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Review on Hypertensive Crisis

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ABSTRACT

Hypertension is an extremely common clinical problem. A number of terms have been applied to severe hypertension, including hypertensive crisis, emergencies and urgencies. By definition, acute elevations in blood pressure that are associated with end-organ damage are called hypertensive crisis. The impact of hypertensive crisis often reports non-specific symptoms, whereas heart-related symptoms such as dyspnea, chest pain, arrhythmias and syncope are less common. Hypertensive crisis can be divided into hypertensive emergencies or hypertensive urgencies according to the presence or absence of acute target organ damage, respectively this are important and common event in urgent care medicine with higher frequency of hypertensive urgencies (76%) compared to emergencies (24%). This differentiation is extremely useful in clinical practice since a different management is needed, which in turn has a significant effect on the morbidity and mortality of the patients. It is therefore, very crucial for the physician to identify the hypertensive emergency cases and to manage them through blood pressure lowering medications in order to avoid further target organ damage and deterioration. This article gives an overview of the clinical presentations, diagnostic procedures, complications and management of hypertensive crisis.

Key words: Hypertension, hypertensive emergency, hypertensive urgency, hypertensive encephalopathy, acute aortic dissection.

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