





# Three Novel Drugs for Primary Care Practice

- Ivabradine to reduce admissions in CHF with reduced ejection fraction
- Alirocumab to reduce LDL cholesterol
- Idarucizumab to reverse anticoagulant effects of dabigatran

# **Historical Perspective**

"Man has an inborn craving for medicine... The desire to take medicine is one feature which distinguishes man, the animal, from his fellow creatures... Even in minor ailments, which would yield to dieting or to simple home remedies, the doctor's visit is not thought to be complete without the prescription."

William Osler 1895



# Mr. Saul Teeman

- 72 year old man
- NYHA class III CHF
- LVEF 30%
- On lisinopril and metoprolol
- Life limited by dyspnea
- Should I add ivabradine?





# Ivabradine is an I<sub>f</sub> Channel Blocker

- Cyclic nucleotide-gated channel blocker
- Binds to F channels in SA node
- Inhibits I<sub>f</sub> current
- Slows diastolic depolarization in SA node
- Pure heart rate lowering agent



## **BEAUTIFUL:** Ivabradine vs. Placebo in Patients with CAD and Reduced LVEF

- N=10,917
- Stable CAD
- LVEF < 40%
- Ivabradine (target dose 7.5 mg bid) vs. placebo
- Median follow up 19 months
- Primary outcome = CV death + acute MI + admission for CHF

Lancet 2008;372:807





# SHIFT: Ivabradine vs. Placebo for HFrEF

- N=6558
- Symptomatic CHF
- LVEF < 35%
- NSR with resting  $HR \ge 70$
- Admit for CHF in past year
- Stable on beta blocker if tolerated
- Ivabradine 7.5 mg bid vs. placebo
- Median f/u 23 months
   Lancet 2010;376:875



# Adverse Events More Common than Placebo in SHIFT

Event	Ivabradine %	Placebo %		
Symptomatic bradycardia	5%	1%		
Asymptomatic bradycardia	6%	1%		
Atrial fibrillation	9%	8%		
Phosphenes*	3%	1%		
Phosphenes due to inhibition of electrical current in retina = Bright areas in visual field, kaleidoscopic effects, colored bright lights, multiple images				

# Reason for Caution: Increased Harm for Subset of Patients without CHF

- SIGNIFY trial
- Patients with stable CAD and no CHF
- LVEF > 40%
- No difference in composite outcome of CV death or nonfatal MI
- Among patients with activity-limiting angina: Increased incidence of composite outcome

NEJM 2014;371:1091

# **Other Considerations**

Contraindications

- Decompensated CHF
- Sick sinus
- Severe liver disease
- Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors
- Pregnancy
- TeratogenicAbsolutely
- contraindicated
- during pregnancy

# Cost of Drugs Used to Treat HFrEF

Drug	Cost for 30 days Rx (USD)
Lisinopril 40 mg qd	\$3
Enalapril 40 mg qd	\$40
Valsartan 160 mg bid	\$52
Metoprolol XL 100 mg qd	\$45
Carvedilol 25 mg bid	\$15
Sacubitril 97 mg /valsartan 103 mg bid	\$375
Ivabradine 5 mg bid	\$375
	Medical Letter August 2015

# **FDA Approved Indications**

- 1. Stable symptomatic CHF
- 2. LVEF ≤ 35%
- 3. Sinus rhythm
- 4. Resting HR  $\geq$  70
- 5. Maximally tolerated beta blocker dose or contraindicated

# **Key Points**

- Reduces CHF admits, CHF deaths among patients with HR ≥ 70
- No effect on all-cause or CV mortality
- Less benefit than for ACEi or beta blockers
- Harmful for activity limiting CAD and no CHF
- Ivabradine is well tolerated
- Unusual retinal side effects
- Appropriate to use as 3<sup>rd</sup> line drug as per FDA indications

# **Advice for Saul Teeman?**

- Continue lisinopril and metoprolol
- Furosemide if volume overload
- Low Na<sup>+</sup> diet
- Reasonable to add ivabradine if HR ≥ 70

# Alirocumab (Praluent ®) to Reduce LDL Cholesterol

# Ms. Elle Dièlle

- 60 year old woman with PAD and type 2 diabetes
- LDL 140 mg/dl on atorvastatin 80 mg qd
- No CAD to date
- Should I begin a biologic Rx to lower LDL and reduce risk of MI?

