COVID-19 and ACEI/ARBs

To: Sutter Health Prescribers, Pharmacists and Nurses

Know

The American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association and Heart Failure Society of American (ACC/AHA/HFSA) have released a statement that there is currently no experimental or clinical data demonstrating adverse outcomes among Covid-19 patients using ACE Inhibitors (ACE-Is) and Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs).

"The continued highest standard of care for cardiovascular disease patients diagnosed with COVID-19 is top priority, but there are no experimental or clinical data demonstrating beneficial or adverse outcomes among COVID-19 patients using ACE-I or ARB medications," said Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC.

The statement was in response to a recent publication in Lancet that Angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptors have been shown to be the entry point into human cells for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, thus resulting in speculation of a potential increased risk for COVID-19 infection in patients on these medications.

- In a few experimental studies with animal models ACE-Is and ARBs have been shown to upregulate ACE2 expression. Though these have not been shown in human studies, or in the setting of COVID-19.

ACC/AHA/HFSA statement concurs with a similar statement from European Society of Cardiology (ESC).

Do

- Continue ACEI/ ARB therapy in those patients who are currently prescribed such agents for indications for which these agents are known to be beneficial, such as heart failure, hypertension, or ischemic heart disease.
- In the event patients with cardiovascular disease are diagnosed with COVID-19, individualized treatment decisions should be made according to each patient's hemodynamic status and clinical presentation. Do not add or remove any ACEI/ARB-related treatments, beyond actions based on standard clinical practice.

Share

Prescribers, pharmacists and nurses, please share this information with your colleagues. Questions regarding this Know-Do-Share should be addressed to System Pharmacy Formulary and Clinical Programs Team at polonsl@sutterhealth.org.

Reference Links: