Background: Stress cardiomyopathy (SC) is a novel cardiac syndrome characterized by peculiar, transient left ventricular dysfunction in the absence of significant coronary occlusion. Exacerbations of chronic medical conditions and sepsis are common precipitants that precede the “myocardial stunning.” There is evidence that inflammatory cytokines released by Escherichia coli and lipopolysaccharide administration cause decreased cardiac myofilament responsiveness and contractility.

Methods: The present systematic review aimed to report an updated case series of SC precipitated by E.coli sepsis in an attempt to summarize their demographic and clinical characteristics. A systematic search through Medline archives accessed by Pudmed (1950-2013) for all such case reports matching our inclusion criterion was performed. Overall, four such cases were eligible and we included our patient with SC with E.coli sepsis as the fifth report. Demographic, clinical, electrocardiographic, and echocardiographic characteristics were compared and evaluated.

Results: There was a greater male predominance with an average age of 56 years. The most common ECG abnormalities were ST segment elevation in lateral leads (40%) and anterior leads (60%). There were no fatal outcomes in the cases reported in this analysis. The average time to achieve recovery of clinical, biochemical, and echocardiographic abnormalities was 17 days.

Conclusion: In comparison to most cases of SC reported in literature due to other stressors, E.coli sepsis SC are younger and show a greater male predominance. Other unique characteristics of this subset of patients are ST segment elevation in lateral leads, modest increase in troponin levels, and relatively faster complete recovery. Patients in whom E.coli sepsis is the precipitating factor of SC have a different spectrum of clinical, biochemical, and electrocardiographic changes. A high index of clinical suspicion is essential in the diagnosis and treatment of these patients.

Effect of Ivabradine in patients with heart failure in whom beta blockers were contraindicated

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Background: Heart failure is associated with high mortality and morbidity. Tachycardia is an important risk factor for adverse outcomes. Betablockers are important part of heart failure management as they reduces mortality significantly. We assessed the effect of heart-rate reduction by the ivabradine on outcomes in heart failure in patients in whom beta blockers were contraindicated.

Methods: Patients were eligible for participation in this study if they had symptomatic heart failure with left-ventricular ejection fraction of 35% or lower, were in sinus rhythm with heart rate more than 75 bpm who were admitted with aggravation of symptoms, and beta blockers were contraindicated. Patients were given ivabradine titrated to a maximum of 7.5 mg twice daily or matching placebo. The primary endpoint was the composite of cardiovascular death or hospital admission for worsening heart failure.

Result: We evaluated 1500 patients of heart failure from January 2010 till June 2014. Out of 1500 patients, 800 patients were ineligible for betablockers in view of low blood pressure. Out of rest 700 patients, 350 patients received ivabradine and 350 patients were given placebo. 60% patients were males and rest were females. They were followed for more than two years. There was no significant difference in mortality between the two groups as 24 patients from ivabradine and 27 patients from placebo group expired (p - non significant). There was not much difference in hospital admissions due to worsening of heart failure. (82 patients from ivabradine group and 87 patients from placebo group got admitted.). No significant side effects were noted with ivabradine.

Conclusion: There was no significant difference in mortality and morbidity with ivabradine therapy in patients with heart failure in whom betablockers were contraindicated. Hospitalization was more or less same in both the groups.

Effects of ivabradine on left ventricular function in patients with ischemic heart failure

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Background: Ivabradine, selective If channel blocker, has been shown to reduce recurrent hospitalization due to worsening of heart failure. Role of this agent on left ventricular function in patients with ischemic heart failure is still unexplored.

Aims and objectives: This study was planned to assess the effects of addition of ivabradine to optimal medical therapy(OMT) in patients of ischemic heart failure with systolic dysfunction on Left ventricular function, Exercise duration, Serum Brain Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) levels and Health-related quality of life.

Methods: In this open-label, randomized, a total number of 158 patients of stable, ischemic heart failure were included and were randomly assigned into OMT group (n=80) and ivabradine group (n=78). Baseline assessments included assessment of Left ventricular dimension and Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF),