

# Clinical Efficacy of a Combination of Bisoprolol and Amlodipine

**Zbigniew Gaciong**

Department of Internal Medicine, Hypertension and Vascular Diseases,  
Medical University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

**Randomised and real-world evaluations of a bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet have shown this treatment to be more effective than monotherapy and to support good adherence to therapy in patients with hypertension. A consistent reduction in heart rate (HR) with this treatment is a further potential benefit likely to improve long-term clinical outcomes in this population.**

## **Therapeutic efficacy of the bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet in patients with hypertension**

### ***Overview of studies that have evaluated the efficacy of bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablets in patients with hypertension***

A series of randomised and observational studies have evaluated single-tablet combinations of bisoprolol and amlodipine in patients with

hypertension with or without other comorbidities. These are summarised in Table 1 [1–12] and described below.

**Table 1** Details of studies that evaluated the bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet in patients with hypertension.

Design (1 <sup>st</sup> author)	N	Duration	Key details
Randomised (Gottwald-Hostalek et al [1])	200	18 weeks	Study of the efficacy, tolerability and safety of the combination tablet in patients with BP previously sub-optimally controlled on bisoprolol 5 mg or amlodipine 5 mg monotherapy
Randomised (Jędrusik et al [2])	367	8 weeks	Comparison of amlodipine 5 mg and bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg in patients uncontrolled on amlodipine 5 mg
Randomised (Shirure et al [3])	60	1 month	Comparison of bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg with bisoprolol 5 mg and amlodipine 5 mg monotherapies in patients with WHO Stage 2 hypertension
Randomised (Fendrikova et al [4] Tarlovskaya et al [5])	61	12 weeks	Study of effects of the bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet vs a free combination of bisoprolol and amlodipine (each added to enalapril) on BP and aortic pulse wave velocity in patients with sub-optimally controlled hypertension and coronary heart disease; a pharmaco-economic evaluation was also conducted
Observational (modelled) (Foch et al [6])	260	8 weeks	Anchored, simulated treatment comparison of effects on BP of the bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination with up titration of amlodipine monotherapy from 5 mg to 10 mg based on the results of two randomised trials
Observational (Gottwald-Hostalek, et al [7])	12,424	6 months	Non-interventional cohort study of patients with hypertension switched from a co-administered combination of bisoprolol and amlodipine to the combination tablet $\geq 4$ weeks in 6 countries in eastern Europe
Observational (Mehta et al [8])	106	8 weeks	Observational, non-comparative study of the effects on BP of a bisoprolol/amlodipine 2.5/5 mg combination tablet in patients with moderate hypertension
Observational (Rana et al [9])	801	4 weeks	Observational, non-comparative evaluation of the effects on BP of a bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablet in patients with Stage 2 hypertension

Observational (Chesnikova et al [10])	100	4 weeks	Study of the effects of the bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet on BP and signs of cardiac ischaemia in patients with sub-optimally controlled hypertension and coronary heart disease
Observational (clin pharm) (Bogomaz et al [11])	15	8 weeks	Study of peripheral (brachial) and central (aortic) haemodynamics in patients treated with bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablet (5/10 mg or 10/10 mg)
Observational (clin pharm) (Zapesochaya et al [12])	140	6 months	Study of the effects of a bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet on BP and on the structural and functional status of the myocardium in patients with hypertension

BP: blood pressure; Clin pharm: clinical pharmacy; WHO: World Health Organization.

