HYPERTENSION IN WOMEN: WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW HYPERTENSION GUIDELINES?

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Disclosure of Relationships
past 12 months

- Research Support: Medtronic
- Speaker’s Bureau: Arbor
- Consultant: Lundbeck

I do not plan to discuss off-label content
Learning Objectives

- Understand the unique issues related to hypertension diagnosis and management that effect women throughout the lifespan
- Understand how the new hypertension guidelines effect the diagnosis and management of hypertension in women

Case Presentation

- 52 yo woman with no known history of HTN presents for yearly gynecologic follow-up
- No significant PMH; G2P2; LMP ~ 1 yr ago
- Meds: MVI, Tylenol prn
- Works as an accountant – moderate stress
- No tobacco; occasional wine with dinner
- 1 cup of caffeinated coffee daily, no sodas
- aerobic exercise 30 minutes 3 times per week
Case Presentation

- BP 152/96 RUE, 150/92 LUE; repeat 144/88 RUE
  - (last year 132/76)
- Exam unremarkable
- Labs unremarkable

- Does this lady have hypertension?
- If so, are there special considerations for diagnosis and therapy?

Hypertension

- Estimated 103 million US adults with HTN
- Prevalence of HTN increases with age in both sexes
- Women - more likely to be aware of their diagnosis, to be treated with medications, and to have controlled BP
- Women - more commonly prescribed diuretics and less frequently ACEIs
- Diagnosis and treatment of HTN in women is directly related to stage of reproductive health
Prevalence of HTN Among US Adults
NHANES 2011-2014

Prevalence of HTN Among US Adults
NHANES 2015-2016

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db289
Prevalence of Controlled HTN by Sex and Age, 2015-2016

[Bar chart showing prevalence by sex and age groups.]

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db289

Prevalence of Controlled HTN by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, 2015-2016

[Bar chart showing prevalence by race and origin.]

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db289
Women Through the Lifespan

- Childbearing
- Pregnancy
- Menopause
- Postmenopause

Oral Contraceptives and HTN

- OCPs associated with increase in BP and risk of CV events
  - 2x risk of CHD, CVA, and VTE
  - absolute risk is low in those without risk factors
- Risk increases with:
  - increasing age
  - tobacco use
  - duration of OCP use
  - obesity
- Generally reversible with discontinuation of OCP

Relative Risk for Development of HTN by OC Use in Nurses Health Study

![Relative Risk for Development of HTN by OC Use in Nurses Health Study](image)

**Adapted from Chasan-Taber et al. Circ 1996;94:483-489**

**Arq Bras Cardiol 2007;88(6):604-613**

**Oral Contraceptives and HTN**

- Associated with concentration of ethinyl estradiol
- Less effect on BP with newer 3rd generation combination OCP (Estrogen 20 - 35 mcg and progesterone)
- Drospirenone (progestin) has antimineralocorticoid/diuretic effects that minimize BP effects of estrogen when used in combination
- ACOG recommends:
  - low-dose combination OCP use in women with well-controlled HTN
  - progestin only or levonorgestrel IUD in women with uncontrolled HTN
  - monitor closely

**Ahmed, Oparil. Hypertension. 2017;70:19-26.**
Pregnancy and HTN
ACOG Categories

- Preeclampsia/eclampsia
  - New onset HTN and proteinuria or HTN associated with TOD (in absence of proteinuria)
- Chronic HTN of any cause
  - BP >140/90 before pregnancy, before the 20th week of pregnancy, or lasting > 12 weeks postpartum
- Chronic HTN with superimposed preeclampsia
  - Development preeclampsia/eclampsia in women with chronic hypertension
- Gestational HTN
  - Elevated BP after 20 weeks without preeclampsia

Pregnancy and HTN
Risk Factor for CVD Postpartum

- Early-onset preeclampsia associated with HTN (38% vs 14%) and metabolic syndrome (18% vs 2%) compared with normotensive pregnant women
- More frequent development of cardiomyopathy
- Offspring of women with HTN during pregnancy develop higher BP in adolescence (long-term CVD risk unclear)