# Prevalence of Hypercholesterolemia in the U.S.

- 32% of U.S adults have LDL levels > 130 mg/dl
- < One half are on treatment
- Fewer than 1/3 achieve target LDL
   ACC/AHA 2013 increases statin eligible patients by 25%



# Not All Patients with High LDL are Able to Tolerate Statins

- 10-15% of statin treated patients develop myalgia
- 1-5% incidence of myopathy (weakness or significant CK elevation)
- In the "treat to goal LDL" approach (no longer recommended by ACC/AHA), not all patients achieve LDL target with statins

## PCSK9 Regulates LDL Metabolism

- Mutations in proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) are a genetic cause of familial hypercholesterolemia
- PCSK9 is a negative regulator of LDL receptors (LDLR) and causes degradation of LDLR
- LDLR removes LDL from circulation
- PCSK9 reduces ability of liver to remove circulating LDL cholesterol



# Alirocumab Human recombinant Ig1 monoclonal antibody Binds and inhibits PCSK9 Internalizes PCSK9/LDL complex Reduces serum PCSK9 levels Increases hepatic LDL receptors Results in increased LDL degradation

Lowers serum LDL levels



## **ODYSSEY** Trial of Alirocumab plus Statin vs. Statin Alone

- Phase 3 study (n=2341) at 320 sites
- CHD risk equivalent or
- Heterozygous hypercholesterolemia
  - Genotyping or
  - Clinical Criteria
- Maximum tolerated statin therapy
- Alirocumab 150 mg SC vs. placebo q 2 weeks for 78 weeks
- Primary endpoint change LDL at 24 weeks

NEJM 2015;372:1489













# **Meta-Analysis: All Outcomes**

Outcome	OR for Rx vs. Placebo	95% CI
Mortality*	0.45	0.23-0.86
CV Mortality	0.50	0.23-1.10
Myocardial infarction*	0.49	0.36-0.93
Unstable angina*	0.61	0.06-6.14
Serious adverse events	1.01	0.87-1.18
% LDL reduction	59%	

# Safety Outcomes in ODYSSEY

Event	Placebo %	Alirocumab %	
Any adverse event	82.5	81.0	
Serious adverse event	19.5	18.7	
Study d/c	5.8	7.2	
Major CV events	5.1	4.6	
Nonfatal MI	2.3	0.9	
Allergic reactions	9.5	10.1	
Myalgia*	2.9	5.4	
Neurocognitive events*	0.5	1.2	
Ophthalmologic events*	1.9	2.9	
* P < 0.05. Only myalgia significant in pooled safety data			

#### Pooled Safety Data from 9 Trials: Significant Differences in Placebo Controlled Pools

Placebo %	Alirocumab %
5.1	5.3
< 0.1	0.2
26.6	31.2
4.1	6.1
0.4	0.4
< 0.1	0.2
0.2	0.1
1.8	2.5
	Placebo % 5.1 < 0.1 26.6 4.1 0.4 < 0.1 0.2 1.8

# FDA Prescribing Information



- Indications: heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia or CVD who require additional LDL reduction
- 75 mg SC q 2 weeks (prefilled pens or syringes)
- Measure LDL 4-8 weeks after starting Rx
- If LDL response inadequate, increase to 150 mg SC q 2 weeks
- Injections safe at home, rotate injection site
- No data on pregnancy or breast feeding

## **Key Points**

- Alirocumab reduces LDL to a greater extent than all current drugs
- Reduces LDL by additional 50-60% beyond that on maximum dose statins
- Reduces mortality and possibly CV mortality in up to 2 years in post-hoc analyses
- Only minor safety issues to date
- No safety data beyond 2 years
- Studies of clinical outcomes over more prolonged Rx underway

## Recommendations

- Recommend alirocumab for patients with CAD or CAD equivalent if LDL above goal despite maximal tolerated statin therapy
- Consider for primary prevention if baseline LDL > 190 and total cholesterol > 290 and remain above target on maximal statin therapy
- Await longer term outcome and safety studies and post marketing surveillance
- Expected cost: \$560 per injection (q 2 weeks) = \$14,600 per year
- Manufacturer intends to offer cost assistance to selected patients

# Advice for Ms. Elle Dièlle?

- Continue high dose atorvastatin
- Aspirin
- Submit prior authorization request or win the lottery
- Begin alirocumab 75 mg SC q 2 weeks

## Idarucizumab (Praxbind ®) to Reverse the Anticoagulant Effects of Dabigatran

#### Ms. Bledsoe

- 74 year old woman
- On dabigatran for AF
- Upper GI bleed due to peptic ulcer
- Hct 22
- Bp 96/60
- How can I reverse the dabigatran effect?

