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Use of statins in chronic kidney disease

Varun Agrawal
University of Vermont, USA

Cardiovascular disease is the major cause of morbidity and mortality in patients with chronic kidney disease. Statins (or HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors) have been shown in clinical trials to reduce cardiovascular events in chronic kidney disease but are not effective in patients receiving dialysis. While statins are clearly indicated in patients with coronary artery disease or diabetes mellitus to reduce cardiovascular risk, it is not clear if patients with chronic kidney disease without these cardiovascular risk factors benefit from receiving statin therapy. Professional organizations provide different guidelines for use of statins in chronic kidney disease that may confuse the primary care physicians. Current evidence on use of statins in chronic kidney disease will be reviewed. Expert recommendations on how to optimally reduce cardiovascular risk with statins in chronic kidney disease will be provided.

Biography

Varun Agrawal is an Assistant Professor of Medicine (Nephrology) at the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, USA. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Nephrology and American College of Physicians. His areas of interest are chronic kidney disease, hypertension, kidney stones, patient education, provider education, medical education and obesity. He has published many peer-reviewed journal articles in these areas and has performed numerous peer-review activities for a variety of nephrology and medicine journals. He is actively involved in teaching medical students, residents and Nephrology fellows. He has developed a new curriculum for medicine residents rotating in Nephrology that has been well received and appreciated at his institute.

varunagrwal1996@yahoo.com