\beta$ -blockers experienced similar peak troponin levels, individual adverse events, and rates of the composite primary end point (15.9 versus 12.3 percent;  $P = 0.32$ ), in spite of having higher risk

clinical characteristics. After propensity score analysis, the primary end point was similar compared with patients not receiving  $\beta$ -blockers (odds ratio, 1.37;  $P = 0.42$ ), including specific comparisons of beta-1 selective (odds ratio, 1.83; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.79 to 4.24) and nonselective (odds ratio, 0.90; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.33 to 2.42)  $\beta$ -blockers.

"No differences in outcomes were observed between [patients](#) treated versus not treated with  $\beta$ -blocker therapy in the setting of cocaine-related [chest pain](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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APA citation: Beta-blockers have no impact on cocaine-related chest pain (2014, June 3) retrieved 17 October 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-06-beta-blockers-impact-cocaine-related-chest-pain.html>

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