**EFFECTS OF VALSARTAN, EPROSARTAN OR LOSARTAN ON DIASTOLIC FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION**

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Objective: To compare the effects of combined therapy of an angiotensin II receptor blockers Valsartan, Eprosartan or Losartan and thiazide-like diuretic Indapamide on blood pressure (BP), brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) and diastolic indices in patients with essential hypertension.

Background: This was a prospective randomized trial, in which there were 45 patients with essential hypertension and diastolic dysfunction (DD), functional class NYHA I-III, (25 men; mean±SD age, 50,7±5 years).

Methods: Patients was randomly assigned to receive Valsartan

(mean dose 245 mg/day, V group, n=15), Eprosartan (800 mg/day, E group, n=18), Losartan (100 mg/day, L group, n=12) in combination with Indapamide 1,5 mg/day for 24 weeks. Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring, echocardiographic findings and plasma BNP levels were evaluated before and after the therapy.

Results: The baseline and post-therapeutic BP levels were similar among all groups. The plasma BNP levels (P<0.01, P<0,001 and P<0,05 in the V, E, and L groups, respectively), the E/A ratio and IVRT (P<0.001 for each) were also reduced. However, the percentage reduction in E/A and IVRT were comparably (P<0.00) for each, but BNP (P<0.01, P<0,001 and P<0,05, respectively) was greater in the E group.

Conclusions: Our findings suggest that, when compared with each therapy: Valsartan, Eprosartan or Losartan exerts beneficial effects regarding the reduction comparably on BP and diastolic parameters, but Eprosartan therapy exerts greater beneficial effects in the reduction of BNP.