

BOOK REVIEW

ACE Inhibitors: Medical Uses, Mechanisms of Action, Potential Adverse Effects and Related Topics. Volumes 1 & 2

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These two books provide a comprehensive review of angiotensin blockade in medicine. Volume 1 describes the pharmacology of angiotensin blockade. The initial chapters describe the history of the discovery of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors. The final chapters discuss new developments in angiotensin blockade. In between these are chapters that describe the utility and complications of angiotensin blockers. There are critical reviews of randomized controlled trials in nephrology that make for interesting reading.

Volume 2 covers the use of angiotensin blockade in different ethnic groups and geographical locations. There are excellent chapters on the use of angiotensin blockade in African Americans, individuals from ethnic minorities in the UK and in patients from the Caribbean and Africa. Other chapters describe the use on angiotensin blockade in different clinical scenarios including after renal transplantation, HIV associated proteinuria, dialysis patients and renal artery stenosis amongst others.

The widespread use of angiotensin blockers means that even if their side effects are infrequent that would nevertheless translate into a lot of patients affected. This is particularly so as most treated patients are elderly and have pre-existing cardiac or renal diseases which of themselves predispose to acute deterioration of renal function. These complications are described in detail. The book carefully details the circumstances in which complications occur in patients on angiotensin blockers and how these might be avoided.

Each chapter is written by acknowledged experts in the field who give a clear overview of the subject. The chapters are well referenced. The books are well written and provide information that would be useful to doctors in primary care, internal medicine and it's subspecialties of nephrology and cardiology. This is an excellent referral text and one that is highly recommended.

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