## **Effects on blood pressure**

### *Randomised trials in patients with blood pressure (BP) uncontrolled on monotherapy with bisoprolol or amlodipine*

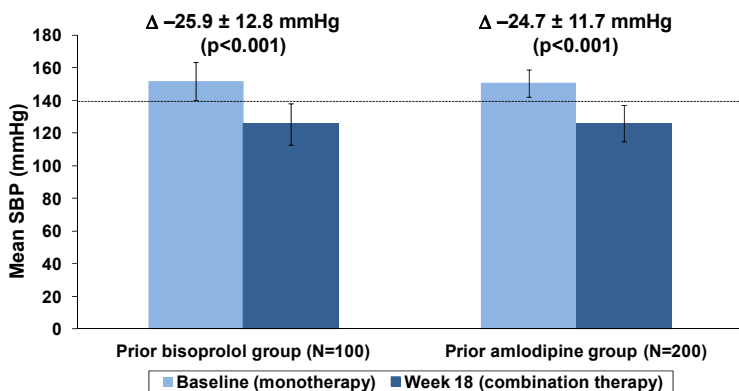
A randomised clinical trial evaluated the single-tablet combination of bisoprolol/amlodipine in 200 patients with hypertension sub-optimally controlled by monotherapy with either amlodipine 5 mg or bisoprolol 5 mg [1]. Initially patients were randomised into two groups (“A” and “B”) and all received bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg for 6 weeks. Patients with sub-optimally controlled BP ( $\geq 140/\geq 90$  mmHg) at week 6 in group A were up-titrated to bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/10 mg, while sub-optimally controlled patients in group B were up-titrated to the 10/5 mg dosage strength. BP control was evaluated again at week 12, when patients with sub-optimal control of BP received the 10/10 mg combination tablet for another 6 weeks. Patients with well-controlled BP ( $<140/<90$  mmHg) continued on their previous treatment at each stage.

The primary outcome of the trial was the mean change in systolic BP (SBP) from baseline (when patients were receiving antihypertensive monotherapy) to week 18. Mean changes in SBP were substantial, clinically and statistically ( $p < 0.001$ ) significant, and essentially identical

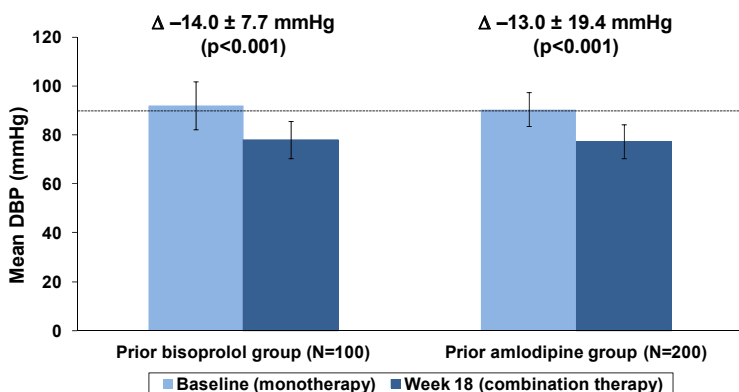
in patients from both the prior bisoprolol and prior amlodipine groups ( $-26$  mmHg and  $-25$  mmHg, respectively; Figure 1a). Substantial reductions in diastolic BP (DBP) were also seen ( $-14$  mmHg and  $-13$  mmHg, respectively; Figure 1b). The majority of patients (74%) had achieved

**Figure 1** Effect of treatment with a bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet on blood pressure in patients with hypertension sub-optimally controlled by monotherapy with bisoprolol 5 mg or amlodipine 5 mg.

**a) Systolic blood pressure (SBP)**



**b) Diastolic blood pressure (DBP)**



$\Delta$ : mean change. The mean change in SBP from baseline to week 18 was the primary endpoint of the trial; mean change in DBP was a pre-specified secondary endpoint.

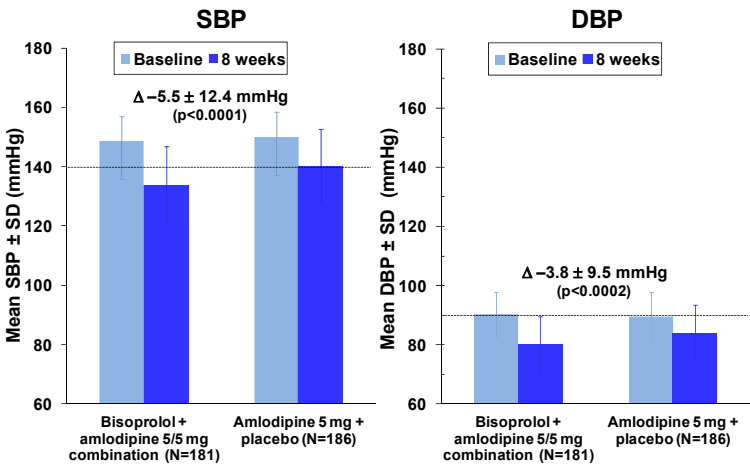
Dotted lines show targets for BP control of 140 mmHg (SBP) and 90 mmHg (DBP).

