

Acute Coronary Syndrome: Diagnosis and Initial Management

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Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) is defined as reduced blood flow to the coronary myocardium manifesting as ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction or non-ST-segment elevation ACS, which includes unstable angina and non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. Common risk factors include being at least 65 years of age or a current smoker or having hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, a body mass index greater than 25 kg per m², or a family history of premature coronary artery disease. Symptoms most predictive of ACS include chest discomfort that is substernal or spreading to the arms or jaw. However, chest pain that can be reproduced with palpation or varies with breathing or position is less likely to signify ACS. Having a prior abnormal cardiac stress test result indicates increased risk. Electrocardiography changes that predict ACS include ST depression, ST elevation, T-wave inversion, or presence of Q waves. No validated clinical decision tool is available to rule out ACS in the outpatient setting. Elevated troponin levels without ST-segment elevation on electrocardiography suggest non-ST-segment elevation ACS. Patients with ACS should receive coronary angiography with percutaneous or surgical revascularization. Other important management considerations include initiation of dual antiplatelet therapy and parenteral anticoagulation, statin therapy, beta-blocker therapy, and sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitor therapy. Additional interventions shown to reduce mortality in patients who have had a recent myocardial infarction include smoking cessation, annual influenza vaccination, and cardiac rehabilitation. (*Am Fam Physician*. 2024;109(1):34-42. Copyright © 2024 American Academy of Family Physicians.)

Each year, acute coronary syndrome (ACS) affects more than 7 million people globally.¹ ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) is responsible for 30% of cases, whereas non-ST-segment elevation ACS (NSTEMI) accounts for the remaining 70%.² Common risk factors include being at least 65 years of age or a current smoker or having hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, a body mass index greater than 25 kg per m², or a family history of premature coronary artery disease (CAD).³ The most common symptom of ACS is acute chest pain, which accounts for approximately 1% of primary care visits and 5% of emergency department visits each year.^{4,5}

Pathophysiology

ACS is caused by reduced blood flow to the coronary myocardium, which can result in heart muscle damage.^{2,6-8} The most common cause of hypoperfusion is atherosclerosis; other common causes include coronary artery spasm and dissection.

CME This clinical content conforms to AAFP criteria for CME. See CME Quiz on page 13.

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Definitions

STEMI is heart muscle damage confirmed with elevated troponin levels and ST-segment elevation on electrocardiography (ECG). NSTEMI includes unstable angina (chest pain at rest with possible changes on ECG but without an elevated troponin level) and non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction, which is heart muscle damage confirmed diagnostically using elevated troponin levels and ECG changes without ST-segment elevation.

Initial Evaluation

HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Crushing, substernal chest discomfort is the typical presentation of ACS. The pain may spread to one or both arms or the jaw. It may be caused by exertion and associated with nausea, emesis, and diaphoresis. Men and women report symptoms with a significant overlap in presentation, and chest discomfort is the most common symptom for both.^{2,8} However, women may be more likely to experience accompanying nausea, pain that spreads to the shoulders, and shortness of breath.^{2,9,10} Studies comparing symptom presentations of men and women did not explicitly state how participant sex was identified. It should be noted that any disparities observed between men and women are likely driven by bias, or other factors aside from the symptom profile. Patients who are at