New paradigm for enhanced cardiovascular risk in women exposed to preeclampsia

Pregnancy and HTN
Treatment

- All antihypertensive medications cross the placenta
- Methyldopa – long-term safety profile
- Labetalol, nifedipine, hydralazine considered safe

- AVOID:
  - ACEIs, ARBs, DRI, nitroprusside
Estrogens and CVD

Pre-menopause

- Estrogen receptor-mediated phenotype is CVD protective
- Decreases AT$_1$ receptor expression
- Decreases ACE expression and activity
- Inhibits endothelin synthesis
- Antimitogenic; protecting against neointimal proliferation
- Antioxidant; protects against oxidative stress

Post-menopause

- Estrogen receptor-mediated phenotype changes to promote CVD
- Reduced inhibitory effects of estrogens on vasoconstriction of vascular smooth muscle
- [Androgens] relative increase and [estrogens] decrease may:
  - Promote renal Na$^+$ retention
  - Increase Angiotensin II and endothelin production
  - Increase oxidative stress

Menopause and Hypertension

- Postmenopausal women have increased incidence of HTN and CVD
- Increase in SBP
  - withdrawal of vasodilator effects of endogenous estrogen
  - increased arterial stiffness
  - increased salt sensitivity
  - diminished endothelial nitric oxide production
  - upregulation of AT$_1$ receptor expression
  - obesity – 40% postmenopausal women
  - higher rates of depression and anxiety

Relative balance of sex steroids may be critical in post-menopausal HTN development?


BP Rises After Menopause—Risk of Hypertension Triples

Changes in SBP From Baseline to Follow-up (Mean 5.2 Years)

![Graph showing changes in blood pressure from baseline to follow-up for different groups of women.]

*P<0.05,
†P=0.07.
Baseline SBP: Pre=121.4 ± 1.3 mmHg; Peri=122.0 ± 1.8 mmHg; Post=126.5 ± 1.7 mmHg;
Controls: men matched by age and BMI.


Menopause Increases Salt-sensitivity

Increases in Salt Intake Lead to Increases in Blood Pressure in Postmenopausal Women

![Graph showing the relationship between salt intake and blood pressure.]

Hypertension Increases With Weight Gain in Women

Nurses' Health Study: Hypertension‡ According to Weight Change

Overweight=BMI ≥25 kg/m²; obese=BMI ≥30 kg/m²; extreme obesity=BMI ≥40 kg/m²
*Adjusted for age, BMI at age 18 years, height, family history of myocardial infarction, parity, oral contraceptive use, postmenopausal status, postmenopausal use of hormones, and smoking.
‡>140/90 mmHg.

Overweight—BMI ≥25 kg/m²; obese—BMI ≥30 kg/m²; extreme obesity—BMI ≥40 kg/m²

Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring Important for Diagnosis

- Superior to in-office measurements in diagnosis HTN and predicting CV outcomes
- ABPM in Women
  - lower day-time and night-time BPs
  - higher control rates
  - higher rates of hypotension in older women
- White-coat HTN
  - More prevalent in older or pregnant women
- USPSTF and AHA/ACC guidelines recommend ABPM in all patients before initiating treatment
  - Grade A (USPSTF)

ABPM
Important for CV risk stratification

- **White-coat HTN**
  - More prevalent in older or pregnant women
  - Increased anxiety and metabolic syndrome
  - Small studies suggest 2x increased CVD outcomes in those with >3 CVD risk factors

- **Elevated Nocturnal BP – Nondippers**
  - Greater prevalence CVD events and mortality
  - Increases with age in both men and women

- **Masked HTN**
  - CVD risk factor
  - More prevalent in men
  - Increases in women with increases in BMI and alcohol intake


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**CV Event Incidence and Risk in Individuals Without HTN**

**CV death, MI, Stroke, and HF Incidence in the Framingham Cohort**

- **Optimal** = <120/<80 mmHg
- **Normal** = 120–129/<80–84 mmHg
- **High normal** = 130–139/<84–89 mmHg

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1 Adjusted for concomitant CV risk factors

