

29th World Cardiology Conference

November 19-20, 2018 | Edinburgh, Scotland

PCSK9 Inhibition and Reduction of Cardiovascular Risk

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Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin Kexin Type 9 (PCSK9) plays an important role in the lifecycle of the LDL-cholesterol hepatic receptor, and thus on the levels of LDL-cholesterol in the blood. Epidemiologic, pathophysiologic, and clinical trials data suggest that lower LDL-C levels are correlated with improved cardiovascular outcomes in patients at risk from polygenic mechanisms as well as familial hypercholesterolemia. Statins have formed the mainstay of dyslipidemic management for over three decades. The advent of PCSK9 inhibition in combination with statins or alone in patients unable to tolerate statin therapy has provided new options for previously unachievable LDL-C lowering. This will include epidemiologic and genetic data and results from outcome trials from evolocumab, bococizumab, and alirocumab and preliminary results from inclisiran. Adoption of these therapies has been impeded by cost concerns and uncertainties about very low LDL-C levels. This presentation will review the evidence base for treating at risk patients with these new modalities and the implications for their subsequent risk.

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