SORT: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRACTICE

Clinical recommendations	Evidence rating	Comments
Patients who present for acute chest pain and a high suspicion for acute coronary syndrome should be referred to the emergency department, where the evaluation should use predictive risk scores to aid in the prognosis, diagnosis, and management. This evaluation should include 12-lead electrocardiography within 10 minutes of presentation, history and physical examination, and high-sensitivity cardiac troponin measurement at initial presentation and three hours after symptom onset. ^{2,7,8,11}	C	Expert opinion and consensus guidelines
Patients diagnosed with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction should receive coronary angiography, followed by PCI with a drug-eluting stent within 120 minutes of presenting to the emergency department. When PCI is not available, fibrinolytics can be administered if no contraindications are present, with maximal benefit to the patient if administered within 120 minutes of symptom onset. The patient should then be transferred to a center capable of performing PCI. ^{2,8,25-28}	A	Consistent results from randomized controlled trials showing reduced mortality
Early invasive therapy is recommended for patients with non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome and high risk (e.g., patients with heart failure) to reduce cardiovascular events and mortality. ^{6,8,25,30}	A	Meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials and consensus guidelines
Antithrombotic therapy should be initiated with aspirin, a P2Y ₁₂ inhibitor, and a parenteral anticoagulant. ^{2,31-37}	A	Consistent results from randomized controlled trials showing reduced mortality
Influenza vaccination, smoking cessation, and referral to cardiac rehabilitation improve mortality in patients with recent myocardial infarction. ^{9,49-51}	B	Consistent results from cohort studies and randomized controlled trials demonstrating improved mortality

PCI = percutaneous coronary intervention.

A = consistent, good-quality patient-oriented evidence; **B** = inconsistent or limited-quality patient-oriented evidence; **C** = consensus, disease-oriented evidence, usual practice, expert opinion, or case series. For information about the SORT evidence rating system, go to <https://www.aafp.org/afpsort>.

WHAT'S NEW ON THIS TOPIC

Acute Coronary Syndrome

The 2021 American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association guidelines no longer recommend classifying chest pain as atypical or typical, because this classification is not useful for identifying the cause and has been misused to classify chest pain as benign. Instead, the guidelines now recommend that chest pain be classified as cardiac, possibly cardiac, or noncardiac.

A systematic review of home-based cardiac rehabilitation studies demonstrated higher patient adherence to home-based cardiac rehabilitation, and that home-based and outpatient cardiac rehabilitation achieved similar improvement in functional capacity, quality of life, and coronary artery disease risk factor control after 12 months.

Despite the high prevalence of depression in patients with acute coronary syndrome, evidence suggests that there is minimal benefit to screening for depression in patients who have had a myocardial infarction within the past 12 months.

least 65 years of age or have diabetes mellitus may be more likely to report shortness of breath instead of chest pain as their initial symptom⁶ and may also report vague abdominal pain.⁸

Symptoms most predictive of ACS include classic symptoms of crushing, substernal chest pain (likelihood ratio [LR] = 1.9; 95% CI, 0.9 to 2.9) and pain spreading to the arms (LR = 2.6; 95% CI, 1.8 to 3.7). Having a prior abnormal stress test result (LR = 3.1; 95% CI, 2.0 to 4.7) indicates higher risk of ACS. The likelihood of ACS is reduced when the patient reports chest pain that varies with breathing or position (LR = 0.5; 95% CI, 0.4 to 0.6) or pain that can be reproduced with chest palpation (LR = 0.3; 95% CI, 0.14 to 0.5).^{7,11}

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS FOR CHEST PAIN

Chest pain is the most commonly reported symptom for ACS, but the condition is only diagnosed

TABLE 1

Risk Stratification of Chest Pain

Category	Marburg Heart Score (outpatient)	Points	HEART Score (inpatient)	Points
Indications	Intermittent chest pain in primary care patients	—	Acute chest pain in emergency department	—
Clinical history	Increased pain with exercise	1	Highly suspicious for ACS based on clinical judgement	2
	Pain not reproduced on chest wall palpation	1		
	Patient assumes pain is of cardiac origin	1	Moderately suspicious for ACS	1
			Slightly or not suspicious for ACS	0
Electrocardiography	NA	—	Significant ST depression	2
			Nonspecific repolarization	1
			Normal	0
Age	Women ≥ 65 years; men ≥ 55 years	1	≥ 65 years	2
			45 to 64 years	1
			< 45 years	0
Risk factors	Known vascular disease	1	≥ 3 risk factors*	2
			1 or 2 risk factors	1
			No known risk factors	0
Troponin levels	NA	—	> 3 times the normal limit	2
			1 to 3 times the normal limit	1
			≤ normal limit	0
Total points		_____	Total points	_____
Risk interpretation				
	Low risk (at 6-month evaluation, LR of 0.04 that patient's chest pain is caused by underlying CAD)	0 to 1	Low risk (1.7% risk of MACE within 6 weeks)	0 to 3
	Intermediate risk (at 6-month evaluation, LR of 1 that patient's chest pain is caused by underlying CAD)	2 to 3	Intermediate risk (17% risk of MACE within 6 weeks)	4 to 6
	High risk (at 6-month evaluation, LR of 11 that patient's chest pain is caused by underling CAD)	4 to 5	High risk (50% risk of MACE within 6 weeks)	7 to 10