Drawn from data presented in reference [1].

control of BP on the 5/5 mg combination tablet at study end. Up titration of therapy, where required, increased the proportion of patients with well-controlled BP to 88% by the end of the study. Control rates were similar for patients in each prior therapy group.

The AMCOR trial involved randomisation of 367 patients with BP sub-optimally controlled by amlodipine 5 mg to the same treatment with additional placebo or to treatment with a combination of bisoprolol and amlodipine 5/5 mg, for 8 weeks [2]. Mean SBP and DBP were reduced in both groups (Figure 2). There was a statistically and clinically significant treatment difference in favour of the combination of  $-5.5 \pm 12.4$  mmHg for SBP ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and of  $-3.8 \pm 9.5$  mmHg for DBP ( $p < 0.0002$ ).

**Figure 2** Effects of bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination treatment vs. amlodipine 5 mg and placebo on BP in patients uncontrolled on amlodipine 5 mg monotherapy: data from the AMCOR trial.



BP: blood pressure; DBP: diastolic blood pressure; SBP: systolic blood pressure; SD: standard deviation.

Dotted lines show targets for BP control of 140 mmHg (SBP) and 90 mmHg (DBP).

Drawn from data presented in reference [2].

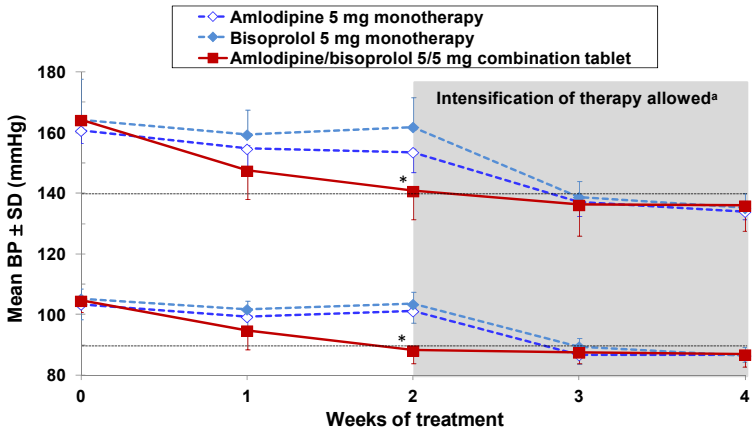
### *Other randomised evaluations of bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablets*

Sixty patients with Stage 2 hypertension (SBP  $\geq 160$  mmHg or DBP  $\geq 100$  mmHg<sup>a</sup>) were randomised to receive bisoprolol 5 mg, amlodipine 5 mg, or the bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablet for 1 month [3]. After 2 weeks of treatment, patients with sub-optimal BP (target  $< 140 / < 90$  mmHg) on monotherapy were switched to the bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablet; enalapril was added at 2 weeks for patients uncontrolled on the combination tablet. The combination tablet was significantly more effective than either monotherapy over the first 2 weeks of treatment (Figure 3). Thereafter, mean SBP and DBP became similar as antihypertensive therapy was intensified where required; 80% of the amlodipine monotherapy group and 90% of the bisoprolol monotherapy group required a switch to the combination tablet due to sub-optimal BP control, compared with only 5% of the combination tablet group requiring additional enalapril.

Another randomised trial conducted in Russia employed ambulatory BP recording to study the effects of the bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet versus a free combination of bisoprolol and amlodipine (each added to enalapril) in 61 patients with sub-optimally controlled hypertension and pre-existing coronary heart disease [4]. Daytime and nighttime BP was reduced in both groups, becoming well controlled in 97% of the combination tablet group and in 87% of the free combination group. Aortic pulse wave velocity, aortic augmentation index and aortic DBP improved significantly only in the combination therapy group. A pharmacoeconomic evaluation derived from these data (from the Russian healthcare system perspective) found lower costs per unit of reduction of SBP, DBP and HR for the combination tablet versus the free combination approach [5].

a. See Chapter 1 of this book for details of classifications of hypertension.

**Figure 3** Changes in blood pressure in a randomised comparison of the bisoprolol 5 mg/amlodipine 5 mg combination tablet with bisoprolol 5 mg or amlodipine 5 mg monotherapy in patients with Stage 2 hypertension.



BP: blood pressure; DBP: diastolic blood pressure; SBP: systolic blood pressure; SD: standard deviation.

