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PCSK9 inhibitors: A new era of lipid lowering therapy

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Abstract

Hyperlipidemia is a well-established risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease (CVD). The recent American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association guidelines on lipid management emphasize treatment of individuals at increased risk for developing CVD events with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) at doses proven to reduce CVD events. However, there are limited options for patients who are either intolerant to statin therapy, develop CVD despite being on maximally tolerated statin therapy, or have severe hypercholesterolemia. Recently the FDA approved two novel medications for LDL-cholesterol reduction: Evolocumab and Alirocumab. These agents target and inactivate proprotein convertase subtilisin-kexin type 9 (PCSK9), a hepatic protease that attaches and internalizes LDL receptors into lysosomes hence promoting their destruction. By preventing LDL receptor destruction, LDL-C levels can be lowered 50-60% above that achieved by statin therapy alone. This review explores

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