Note: Marburg Heart Score calculator: <https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/4022/marburg-heart-score-mhs>; HEART Score calculator: <https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/1752/heart-score-major-cardiac-events>. Other calculators useful for risk stratification: INTERCHEST Clinical Prediction Rule for Chest Pain in Primary Care (<https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/10225/interchest-clinical-prediction-rule-chest-pain-primary-care>), and Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction risk score for unstable angina non-ST elevation myocardial infarction (<https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/111/timi-risk-score-ua-nstemi>).

ACS = acute coronary syndrome; CAD = coronary artery disease; LR = likelihood ratio; MACE = major adverse cardiac event; NA = not applicable.

*—Risk factors in HEART Score: hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, obesity (body mass index > 30 kg per m²), smoking (current smoker or quit less than 3 months from evaluation), family history of CAD, or personal history of atherosclerotic disease.

Information from references 8, 11, 16, and 17.

in 2% to 4% of patients who present with this symptom.^{12,13} Other common causes of chest pain include stable angina (10%), chest wall pain or costochondritis (20% to 50%), gastroesophageal reflux (10% to 15%), and somatic discomfort (7.5%).¹² Other emergent or life-threatening etiologies to consider include pulmonary embolism, aortic dissection, esophageal rupture, and tension pneumothorax.^{2,8}

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classification is not useful for identifying the cause and has been misused to classify chest pain as benign.⁸ Instead, the guidelines now recommend that chest pain be classified as cardiac, possibly cardiac, or noncardiac.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There is no validated clinical decision tool with sufficient sensitivity to safely rule out ACS in the outpatient setting.¹⁴ However, outpatient clinicians can use the Marburg Heart Score to assess the likelihood of cardiac

origin for intermittent chest pain¹⁵ (Table 1^{8,11,16,17}). This tool can help triage patients with intermittent chest pain who need more urgent evaluation in the emergency department. The tool uses a combination of age, sex, risk factors, and patient history to determine the likelihood that CAD is causing the patient's chest pain. ECG results are not considered.

A low Marburg Heart Score (0 to 2) correlates with a 3% likelihood of CAD being the cause of the patient's chest pain. A score of 3 or more correlates with a 23% likelihood of CAD being the cause of the patient's chest pain, and they should be transferred to the emergency department for more urgent evaluation. Compared with other outpatient clinical decision aids, the Marburg Heart Score has been shown to have increased sensitivity and specificity for identifying CAD as the cause of chest pain compared with clinical judgement alone.¹⁴