<sup>a</sup>If BP was >140/90 mmHg, patients randomised to either monotherapy could be switched to the combination tablet and enalapril could be added to the regimen of patients randomised to the combination tablet.

Some SD bars have been omitted for clarity.

\*p < 0.001 vs. either monotherapy at week 2.

Dotted lines show targets for BP control of 140 mmHg (SBP) and 90 mmHg (DBP).

Drawn from data presented in reference [3].

### *Model-derived analysis based on data from randomised clinical trials*

No randomised clinical trial to date has compared the effects of up titration of amlodipine with a switch to bisoprolol/amlodipine combination therapy in patients sub-optimally controlled on monotherapy with amlodipine 5 mg. A modelling approach was used to simulate this treatment comparison, based on data from two randomised clinical trials in patients with hypertension sub-optimally controlled on amlodipine 5 mg monotherapy [6]:

**Study 1:** randomised comparison of bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination versus amlodipine 5 mg plus placebo [2];

**Study 2:** the amlodipine monotherapy arms of a randomised comparison of amlodipine 5 mg, amlodipine 10 mg, and two strengths of a telmisartan/amlodipine tablet [13].

This was an anchored, simulated treatment comparison; the term “anchored” refers to the amlodipine 5 mg arm, which was present in both studies. Briefly, the analysis used individual patient data from Study 1 to construct a model that adjusted its study population to resemble that of Study 2, based on the baseline characteristics of each trial. This enabled the model to make predictions of average changes in BP that would be expected to occur had the two studies had the same patient populations. In this way, the model enabled a comparison of the predicted effect on BP of a switch from amlodipine 5 mg monotherapy to an amlodipine/bisoprolol 5 mg/5 mg combination (evaluated in Study 1) with the observed effect of up titrating amlodipine 5 mg to amlodipine 10 mg (evaluated in Study 2).

Baseline and follow-up measures of BP were available from 261 patients in the combination therapy arm and 255 patients in the amlodipine 10 mg monotherapy arm, and these patients were included in the analysis population. The analysis was based on 8 weeks of treatment. The predicted reduction in BP with the bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination (modelled to the population of Study 2) was larger than the effect of amlodipine 5 mg monotherapy (mean treatment difference [standard deviation (SD)]  $-6.5 [1.8]/-5.5 [1.2]$  mmHg), as was the observed effect of up titration of amlodipine from 5 mg to 10 mg in Study 2 (mean treatment difference [SD]  $-4.9 [1.0]/-2.2 [0.7]$  mmHg). The estimated mean difference for effects on BP between the combination tablet and amlodipine 10 mg was  $-1.6 [1.9]/-3.3 [1.3]$  mmHg.

The combination tablet, therefore, induced larger reductions in BP than either amlodipine 5 mg or amlodipine 10 mg in this analysis, though the magnitude of the difference between treatments was clinically meaningful only for DBP. It should be noted that 27% of patients in Study 2 reported peripheral oedema as a side-effect of amlodipine 10 mg, compared with 4–9% of patients in study arms that included amlodipine 5 mg [2]. Only 1–2% of patients in Study 1 reported peripheral oedema with regimens that included amlodipine 5 mg. Thus, in this analysis, the bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablet was more effective than amlodipine 5 mg, and at least as effective as amlodipine 10 mg, with less potential for oedema-related side-effects.



*Real-world study that involved switching from a free combination of bisoprolol and amlodipine to the bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablet*

This study enrolled a population of 12,242 patients with hypertension who had been switched from a free combination of bisoprolol and amlodipine to bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablets at least 4 weeks previously [7]. Patients were followed up for 6 months. Substantial reductions were observed for:

**SBP** – reduced from  $147.6 \pm 16$  mmHg at baseline to  $131.2 \pm 10$  mmHg at 6 months (mean difference  $\pm$  SD:  $-16.5 \pm 15$  mmHg);

**DBP** – reduced from  $88.3 \pm 10$  mmHg at baseline to  $78.9 \pm 7$  mmHg at 6 months (mean difference:  $-9.5 \pm 11$  mmHg);

**Pulse pressure** – reduced from  $59.3 \pm 13$  mmHg at baseline to  $52.3 \pm 10$  mmHg at 6 months (mean difference:  $-7.1 \pm 14$  mmHg).

