



ASX release

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New study supports central blood pressure measurement

AtCor Medical (ASX:ACG), the developer and marketer of the SphygmoCor[®] system which measures central blood pressures and arterial stiffness non-invasively, today announced that a new study¹ which examined the effects of drugs used to lower heart rate in hypertension further validates the importance of central blood pressure measurement.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, showed that slowing the heart rate with beta blockers is associated with greater risk of heart attack and death in hypertensive patients. According to senior author, Dr. Franz Messerli (St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, New York), the new paper goes against the notion that slowing the heart rate in hypertension prolongs life expectancy. "Slowing the heart rate with beta blockers increases the central pressure, and obviously the latter is one of the determinants of stroke and heart attack," Dr. Messerli said in an interview with *heartwire*, a leading publication for cardiologists.

Commenting on the study in an interview with *heartwire*, Professor John Cockcroft MD (Wales Heart Institute, Cardiff UK) pointed to the importance of understanding drug effects on central pressure, "It's central pressure that the pharmaceutical industry should be focusing on," said Dr. Cockcroft, "because different drugs, especially beta blockers, have differential effects on central pressure, and we know from the Strong Heart Study that central aortic pressure is a better predictor of outcome than pressure in the arm."

"This study reinforces the importance of assessing the effects of drugs on central blood pressure, in pharmaceutical research and in clinical practice," said Duncan Ross President and CEO of AtCor Medical. "This demonstrates the importance of using central blood pressure measured with SphygmoCor[®] to assess patients on therapies which are designed to affect heart rate. The dangers of elevated central pressure have been well established—this is an important patient safety issue."

AtCor Medical's SphygmoCor[®] is considered to be the gold standard for measuring central blood pressure non-invasively, and has been featured in more than 400 peer-reviewed publications. Central blood pressure is the actual blood pressure at the heart, rather than approximate blood pressure based on measurement at the arm.

¹ Bangalore S, Sawhney S, and Messerli FH. Relation of beta-blocker induced heart rate lowering and cardioprotection in hypertension. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* 2008; 52: 1482-1489.

About AtCor Medical

AtCor Medical develops and markets products for the early detection of cardiovascular risk and management of cardiovascular disease. Its technology allows researchers and clinicians to measure central blood pressure non-invasively. The company's SphygmoCor® system visibly identifies the effects of reflected blood pressure in the central aortic pressure wave, effects which cannot be detected with standard blood pressure monitoring. More than 1,700 SphygmoCor® systems are currently in use worldwide at major medical institutions research institutions and in various clinical trials with leading pharmaceutical companies, and the company's technology have been featured in over 400 peer-reviewed studies published in leading medical journals. AtCor has operations in Australia, the United States, and Europe. For further information, please visit our web site at www.atcormedical.com

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