2017 Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults

**BP Classification (JNC 7 and ACC/AHA Guidelines)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SBP</th>
<th>DBP</th>
<th>JNC 7</th>
<th>2017 ACC/AHA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;120</td>
<td>&lt;80</td>
<td>Normal BP</td>
<td>Normal BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120–129</td>
<td>&lt;80</td>
<td>Prehypertension</td>
<td>Elevated BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130–139</td>
<td>80–89</td>
<td>Prehypertension</td>
<td>Stage 1 hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140–159</td>
<td>90–99</td>
<td>Stage 1 hypertension</td>
<td>Stage 2 hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥160</td>
<td>≥100</td>
<td>Stage 2 hypertension</td>
<td>Stage 2 hypertension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Blood Pressure should be based on an average of ≥2 careful readings on ≥2 occasions
- Adults being treated with antihypertensive medication designated as having hypertension

**Prevalence of Hypertension, by Age and Sex**

[Graph showing prevalence of hypertension by age and sex for men and women]

Whelton PK et al. Hypertension. 2017
Whelton PK et al. JACC. 2017
Distribution of US adults into BP Categories
NHANES 2011-2014

Prevalence of hypertension: 45.6%

Muntner et. al., JACC. 2017
Muntner, et. al., Circulation. 2017

Prevalence of Hypertension
2017 ACC/AHA and JN7 Guidelines

Prevalence of hypertension, %
Number with hypertension, millions

Muntner et. al. JACC. 2017
Muntner, et. al. Circulation 2017

Whelton PK et al. Hypertension. 2017
Whelton PK et al. JACC. 2017

JNC7 guideline
Comparison of Prevalence using the 2003 JNC 7 and 2017 BP Guideline Definitions of Hypertension, by Age and Sex

Comparison of Prevalence using the 2003 JNC 7 and 2017 BP Guideline Definitions of Hypertension, by Race-Ethnicity

Whelton PK et al. Hypertension. 2017
Whelton PK et al. JACC. 2017
BP THRESHOLDS and RECOMMENDATIONS for TREATMENT

Nonpharmacologic (Lifestyle) Interventions for Prevention and Treatment of Hypertension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss</td>
<td>Weight/body fat Ideal body weight best goal, but at least 1 kg reduction in body weight for most adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy diet</td>
<td>DASH dietary pattern Diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products with low saturated and total fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce sodium intake</td>
<td>Dietary sodium &lt;1,500 mg/day optimal, but at least 1,000 mg reduction in most adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance potassium intake</td>
<td>Dietary potassium 3,500 mg/day, preferably by consumption of a diet rich in potassium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>Aerobic, dynamic resistance, isometric resistance 90-150 min/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate alcohol intake</td>
<td>Alcohol consumption Men: limit to 2 drinks daily Women: limit to 1 drink daily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BP Treatment Threshold and the use of ASCVD Risk Estimation to Guide Drug Treatment of Hypertension

*ACC/AHA Pooled Cohort Equations to estimate 10-year risk of ASCVD. ASCVD was defined as a first nonfatal MI or CHD death, or fatal or nonfatal stroke among adults free of CVD.

ACC/AHA Pooled Cohort Equations

To estimate the 10-year risk of atherosclerotic CVD

Based on age, race sex, total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, treatment with a statin, systolic BP, treatment for hypertension, history of diabetes, current smoker, aspirin therapy

http://tools.acc.org/ASCVD-Risk-Estimator/
CVD EVENTS AVOIDED BY BASELINE RISK AND MAGNITUDE OF SBP LOWERING

![Cardiovascular events avoided per 1000](image)

**Benefits of using both BP and ASCVD risk assessment in determining BP thresholds for antihypertensive drug therapy**

- Treatment is focused on patients most likely to have events
- More CVD events are prevented
- Larger absolute CVD risk reduction with treatment
- Lower number needed-to-treat to prevent one CVD event
- More quality-adjusted life years are saved
- Lower cost of care
1. For adults with confirmed hypertension and known CVD or 10-year ASCVD event risk of 10% or higher, a BP target of less than 130/80 mm Hg is recommended.

2. For adults with confirmed hypertension, without additional markers of increased CVD risk, a BP target of less than 130/80 mm Hg may be reasonable.