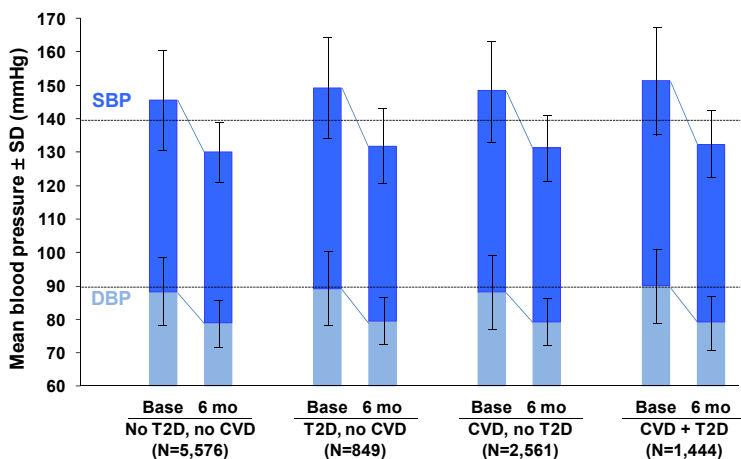
Effects on BP were studied after stratification of patients at baseline for normal body mass index (BMI; 19–25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), overweight (>25–30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) or obesity (>30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Mean BP values at 6 months differed slightly across these BMI categories ( $130.3 \pm 10/78.5 \pm 7$  mmHg,  $131.1 \pm 10/78.9$  mmHg, and  $131.8 \pm 10/79.3 \pm 7$  mmHg, respectively), and were consistent with achievement of good BP control for most patients.

These BP reductions were achieved despite patients receiving similar average doses of bisoprolol and amlodipine before the switch (5.5 mg and 6.1 mg, respectively) and after the switch (5.8 mg and 6.3 mg, respectively); about 80% of patients received the same dose of the therapies before and after the switch. The improvement in BP was likely associated, at least in part, with good adherence to the combination therapy regimen. Adherence (measured as proportion of prescribed medication received in this study) was “good” or “excellent” in 99% of patients.

This real-world population contained patients with a range of comorbidities, and a subsequent analysis from the same patient population focussed on the impact of cardiovascular comorbidities in more detail [14]. Patients were stratified for the presence of cardiovascular disease without type 2 diabetes (N=2,561 [25% of the population]); type 2 diabetes without cardiovascular disease (N=849 [8%]); both cardiovascular

disease and type 2 diabetes (N=1,444 [14%]); or none of these (N=5,576 [53%]). Higher mean values of SBP were observed in patients with cardiovascular disease (148.5 mmHg), diabetes (149.3 mmHg), or both (151.5 mmHg) at baseline, compared with 145.5 mmHg for patients without these comorbidities (DBP was similar between these groups). BP was >140/90 mmHg in 28% of patients with no comorbidities, compared with 31% (cardiovascular disease), 33% (type 2 diabetes), and 38% (both comorbidities), consistent with this observation. These differences were no longer evident at study end, as mean SBP ranged between 130.0 mmHg and 132.2 mmHg across the four groups (Figure 4).

**Figure 4** Changes in blood pressure according to the presence or absence at baseline of predefined comorbidities in a large cohort of patients with hypertension previously treated with a free combination of bisoprolol and amlodipine who received 6 months' treatment with bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablets.



Base: baseline; CVD: cardiovascular disease; DBP: diastolic blood pressure; mo: months;

SBP: systolic blood pressure; SD: standard deviation; T2D: type 2 diabetes.

Dotted lines show targets for BP control of 140 mmHg (SBP) and 90 mmHg (DBP).

Drawn from data presented in reference [14].

