

Beta Blocker Risks/Benefits Information

Studies have indicated that patients on beta-blockers who develop anaphylaxis are likely to be resistant to the therapeutic effects of epinephrine , a drug used to treat anaphylaxis. There also is evidence that patients on beta-blockers have an increased incidence and severity of anaphylaxis, which is another reason for concern.

Recommendations

Patients on beta-blockers should generally not receive a systemic dose of epinephrine if they are not anaphylactic. If they receive epinephrine, a hypertensive reaction is likely to occur. If they do have anaphylaxis, the epinephrine will not be harmful, but it may not be effective.

Therefore, it is recommended to avoid all beta-blockers in patients who are at risk of anaphylaxis, including those receiving allergy immunotherapy (allergy shots).

It is unclear if skin testing on beta blockers is a risk. However, we recommend that patients, under supervision of their beta blocker-prescribing physician, discontinue beta blockers for three days prior to skin testing and/or challenges.

Citation: <https://www.pharmacytimes.com/publications/issue/2009/2009-05/DrugInteractionsBetaBlockers-0509>

I have read and understood and above risks/benefits including risk of anaphylaxis.

Patient Name: _____

Patient Signature: _____

Date: _____

Physician: _____