**BP GOAL FOR PATIENTS WITH HYPERTENSION**

**MAJOR CV EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reduction to 120-124</th>
<th>Reduction to 130-134</th>
<th>Reduction to 140-144</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Achieved Systolic Blood Pressure, mm Hg</td>
<td>Hazard Ratio (95% CI)</td>
<td>Favors lower BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-124 vs. 130-134</td>
<td>0.92 (0.87, 0.97)</td>
<td>favors lower BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-124 vs. 140-144</td>
<td>0.71 (0.60, 0.83)</td>
<td>favors lower BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-124 vs. 150-154</td>
<td>0.55 (0.42, 0.72)</td>
<td>favors lower BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-124 vs. 160-169</td>
<td>0.41 (0.32, 0.54)</td>
<td>favors lower BP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Findings:

- In randomized comparisons, progressive reduction in CVD risk at lower levels of achieved SBP.
- Similar findings for stroke, CHD and all-cause mortality
- Similar pattern in sensitivity analyses in which: SPRINT and 4 other trials with risk for bias were excluded
SUMMARY: TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Lifestyle modification is the cornerstone of the treatment of hypertension.

New thresholds for initiation of antihypertensive drug therapy in stage 1 hypertension, use of ASCVD risk estimation to determine whether to treat with
  - Nonpharmacological therapy alone (“low” risk patients)
  - Antihypertensive drug therapy, in addition to
    - Nonpharmacological therapy (“high” risk patients)

- New target for BP reduction during treatment of hypertension

Recommendations for Older Persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COR</th>
<th>LOE</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3. Treatment of hypertension with a SBP treatment goal of less than 130 mm Hg is recommended for noninstitutionalized ambulatory community-dwelling adults (≥65 years of age) with an average SBP of 130 mm Hg or higher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIa</td>
<td>C-EO</td>
<td>4. For older adults (≥65 years of age) with hypertension and a high burden of comorbidity and limited life expectancy, clinical judgment, patient preference, and a team-based approach to assess risk/benefit is reasonable for decisions regarding intensity of BP lowering and choice of antihypertensive drugs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rationale for Blood Pressure Goal of <130 mmHg in Older Adults

- Large number of older adults have been enrolled in BP lowering treatment trials
- BP lowering trials have shown:
  - Decreased CVD morbidity and mortality
  - No increased risk for falls or orthostatic hypotension

Recommendations for Women

- Clinical trials are without significant difference in blood pressure lowering or outcomes by sex
  - ALLHAT – no difference primary outcome; post hoc analysis showed higher stroke rate in women on Lisinopril
  - SPRINT – statistically nonsignificant benefit in the intensive treatment group for women; enrollment of fewer women than expected
- Guidelines have some variation by age and comorbidities, but not by sex: target ≤ 130/80
- CVD risk-based strategy accounts for sex

Antihypertensive Agents – Special Considerations

- ACEIs, ARBs, and DRIs should not be prescribed for women who are or intend to become pregnant
- Mineralocorticoid antagonists – ambiguous genitalia
- Women 3x more likely to develop ACE-related cough
- Women more likely to complain of CCB-related edema and minoxidil-induced hirsutism
- Diuretics useful in some elderly at-risk patients due to decreased risk of hip fracture
- Women more likely to develop diuretic-induced hyponatremia and hypokalemia
- Men more frequently develop gout from thiazides and sexual dysfunction from thiazides and beta blockers


Case Presentation

- 52 yo woman with no known history of HTN presents for yearly gynecologic follow-up
- BP 152/96 RUE, 150/92 LUE; repeat 144/88 RUE - (last year 132/76)

- Does this lady have hypertension? Confirm with 24 hour ABPM
- ASCVD risk = 2.2% white; 5% AA previous yr
- Are there special considerations for therapy? Initiate therapy if 24 hr average greater than 135/85 or office BP greater than 140/90 (stage 2) Thiazide diuretic, CCB, RAS blocker
Summary

- Women have special issues related to BP and HTN throughout their reproductive cycle
- Endogenous estrogen appears to be protective in younger women
- HTN prevalence increases with age as does the risk for CV events
- ABPM is a useful tool to diagnose HTN and stratify CVD risk
- Treatment recommendations are similar for both sexes; however, individualize due to differences in adverse events
- RAS blockers are ABSOLUTELY contraindicated in pregnancy