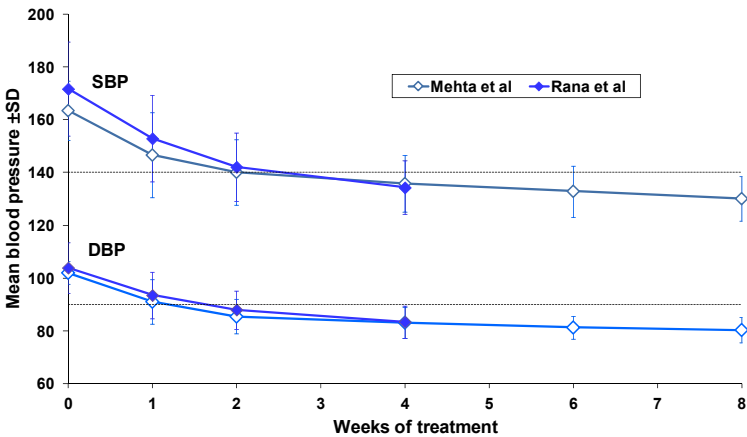
## Other real-world analyses

Two real-world analyses evaluated the effects of bisoprolol/amlodipine 2.5/5 mg [8] or 5/5 mg [9] combination tablets in patients with Stage 2 hypertension in India, over 8 weeks (N=106) and 4 weeks (N=801) of treatment, respectively. Marked reductions in BP occurred in both studies (Figure 5), from 163/102 mmHg to 130/80 mmHg (8-week study) and from 172/104 mmHg to 134/83 mmHg (4-week study). The majority of patients in the 8-week study (89%) achieved BP <140/90 mmHg with the bisoprolol/amlodipine 2.5/5 mg tablet.

Three other real-world analyses (from Russia) are briefly summarised below:

- Mean BP was reduced from 163/93 mmHg to 128/77 mmHg during 4 weeks of treatment with bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablets in an observational study in 100 patients with uncontrolled hypertension and coronary heart disease [10]. SBP and DBP goals were achieved by 90% and 97%, respectively.

**Figure 5** Changes in mean blood pressure during treatment with bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablets in patients with Stage 2 hypertension in India.



DBP: diastolic blood pressure; SBP: systolic blood pressure; SD: standard deviation. Dotted lines show targets for BP control of 140 mmHg (SBP) and 90 mmHg (DBP). Drawn from data presented by Mehta et al [8] and Rana et al [9].

- The second study was conducted in 15 previously antihypertensive-drug naïve patients with BP not adequately controlled by a 4-week trial of bisoprolol 5–10 mg monotherapy [11]. Mean peripheral (brachial) BP decreased from 157/98 mmHg at baseline to 148/95 mmHg after 4 weeks of bisoprolol 10 mg, and to 133/81 mmHg after a further 4 weeks of treatment with bisoprolol/amlodipine. During treatment with bisoprolol monotherapy, central BP decreased slightly (from 145 mmHg to 140 mmHg), with little change in pulse pressure (from 48.2 to 47.1 mmHg) and a slight increase in Augmentation Index (from 32.8% to 34.7%). Treatment with the bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablet markedly reduced central SBP (to 121 mmHg), pulse pressure (to 41.2 mmHg) and Augmentation Index (to 22.5%). Thus, bisoprolol alone was less effective on central versus brachial BP while addition of amlodipine overcame this limitation.
- A study in two groups of 72 and 68 patients with hypertension (stratified according to shift work patterns) used echocardiography to explore changes in left ventricular structure during 6 months of treatment with bisoprolol/amlodipine tablets [12]. A reduction in mean BP (93% and 88% of the two groups achieved goal BP) was accompanied by increases in the proportions of patients with normal left ventricular geometry (from 38% to 45% in one group and from 24% to 33% in the other) and a decrease in the proportions of patients with concentric left ventricular hypertrophy (from 31% to 24% in one group and from 46% to 38% in the other).

## ***Effects on HR***

Table 2 shows the effects of bisoprolol/amlodipine 5/5 mg combination tablets on HR, where reported. Variable, but substantial, reductions in HR occurred in all randomised or real-world studies, with average reductions in HR ranging from about –6 bpm to about –19 bpm in populations receiving bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablets.

