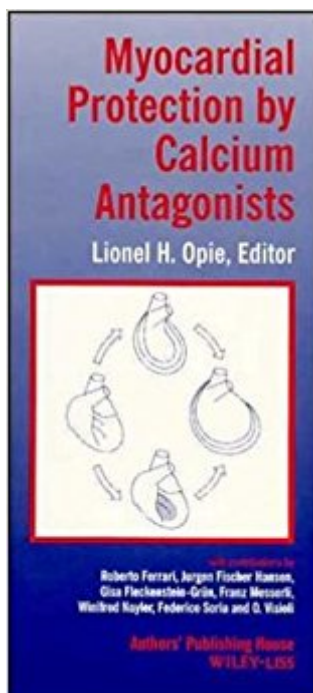


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Myocardial Protection By Calcium Antagonists



Synopsis

About the Book There are vast amounts of new data emerging in the study of calcium antagonist drugs. The major issues involved are no longer just the effects of calcium antagonist drugs in angina or hypertension but their possible postinfarct protective effects, both to provide prophylaxis and to improve left ventricular function. New trials have also changed our thinking. One major trial suggested that the use of one of these agents in postinfarct patients with no history of heart failure in the acute infarct stage was not only safe but could confer positive protection from reinfarction and possibly from sudden death. Another study, also in postinfarct patients but with a different agent, has drawn attention to a further unexpected benefit, namely improvement of mechanical diastolic function. In the area of hypertension, the emphasis has shifted to the regression of left ventricular hypertrophy, now recognized as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular mortality, and to diastolic dysfunction. Looking to the future, calcium antagonists may exert protection against end-stage heart failure by limiting left ventricular hypertrophy and by vascular beneficial effects. There is emerging interest that the combination with ACE inhibitors may exert additive effects on control of hypertension and on diabetic hypertensive renal lesions. Reviews of Other Books by the Author Drugs for the Heart--"A gem" (New England Journal of Medicine) The Heart--"The subjects are brilliantly illuminated and made exciting by excellent line diagrams" (The Lancet) Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors: Scientific Basis for Clinical Use--"A milestone" (British Medical Journal)

Book Information

Paperback: 195 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Liss; 1 edition (August 16, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0471076694

ISBN-13: 978-0471076698

Product Dimensions: 4.7 x 0.6 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces

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Calcium-channel antagonist drugs are one of the first-line treatments for hypertension. They are standard therapy for angina pectoris together with beta-blockers and nitrates, and have a vital role in the protection of the heart wall muscle from permanent injury following myocardial infarction. This book presents clinicians with the facts needed to make informed and effective use of all drugs in this class.

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