

Oregon's Drug Review: **Evidence on Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists (AIIRA)**

AIIRAs control high blood pressure. These drugs also improve heart and kidney problems. AIIRAs relax blood vessels and lower blood pressure. The American Heart Association recommends AIIRAs following a heart attack if a patient cannot tolerate angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs, See Issue 8). The American Diabetes Association suggests AIIRAs for people who have diabetic kidney disease if a patient is intolerant to ACEIs.

Which Drugs Were Included In This Review?

This review looked at the following AIIRAs.

(It did not include AIIRAs in fixed combination with other drugs.)

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|---------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| • candesartan | (Atacand) | • olmesartan | (Benicar) |
| • eprosartan | (Teveten) | • telmisartan | (Micardis) |
| • irbesartan | (Avapro) | • valsartan | (Diovan) |
| • losartan | (Cozaar) | | |

What Do These Drugs Have In Common?

- All of the drugs listed above control blood pressure effectively.
- No difference has been shown among AIIRAs for side effects related to age, race, or gender.

What Are the Key Differences Among These Drugs?

- People with heart problems should ask their doctor about the preferred AIIRA.

Ask Your Health Care Practitioner During Your Next Visit:

- Am I taking the most effective drug for my condition?
- Are alternative drugs available that are equally effective?
- Are alternative drugs available that are effective, but less costly?
- Is there a generic drug available for my brand name drug?
- Will this drug interact with other medications I take?

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