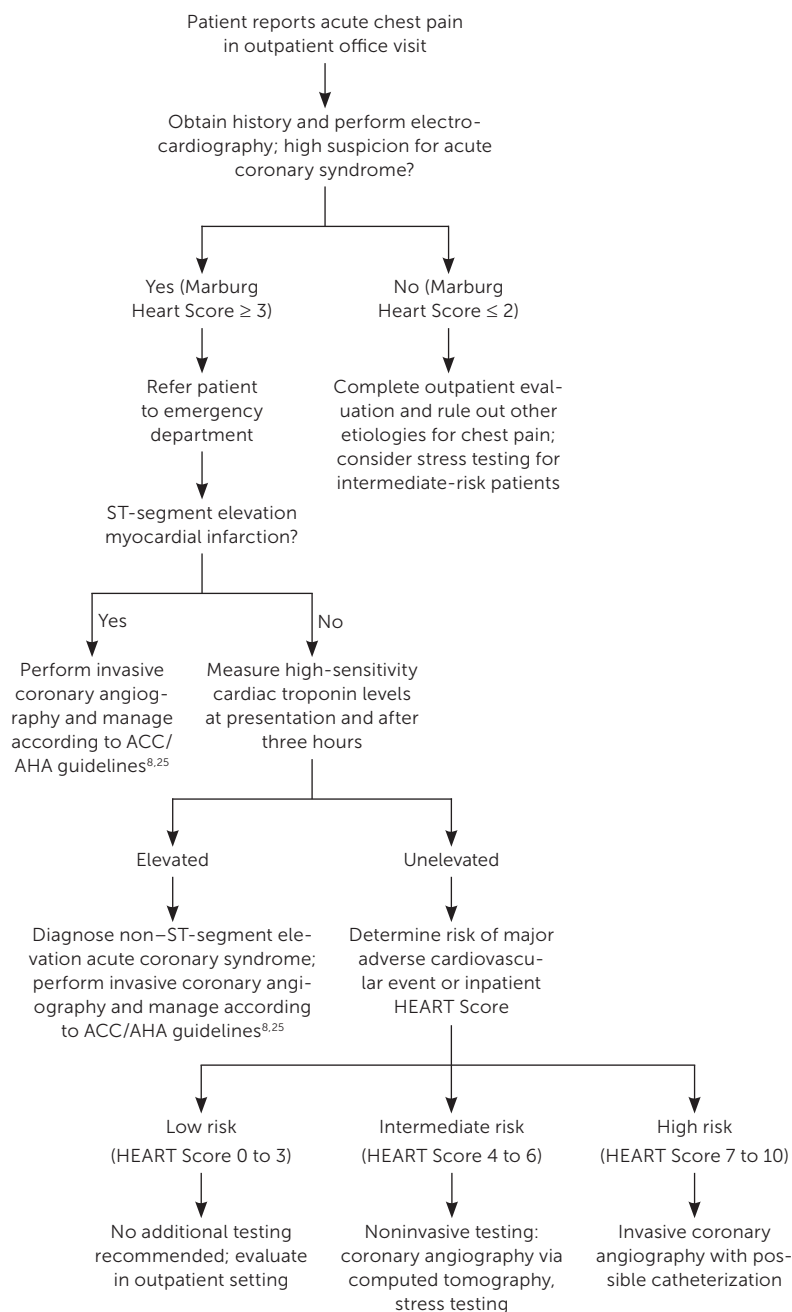
Several clinical decision tools estimate cardiac risk and mortality in the emergency department or inpatient setting; two common examples are the HEART Score and the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction risk score. The HEART Score is a clinical prediction tool designed to identify patients who warrant further workup for ACS based on their risk of major adverse cardiac events.^{11,16,18,19} For patients diagnosed with NSTEMI ACS, the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction risk score determines the pooled risk of subsequent ischemic events or death.¹¹

Diagnostic Studies

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

Electrocardiography should be performed in patients with possible cardiac chest pain.^{2,8} If ACS is suspected based on clinical judgement, priority should be given to transferring the patient immediately to the nearest emergency department over performing ECG. When ECG is performed in the outpatient clinical setting, it should be compared with the patient's baseline ECG results, if available, to assess for

FIGURE 1



ACC/AHA = American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association.

Evaluation for acute coronary syndrome.

Information from references 8, 13, 14, and 25.

changes. For patients presenting to the emergency department, ECG should be performed within 10 minutes of arrival and followed with serial ECG tests, because 5% of patients with ACS may initially present with normal ECG results.²⁰ Evidence of ischemia on ECG that predicts ACS includes T-wave inversions (LR = 1.8; 95% CI, 1.3 to 2.7),

