

Oregon's Drug Review:

Evidence on β -Blockers (Beta Adrenergic Blockers)

β -Blockers control high blood pressure. These drugs also improve some heart conditions. B-blockers prevent migraine headaches. These drugs block adrenaline actions throughout the body.

Which Drugs Were Included In This Review?

This review looked at the following oral β -Blockers.

(It did not include β -blockers in fixed combination with other drugs.)

• atenolol (Tenormin)	• metoprolol succinate ER (Toprol XL)
• bisoprolol (Zebeta)	• nadolol (Corgard)
• carteolol (Cartol)	• penbutolol (Levatol)
• carvedilol (Coreg)	• pindolol (Visken)
• labetalol (Normodyne)	• propranolol IR (Inderal)
• metoprolol tartrate IR (Lopressor)	• propranolol LA (Inderal LA)

What Do These Drugs Have In Common?

- All of the drugs listed above control high blood pressure effectively.
- No major difference exists in safety or side effects among beta-blockers.
- No data exists on differences among β -Blockers related to age, race, or sex.

What Are the Key Differences Among These Drugs?

- People with heart problems or migraines should ask their doctor about the preferred β -Blocker.

The next time you see your health care practitioner, ask:

- 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 available for my brand name drug?
- Will this drug interact with other medications I take?

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