Effect of losartan and atenolol on insulin sensitivity in nondiabetic hypertensive patients

Sir,

We read with great interest the article titled "Effect of losartan and atenolol on insulin sensitivity in nondiabetic hypertensive patients."[1] The article is relevant, interesting, and sheds light on conflicting reports regarding the effects of losartan on insulin resistance (IR). However, we would like to make the following comments.

In Table 2, the homeostasis model assessment-estimated IR values for the atenolol group at 12 weeks have been expressed as median (2.89 [1.51–5.48]), whereas in Table 3, the same has been expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD) (3.04 ± 1.08). Similarly, the other glucometabolic parameters such as fasting plasma glucose, fasting plasma insulin, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and triglyceride have been expressed both as mean ± SD (Gaussian data) and median (interquartile range) (non-Gaussian data) in Tables 2 and 3 interchangeably.

In the inclusion criteria, whether newly diagnosed or previously treated hypertensive patients were included is not clear. If previously treated patients were included, the status of existing antihypertensive drugs is not mentioned.

Rescue therapy with indapamide to patients in whom blood pressure was not controlled on titration to highest possible doses of individual drugs requires justification. Indapamide, like other diuretics, may affect glucometabolic parameters. Hence, could amlodipine have been a better choice as rescue therapy?

Clear reporting of clinical trials is essential for assessing the quality of interventions. The CONSORT guidelines were instituted with this regard. We found that several items in the checklist such as identification as a randomized trial in the title, participant flow chart, dates defining the periods of recruitment, limitations, and trial registration number are not mentioned.[2] Although the guidelines are clear, awareness and endorsements are lacking.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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