TABLE 2

Antiplatelet Agents for Acute Coronary Syndrome

Agent	Drug classification	Onset of action	Adverse effects	Maintenance dose per day*	Duration of therapy	Perioperative considerations
Aspirin	Cyclooxygenase-1 inhibitor	< 1 hour without enteric coating 3 to 4 hours with enteric coating	Bleeding, gastrointestinal ulcers	81 mg	Ongoing	Continue medication
Clopidogrel	P2Y ₁₂ inhibitor	2 to 4 hours	Bleeding, rash, diarrhea	75 mg	1 year†	Hold 5 days before surgery
Prasugrel (Effient)	P2Y ₁₂ inhibitor	30 to 60 minutes	Bleeding, hypertension, headache	10 mg	1 year†	Hold 7 days before surgery
Ticagrelor (Brilinta)	P2Y ₁₂ inhibitor	30 minutes	Bleeding, bradyarrhythmia, dyspnea	90 mg twice daily	1 year†	Hold 5 days before surgery

ACE = angiotensin-converting enzyme; CCB = calcium channel blocker; NSAID = nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug; PPI = proton pump inhibitor; SSRI = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

*—Higher doses are reserved for percutaneous coronary intervention.

†—Shorter or longer duration may be individualized to the patient based on risk of bleeding and future ischemic events. Duration of therapy should be determined with the patient's cardiologist.

Information from references 2 and 32.

presence of Q waves (LR = 3.6; 95% CI, 1.6 to 5.7), ST depression (LR = 5.3; 95% CI, 2.1 to 8.6), and ST elevation (LR = 3.6; 95% CI, 1.6 to 5.7).^{7,11,21} ECG findings that may obscure electrical changes signifying ischemia include the presence of a left bundle branch block, delta wave, or ventricular pacing.⁸

HIGH-SENSITIVITY CARDIAC TROPONIN

High-sensitivity cardiac troponin is an organ-specific, not disease-specific, biomarker. Measurement is typically ordered in the emergency department and is repeated because the level may not increase until several hours after the initial ACS event.²² Obtaining a creatinine kinase-myoglobin binding level with the high-sensitivity cardiac troponin level has little diagnostic use for confirming acute myocardial ischemia.²³

IMAGING STUDIES

Physicians can consider using imaging studies, such as radiography of the chest, computed tomography of the chest, and point-of-care ultrasonography, if an alternative diagnosis to ACS is suspected.⁸ The use of point-of-care ultrasonography for echocardiography before coronary angiography as a diagnostic tool remains preliminary.²⁴

STRESS TESTING AND CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHY

Once ACS is diagnosed, the next step is invasive coronary angiography for patients with STEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction, or suspected NSTEMI ACS with high-risk indicators (*Figure 1*^{8,13,14,25}). Risk stratification can determine further testing for patients with suspected NSTEMI ACS without diagnostic ECG findings or elevated troponin levels. High risk warrants invasive angiography; intermediate risk warrants noninvasive testing (such as coronary computed tomography angiography or stress testing); and low risk does not warrant any further testing.^{2,6,8}

Initial Management Steps**OUTPATIENT SETTING**

If there is clinical suspicion of ACS in the outpatient setting, the patient should be immediately transferred by ambulance to the emergency department.

OUTSIDE OF THE HOSPITAL

Patients en route to the emergency department with suspected ACS should be placed on cardiac monitoring and receive 162 to 325 mg of aspirin. Supplemental oxygen should be administered for patients with a pulse oximetry

PHARMACOLOGIC MANAGEMENT

Antithrombotic therapy should be initiated in all patients presenting with ACS^{2,31-37} (*Table 2*^{2,32}). In the hospital, patients are usually started on aspirin, a P2Y₁₂ inhibitor, and a parenteral anticoagulant (e.g., unfractionated heparin, low-molecular-weight heparin, direct thrombin inhibitors, or factor Xa inhibitors) and subsequently discharged on dual antiplatelet therapy. Patients on antithrombotic therapy should be monitored for bleeding, particularly gastrointestinal bleeding, in inpatient and outpatient settings. Dual antiplatelet therapy is typically continued for at least one year. Patients at high risk of bleeding may be eligible for a shorter duration; however, this determination should be made with cardiologist consultation.³²