**Table 2 Effects of bisoprolol/amlodipine combination tablets on heart rate in randomised and real-world studies.**

Ref	Heart rate (bpm) + SD at		$\Delta$	P-value
	Baseline	Study end		
<b>Randomised trials</b>				
[1]	71.7 $\pm$ 9.7	62.7 $\pm$ 9.5	-9.0 $\pm$ 9.5	<0.001
[2]	66.7 $\pm$ 9.78	74.2 $\pm$ 9.38	-6.3 $\pm$ 9.3	<0.0001
<b>Real-world studies</b>				
[7]	75.8 $\pm$ 10	68.4 $\pm$ 7	-7.7 $\pm$ 10	NR
[8]	87.3 $\pm$ 11.0	68.4 $\pm$ 8.1	-18.9 <sup>a</sup>	NR
[9]	83.3 $\pm$ 9.6	74.6 $\pm$ 6.8	-8.7 <sup>a</sup>	NR
[10]	80.1 $\pm$ 9.6	63.0 $\pm$ 5.4	-17.1 <sup>a</sup>	NR
[11]	74.3 $\pm$ 5.8	62.4 $\pm$ 4.2	-11.9 <sup>a</sup>	<0.05

bpm: beats per minute; NR: not reported; Ref: reference.

$\Delta$ : mean difference in heart rate between baseline and study end (<sup>a</sup>or difference in mean values where this was not reported).

## Other clinical evidence

### **Studies with combinations of $\beta$ -blockers and calcium channel blockers (CCBs)**

Studies with other  $\beta_1$ -selective  $\beta$ -blockers in combination with amlodipine will be described briefly here, in the absence of randomised trials that specifically evaluated co-administered (free) combinations of bisoprolol and amlodipine. Trials for inclusion here were identified using a PubMed search for “(atenolol OR metoprolol OR acebutolol OR nebivolol OR bisoprolol OR Xamoterol OR Acebutolol OR Celiprolol) AND amlodipine”, limited to “Randomised controlled trial”. Relevant articles were identified by inspection of abstracts of the resulting 187 search hits.

Low-dose atenolol 25 mg/amlodipine 2.5 mg combination therapy was superior for effects on BP compared with atenolol 25 mg or amlodipine 2.5 mg alone in patients with hypertension [15]. A similar benefit for the combination was seen in patients who needed higher doses of combination therapy (atenolol 50 mg/amlodipine 5 mg) versus these doses of monotherapy in this study. Addition of amlodipine to atenolol reduced 24-hour BP significantly in patients with BP uncontrolled

by atenolol alone [16]. The highest dose of a single-tablet combination of metoprolol and amlodipine induced a numerically larger fall in BP than a lower-dose combination of these agents or the constituent monotherapies, although the difference did not achieve statistical significance [17]. The efficacy of a metoprolol extended release/amlodipine combination was similar to that of a losartan/amlodipine combination in another study [18]. A thiazide diuretic induced a larger reduction in BP than atenolol in patients with hypertension already receiving amlodipine and lisinopril [19].

A combination of atenolol and amlodipine reduced BP and arterial stiffness (measured using pulse wave velocity [PWV]) to a similar extent compared with a valsartan/amlodipine combination in patients with hypertension [20]. Reductions in BP and HR accounted largely for the reduced PWV in the  $\beta$ -blocker-amlodipine group. Another study showed that a valsartan/amlodipine combination induced comparable reductions in brachial BP versus an atenolol/amlodipine combination, although the valsartan/amlodipine combination reduced central BP more effectively [21]. Addition of valsartan, but not amlodipine, to atenolol suppressed indices of intracardiac conduction, consistent with the mechanisms of these drugs (see Chapter 4) [22].

Both cardioselective  $\beta$ -blockers and amlodipine are indicated for the management of angina pectoris, and studies evaluating combinations of these mechanisms in these patients are included briefly here for completeness. Results of trials that evaluated  $\beta_1$ -blockers in combination with amlodipine in patients with angina have been conflicting. Bisoprolol plus amlodipine was not more effective than bisoprolol alone in two studies that used treadmill exercise tolerance as its main outcome [23, 24], but reduced the occurrence of chest pain on exercise in two other studies [25, 26], and during exercise testing and in the ambulatory setting in a fifth [27]. Elsewhere, addition of atenolol to amlodipine was more effective in suppressing ischaemic episodes in ambulatory patients, compared with amlodipine alone [28]. Amlodipine was more effective than diltiazem added to atenolol in suppressing ischaemic symptoms in patients sub-optimally controlled by atenolol alone, and was better tolerated [29]. Finally, addition of amlodipine to

atenolol was haemodynamically safe 15 days after an acute myocardial infarction for normotensive patients without severe left ventricular dysfunction [30].

