

Preface

The renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system has long been recognized to play a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of ischemic cardiovascular diseases and heart failure, and drugs that antagonize angiotensin II effects, namely ACE-inhibitors and AT1 receptor antagonists, are key in the therapy of patients affected by these conditions. These drugs have also demonstrated to reduce cardiovascular events in patients at high risk but without previous history of cardiovascular disease.

This book, along the aims of the International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, provides a comprehensive overview of the use of ACE-inhibitors and AT1 receptor antagonists in patients with common cardiovascular diseases, including hypertension and heart failure. Thus, the pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic properties of these classes of drugs are analyzed and discussed along with evidence coming from clinical studies that supports Guidelines recommendations. In particular, the book is covering clinical evidence on the benefit of these therapies in special patient populations, including patients with chronic kidney disease, diabetes mellitus and organ damage in whom renin-angiotensin system blockers are mandatorily recommended by Guidelines.

The purpose is to summarize, in a clear and updated fashion authored by world experts in the field, evidence based information on two among the most widespread cardiovascular classes of drugs to help physicians and health-care professionals, particularly young doctors and trainees, deliver the most appropriate therapy to their patients.

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