Approximately 5% to 10% of patients with ACS have concomitant atrial fibrillation. Long-term oral anticoagulation medication is typically required in these patients, which increases the risk of bleeding when combined with a P2Y₁₂ inhibitor and aspirin. Based on two randomized-controlled trials, it is recommended that patients with atrial fibrillation take aspirin with oral anticoagulation medication and a P2Y₁₂ inhibitor for up to four weeks after PCI, then discontinue aspirin. One year after PCI, patients should take only oral anticoagulation medication to reduce the risk of future bleeding events without increasing the risk of future ischemic events.^{8,38}

Other pharmacologic management considerations for ACS are listed in *Table 3*.^{2,39-48} Patients with a recent myocardial infarction may be eligible for statin therapy, beta-blocker therapy, and sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitor therapy. Although the optimal duration of beta-blocker therapy after ACS is unknown, studies suggest that it can be reevaluated in two to three years if there are no other indications for beta-blocker therapy and patients are experiencing adverse effects.³⁹

NONPHARMACOLOGIC MANAGEMENT

Several nonpharmacologic recommendations have also been shown to reduce mortality in patients with ACS. These include counseling patients on the importance of smoking cessation,⁴⁹ ensuring patients receive annual influenza vaccination,^{50,51} and referring patients to cardiac rehabilitation.⁵²

For patients who cannot participate in outpatient cardiac rehabilitation services, home-based cardiac rehabilitation may be an option. A systematic review of home-based cardiac rehabilitation studies demonstrated that patient adherence is higher at home, but home-based and outpatient cardiac rehabilitation programs achieved similar improvement in functional capacity, quality of life, and CAD risk factor control for patients after 12 months.⁵³ Evidence did not consistently show benefits of home-based cardiac

Contraindications	Common medication interactions
Aspirin allergy; consider providing desensitization	ACE inhibitors, anticoagulants, CCBs (nondihydropyridine), loop diuretics, multivitamins, NSAIDs, SSRIs, steroids
Severe bleeding	Anticoagulants, bupropion, CCBs, morphine, multivitamins, NSAIDs, PPIs, P2Y ₁₂ inhibitors, SSRIs
History of stroke or transient ischemic attack	Anticoagulants, multivitamins, NSAIDs, P2Y ₁₂ inhibitors, SSRIs
Use with caution in patients with baseline dyspnea	Anticoagulants, multivitamins, NSAIDs, P2Y ₁₂ inhibitors, statins, SSRIs

reading less than 90%. Sublingual nitroglycerin, 0.4 mg as needed up to once every five minutes, should be given for relief of chest pain if no contraindications are present (e.g., hypotension, suspicion of posterior myocardial infarction).⁷

STEMI

Patients with STEMI should receive coronary angiography, followed by percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with a drug-eluting stent within 120 minutes of presenting to the emergency department.^{2,25-27} If PCI cannot be performed within 120 minutes of diagnosis, fibrinolytics should be administered if there are no contraindications.^{26,28} Fibrinolytics have maximal benefit if administered within 120 minutes. After fibrinolytics are administered, patients should be transferred to a center capable of performing PCI.²⁸

NSTEMI ACS

Patients with NSTEMI ACS should typically undergo coronary angiography. Following angiography, 60% of patients will receive PCI, 10% will undergo bypass surgery, and 30% will be managed with medical therapy alone.²⁹ Patients who receive early invasive treatment have lower mortality, with high-risk patients receiving the largest mortality benefit.^{2,6,8,25,30}

