

# ASSESSING ADHERENCE TO ESC/ERS GUIDELINES FOR VASOREACTIVITY TESTING AND PRESCRIPTION OF CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION PATIENTS

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## Background and importance

The ESC/ERS Guidelines for treating pulmonary hypertension (PH) recommend vasoreactivity testing during right heart catheterization for patients with idiopathic/hereditary/drug-associated PH (IPH/HPH/DAPH) and subsequent treatment with calcium channel blockers (CCB) in those with a positive result.

## Aim and objectives

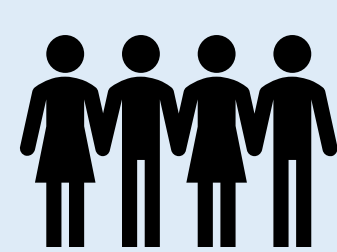
To evaluate the consistency in conducting vasoreactivity testing in patients with IPH/HPH/DAPH and to ascertain whether positive test outcomes lead to the initiation of CCB therapy.

## Material and methods

- ✓ Study design: multicentre, cross-sectional, observational, retrospective study
- ✓ Setting: three tertiary hospital
- ✓ Information: from the Diraya® digital medical record.



## Patients:



176 Type-I PH patients treated between 2006 and 2023.




- ✓ The data collected: patients with a PH type-I diagnosis to identify IPH/HPH/DAPH ; catheterization data to find vasoreactivity testing → **positive** → prescriptions of CCB.

- ✓ Safety assessment: Estimation of the number of patients who benefit from being treated with CCB blockers, calculating that 10% of these have proof of vasoreactivity +

## Results 125/176 (71%) women

- Median age of 58 (IQR: 45-69).
- Aetiologies:  
**Congenital heart Disease**, 38.6% (68)  
Connective Tissue Disease 27.8% (49)  
Portopulmonary Hypertension 6.8% (12)  
HIV 3.4% (6)  
IPH 15.3% (27),  
1.1% DAPH (2).

- Vasoreactivity testing :   
29 patients (27 IPH and two DAPH)



**12 patients → vasoreactivity + → BCC**

- For the remaining (17 patients): 4 missing catheterization data 13 underwent catheterization but were not tested for vasoreactivity.

**Approximately 1-2 patients may benefit from CCB.**



## Conclusion and relevance

Vasoreactivity testing was not consistently carried out in IPH/HPH/ADPH patients; a subset of patients could benefit from high dose CCB. For those patients with a positive result, CCB were adequately prescribed. Hospital pharmacists could play a role in reviewing new prescriptions of PH-specific therapy in order to identify patients not tested for vasoreactivity.



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