### ***Comparisons of bisoprolol or amlodipine with other monotherapies***

Large meta-analyses have confirmed that the BP-lowering efficacy of  $\beta$ -blockers and CCBs are comparable to that provided by other antihypertensive classes [31, 32]. A number of randomised, head-to-head trials have demonstrated that bisoprolol and amlodipine each have similar antihypertensive efficacy to other antihypertensive agents within their class, and to agents from the four other classes (Table 3).

## **Conclusions**

Numerous randomised clinical trials have shown that bisoprolol and amlodipine monotherapies are as effective as members of other antihypertensive classes (Table 3). The effects on BP of combining two antihypertensive agents is essentially additive [32]. The results of the randomised and real-world studies that evaluated single-tablet combinations of these agents, summarised in this chapter, have confirmed the greater efficacy of this treatment for controlling BP compared with monotherapies. The consistent reductions in HR observed with the bisoprolol/amlodipine tablet is another potential source of clinical benefit, as higher versus lower HR has been identified as a predictor of adverse cardiac outcomes, especially (but not only) in people with coronary heart disease or heart failure [33–35].

The principle of applying combination antihypertensive therapy in the management of hypertension is well established in current European guidelines (see also Chapter 2 of this book) [36, 37]. Moreover, these guidelines recognise the valuable role of single-tablet combinations in simplifying the antihypertensive regimen and supporting good adherence to therapy [38, 39], which in turn helps to optimise long-term patient outcomes [40]. The large, real-world studies summarised here

**Table 3 Overview of head-to-head randomised trials of bisoprolol and amlodipine vs antihypertensive agents from other classes.**

	Effects of bisoprolol on BP vs other antihypertensive agents	Effects of amlodipine on BP vs other antihypertensive agents
<b>β-blockers</b>		
Acebutolol	Comparable [41]	Comparable [42]
Atenolol	Comparable [43–47] or larger effect [48–51] Lower effect on central BP [43]	Comparable [52–56]
Celiprolol	Less effective on central BP [57]	–
Metoprolol	Comparable [58] More effective during exercise [59]	Comparable (obstructive sleep apnoea) [60]
Nebivolol	Comparable [61]	Comparable [62]
<b>Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system blockers</b>		
Captopril	Comparable [63]	Comparable [64] or more effective [65]
Enalapril	Comparable (office- [66, 67] and 24-hour [66] BP)	Comparable [42, 68–72] Larger effect on trough BP [73]
Zofenopril	–	Comparable [74]
Lisinopril	Comparable (ambulatory [75] or office [76] BP)	Comparable [77–82] or larger effect [83]
Benazepril	–	Comparable [84] or larger [85] effect
Quinapril	–	Comparable [86, 87]
Ramipril	–	Larger effect (ambulatory) [88, 89]
Irbesartan	–	Comparable [90]
Losartan	Comparable (office BP) [91, 92] Less effective on central BP [91]	Larger [93] or comparable [71, 82, 94–100] incl. post-renal transplant [101] and in NASH [102]
Valsartan	–	Comparable [103–105] or larger [106]
Telmisartan	–	Comparable (ambulatory) [89]
Candesartan	–	Comparable [107–109]
<b>Calcium channel blockers</b>		
Amlodipine	Comparable (haemodialysis) [110]	–
Manidipine	–	Comparable [111]
SR nifedipine	Comparable [67, 112, 113]	–
<b>Diuretics</b>		
Thiazides	Comparable [114]	Comparable [42, 68, 71, 77, 78, 115–117]
Spirolactone	Larger effect of spironolactone (drug-resistant hypertension) [118]	–

BP: blood pressure; incl.: including; NASH: non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; SR: sustained release. Randomised head-to-head trials designed to measure efficacy of monotherapies in people with hypertension were included from a PubMed search for “*amlodipine AND ((list of drugs of interest)) AND hypertension*”.

Comparisons are from the perspective of bisoprolol or amlodipine: for example, a “larger effect” means a larger effect of those drugs vs. the stated comparator.



confirmed that adherence rates to regimens based on the bisoprolol/amlodipine tablet were high.

In conclusion, these studies have shown that the bisoprolol/amlodipine tablet is an effective option for the management of hypertension that supports good adherence to therapy. This tablet has a place in the management of hypertension, particularly for people with a compelling indication for  $\beta$ -blockade (such as coronary heart disease, post-myocardial infarction or atrial fibrillation), or in younger women planning a family [37].

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