TABLE 3

Medication Management of Acute Coronary Syndrome

Medication	Special indications	Target daily dose*	Contraindications
Statins	Recommended for all patients	High-intensity dosing: atorvastatin 40 or 80 mg; rosuvastatin 20 or 40 mg	Active liver disease or severely elevated liver transaminase levels (> 3 to 5 times the normal limit)
Ezetimibe	Consider in patients already on maximally tolerated statin dose with low-density lipoprotein > 70 mg per dL (1.81 mmol per L)	10 mg	Active liver disease
Beta blockers	Recommended for all patients; consider strongly if reduced LVEF	Various; consider stopping after 2 to 3 years if patient has adverse effects and no other indications	Second- or third-degree heart block, severe bradycardia
ACE inhibitor/ARB	Consider if patient has reduced LVEF or diabetes mellitus; ARB/ neprilysin inhibitor may be preferred if LVEF < 40%	Various	History of anaphylaxis or angioedema
Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists	Consider if LVEF < 40%	Spirolactone 12.5 or 25 mg; eplerenone 25 or 50 mg	Potassium level > 5.5 mEq per L (5.5 mmol per L) or CrCl < 30 mL per minute
SGLT2 inhibitor	Consider for all patients; consider strongly for those with diabetes or heart failure regardless of LVEF	Empagliflozin (Jardiance) 10 or 25 mg; dapagliflozin (Farxiga) 5 or 10 mg	CrCl < 45 mL per minute for dapagliflozin; CrCl < 30 mL per minute for empagliflozin
GLP-1 agonist	Consider if patient has diabetes	Various	Medullary thyroid cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2, pancreatitis

*—All medications are recommended to be lifelong once initiated unless there are contraindications or significant adverse effects.

ACE = angiotensin-converting enzyme; ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; BMP = basic metabolic panel; CrCl = creatinine clearance; GLP-1 = glucagon-like peptide-1; LFTs = liver function tests; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

Information from references 2 and 39-48.

rehabilitation beyond 12 months.⁵³ Third-party reimbursement discrepancies represent a major barrier to implementation of home-based cardiac rehabilitation.

Approximately 10% of patients with ACS will subsequently experience symptoms that are consistent with major depressive disorder.⁵⁴ Despite the high prevalence of depression in patients with ACS, evidence suggests that there is only minimal benefit in screening for depression in patients who have had a myocardial infarction within the past 12 months.⁵⁵

Recurrent cardiac events are common; up to 20% of patients experience a future ACS event within four years.²

This article updates previous articles on this topic by Switaj, et al.,⁵⁶ Barstow, et al.,⁵⁷ Achar, et al.,⁵⁸ and Wiviott and Braunwald.⁵⁹

Data Sources: A PubMed search was completed in Clinical Queries using the key terms unstable angina, acute coronary syndrome, NSTEMI, and STEMI. The search included

meta-analyses, randomized-controlled trials, clinical trials, and reviews. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Effective Healthcare Reports, the Cochrane database, DynaMed, and Essential Evidence Plus were also searched. We critically reviewed studies that used patient categories such as race and/or gender but did not define how these categories were assigned, stating their limitations in the text. Search dates: April 18 and November 29, 2023.

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Adverse effects

Monitoring and testing

Arthralgia, elevated liver transaminase levels, gastrointestinal symptoms, headache, myalgias

Obtain LFTs and lipid panel before initiation, consider creatine kinase levels in patients with symptoms of myopathy

Elevated hepatic enzymes

Obtain LFTs and lipid panel before initiation

Bronchospasm, decreased heart rate, depression, fatigue, hypoglycemia, sexual dysfunction

Monitor heart rate, consider discontinuation in patients with symptomatic bradycardia

Cough/angioedema (more common with ACE inhibitor), hyperkalemia, hypotension, reduced estimated glomerular filtration rate

Monitor blood pressure, recommend obtaining BMP before initiation and while on therapy; consider complete blood count for patients with underlying chronic kidney disease

Decreased libido, fatigue, gynecomastia, headache, hyperkalemia, menstrual irregularities

Monitor blood pressure and hydration status; obtain BMP and uric acid measurement before initiation and while on therapy

Acute kidney injury, euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis, genitourinary tract infections, hypotension

Monitor blood pressure and hydration status, obtain BMP before initiation and while on therapy

Acute kidney injury, gastrointestinal discomfort, gallbladder disease, pancreatitis

Consider obtaining BMP and A1C level before initiation and while on therapy

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