Mini-Symposium Highlights: Questions at the Start of Hypertension Treatment in Clinical Practice

To address the critical questions you may encounter during the start of hypertension treatment, our experts share their insights in a mini symposium chaired by **Professor Reinhold Kreutz** (Germany) and **Professor Alta Schutte (Australia)** at the **ESH-ISH 2021 Joint Meeting On-Air.**



Setting the scene for the discussion, **Professor Alta Schutte** reiterated that **ideally single pill combination (SPC) therapy** is the **first-line treatment** for most hypertensive patients when possible and available.¹

IN A HEARTBEAT

SPC therapy:

- Improves BP control^{2,3}
- Improves treatment adherence and persistence^{2,4}
- Simplifies treatment approach¹

Questions at the Start of Hypertension Treatment

Which drug classes should be the backbone of anti-hypertensive therapy?



Prof. Philippe van de Borne

Erasme Hospital Brussels, Belgium



ACE inhibitors and ARBs are the backbone of anti-hypertensive therapy¹



2018 ESC/ESH hypertension guidelines recommend ACE inhibitor or ARB (both RAASi) antihypertensive agents for initial dual combination therapy and as part of the 2nd step triple combination therapy in various settings¹



This combination strategy applies for hypertensive patients with¹:

- Uncomplicated hypertension
 AF
- CAD
- Heart failure

The RAASi are also recommended for **CKD patients**, particularly **ARB therapy** in **T2DM patients with nephropathy** as indicated by the **IDNT trial**^{5,6}

Which hypertensive patients should start treatment with monotherapy?



Asst. Prof. Jana Brguljan University Medical Centre Ljubljana Ljujublana, Slovenia



Patients with **grade 1 hypertension, young adults** (<50 y.o.) with low to moderate CV risk, high-normal blood pressure with **CAD**, **pregnant** and **menopausal women** and **frail elderly patients** can benefit from antihypertensive monotherapy⁷



All 5 hypertensive drug class are eligible for monotherapy, HCPs choice depends on the **patient's present condition**⁷



Confirmation of BP diagnosis and **ABPM** should be performed to assess effectiveness of monotherapy

Which hypertensive patients should be referred to a specialist?



Prof. Andrzej Januszewicz National Institute of Cardiology Warsaw, Poland



Patients with suspected **grade 2 hypertension**, **young patients** (<40 y.o.) with **grade 2 hypertension**, **severe uncontrolled hypertension**, **resistant hypertension**, **sudden onset of hypertension** and **hypertension-mediated organ damage** should be referred to specialists as recommended by the **2018 ESC/ESH guidelines**¹



Patients with **primary aldosteronism**, **sleep apnea**, **atherosclerotic CVD**, **or other concomitant conditions that cause hypertension** should also be evaluated by a specialist¹

Select the right antihypertensive therapy for the right patient at the start, to help patients achieve blood pressure control

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Abbreviations: HCP, healthcare professional; SPC, single pill combination; ESH-ISH, European Society of Hypertension-International Society of Hypertension; ACE-i, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARB, angiotensin II receptor blocker; ESC/ESH, European Society of Cardiology/European Society of Hypertension; CAD, coronary artery disease; T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus; CKD, chronic kidney disease; CV, cardiovascular; RAASi, Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system inhibitors; BP, blood pressure; ABPM, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring

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