# The Novel Oral Anticoagulants (NOACs) are a Major Advance

- No monitoring required
- Similar or fewer bleeding complications than warfarin
- Equal or superior efficacy to prevent stroke in AF, prevent VTE after orthopedic procedures, and Rx of DVT and PE





Summary of RECORD Trials: Rivaroxaban vs. Enoxaparin Prophylaxis After Surgery				
	Surgery	N	Composite Events %	RRR
RECORD 1	THA	4541	3.7 vs 1.1	70%
RECORD 2	THA	2509	9.3 vs 2.0	79%
RECORD 3	ТКА	2531	18.9 vs 9.6	49%
RECORD 4	ТКА	3148	10.1 vs 6.9	31%
			Lance	et 2008;37

## NOAC: Indirect Comparisons for Stroke Prevention in AF Apixaban Marginally Favored

Event %/year	Rivaroxaban Rocket AF	Dabigatran RELY	Apixaban ARISTOTLE
Stroke plus major emboli	1.7/2.2	1.1/1.7	1.3/1.60
Stroke	2.6/3.1	1.0/1.6	1.2/1.5
Mortality	1.9/2.2	3.6/4.1	3.5/3.9
Major bleeding	3.6/3.4	3.1/3.4	2.1/3.1
CNS bleeding	0.5/0.7	0.1/0.4	0.3/0.5



# Achilles Heel for NOACs: No Antidote for Rapid Reversal

- What to do if major bleeding or need for emergent surgery?
- Wait 2-3 days before full reversal of effect of NOACs
- Discontinue antiplatelet agents
- Prothrombin complex concentrates
- Tranexamic acid (anti-fibrinolytic)
- PRBC transfusions if major bleeding
- Hemodialysis (dabigatran)

# Idarucizumab is a Novel Fab Fragment



- Monoclonal Antibody Fragment (Fab)
- Binds dabigatran in plasma
- 350-fold higher affinity than binding of thrombin by dabigatran
- Displaces thrombin from dabigatran
- Reverses anticoagulation
- Given as IV infusion

# Phase I Trial of Efficacy of Reversal and Safety

- 47 healthy adult male volunteers
- Pretreated with dabigatran for 4 days
- Randomly assigned to addition of placebo or one of 4 doses of idarucizumab
- Primary endpoint = adverse effects
- Secondary endpoints for reversal of anticoagulation
- Outcome: no difference in adverse events between Rx and placebo groups

Lancet 2015;386:680



## RE-VERSE AD: A RCT of Idarucizumab for Emergent Reversal

- 90 patients on dabigatran
- 51 with serious bleeding
- 39 requiring urgent surgery
- Primary endpoint is reversal of anticoagulant activity
- Secondary endpoint is restoration of hemostasis clinically
- Rx idarucizumab
   2.5 mg IV x 2
- No placebo group
- Interim analysis in NEJM

NEJM 2015;373:511



# Restoration of Hemostasis in Most Patients

<ul> <li>Group A: Serious</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Group B: Urgent</li></ul>
bleeding	surgery needed
<ul> <li>Cessation of bleeding in median of 11.4 hours</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>33/36 patients with normal hemostasis</li> <li>3 of 36 patients with excessive perioperative bleeding</li> </ul>

#### Adverse Outcomes were Common Due to Trial Eligibility: Most thought not due to Idarucizumab

- 9 deaths in each group
- Thrombotic events in 5 patients
- Early deaths due to index event
- Late deaths due to comorbidities
- No placebo group
- No adverse outcomes clearly direct result of idarucizumab

# **FDA Approval**

- Approved October 2015 as part of Accelerated Approval Program
- Based on interim analysis of RE-VERSE AD trial
- Post marketing surveillance
- Approved due to high mortality of eligible patients without Rx

# **Indications and Use**

- Patients on dabigatran and either:
- Emergency/urgent surgery or procedure required or
- Life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeding
- 5mg IV dose x 1
- Cost = \$3500 for one dose
- Only AE more common than placebo: headache
- No contraindications

# In the Pipeline: A Reversal Agent for Factor Xa Inhibitors

- No current reversal agent for rivaroxaban, apixaban, edoxaban
- Andexanet alpha is modified Xa protein that binds factor Xa inhibitors
- Reverses anticoagulant effect
- Encouraging phase 3 trials
- Under consideration by FDA

#### **Ms. Bledsoe**

- Resuscitation
- All conservative measures
- Recommend idarucizumab to reverse dabigatran effect

## Summary

- Ivabradine reduces CHF admits and mortality in HFrEF if resting HR  $\geq$  70
- Alirocumab reduces LDL by 50-60% beyond that achieved with statin and reduces mortality
- Idarucizumab fully reverses the anticoagulant effects of dabigatran, is safe, and expensive

# A Final Thought...

"For some patients, though conscious that their condition is perilous, recover their health simply through contentment with the goodness of their physician."

Hippocrates

(460-375 BC)