

Effects of Oral Tolvaptan in Patients Hospitalized for Worsening Heart Failure

The EVEREST Outcome Trial

Marvin A. Konstam, MD

Mihai Gheorghiadu, MD

John C. Burnett, Jr, MD

Liliana Grinfeld, MD

Aldo P. Maggioni, MD

Karl Swedberg, MD

James E. Udelson, MD

Faiez Zannad, MD

Thomas Cook, PhD

John Ouyang, PhD

Christopher Zimmer, MD

Cesare Orlandi, MD

for the Efficacy of Vasopressin Antagonism in Heart Failure Outcome Study With Tolvaptan (EVEREST) Investigators

DURING THE PAST 2 DECADES, there have been substantial advances in drug therapy for chronic heart failure (HF), with much of the improvement in clinical outcomes achieved through pharmacologic inhibition of neurohormonal systems. Nevertheless, the number of annual hospitalizations for HF continues to rise, and mortality rates among patients hospitalized with HF remain high.¹⁻⁷

To date, no treatment initiated at the time of hospitalization for acute decompensated HF has been found to improve clinical outcomes. In fact, in randomized controlled trials of such treatments, the observed clinical benefits have been marginal at best,^{8,9} and

See also pp 1332 and 1374.

Context Vasopressin mediates fluid retention in heart failure. Tolvaptan, a vasopressin V₂ receptor blocker, shows promise for management of heart failure.

Objective To investigate the effects of tolvaptan initiated in patients hospitalized with heart failure.

Design, Setting, and Participants The Efficacy of Vasopressin Antagonism in Heart Failure Outcome Study With Tolvaptan (EVEREST), an event-driven, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. The outcome trial comprised 4133 patients within 2 short-term clinical status studies, who were hospitalized with heart failure, randomized at 359 North American, South American, and European sites between October 7, 2003, and February 3, 2006, and followed up during long-term treatment.

Intervention Within 48 hours of admission, patients were randomly assigned to receive oral tolvaptan, 30 mg once per day (n=2072), or placebo (n=2061) for a minimum of 60 days, in addition to standard therapy.

Main Outcome Measures Dual primary end points were all-cause mortality (superiority and noninferiority) and cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure (superiority only). Secondary end points included changes in dyspnea, body weight, and edema.

Results During a median follow-up of 9.9 months, 537 patients (25.9%) in the tolvaptan group and 543 (26.3%) in the placebo group died (hazard ratio, 0.98; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.87-1.11; *P* = .68). The upper confidence limit for the mortality difference was within the prespecified noninferiority margin of 1.25 (*P* < .001). The composite of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure occurred in 871 tolvaptan group patients (42.0%) and 829 placebo group patients (40.2%; hazard ratio, 1.04; 95% CI, 0.95-1.14; *P* = .55). Secondary end points of cardiovascular mortality, cardiovascular death or hospitalization, and worsening heart failure were also not different. Tolvaptan significantly improved secondary end points of day 1 patient-assessed dyspnea, day 1 body weight, and day 7 edema. In patients with hyponatremia, serum sodium levels significantly increased. The Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire overall summary score was not improved at outpatient week 1, but body weight and serum sodium effects persisted long after discharge. Tolvaptan caused increased thirst and dry mouth, but frequencies of major adverse events were similar in the 2 groups.

Conclusion Tolvaptan initiated for acute treatment of patients hospitalized with heart failure had no effect on long-term mortality or heart failure-related morbidity.

Trial Registration clinicaltrials.gov Identifier: NCT00071331

JAMA. 2007;297:1319-1331

www.jama.com

Author Affiliations: Tufts–New England Medical Center, Boston, Mass (Drs Konstam and Udelson); Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill (Dr Gheorghiadu); Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn (Dr Burnett); Hospital Italiano, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Dr Grinfeld); Associazione Nazionale Medici Cardiologi Ospedalieri Research Center, Florence, Italy (Dr Maggioni); Sahlgrenska University Hospital/Östra, Gothenburg, Sweden (Dr Swedberg); Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM),

Centre d'Investigations Cliniques, Nancy, France (Dr Zannad); University of Wisconsin, Madison (Dr Cook); and Otsuka Maryland Research Institute, Rockville (Drs Ouyang, Zimmer, and Orlandi).

A complete list of the EVEREST Investigators appears at the end of this article.

Corresponding Author: Marvin A. Konstam, MD, Division of Cardiology, Box 108, Tufts–New England Medical Center, 750 Washington St, Boston, MA 02111 (mkonstam@tufts-nemc.org).

concern has been raised about the adverse effect of these treatments on long-term clinical outcomes.¹⁰⁻¹⁷ Volume overload remains a major cause of hospitalization and of continued morbidity among hospitalized patients,^{18,19} and concern exists regarding the adverse renal impact of diuretic and other pharmacologic treatments.^{13,16,20}

The inappropriate elevation of arginine vasopressin in human HF plays a key role in mediating water retention, contributing to both congestive symptoms and electrolyte imbalance. The recent availability of small-molecule antagonists to the V₂ receptor, which mediates the renal actions of arginine vasopressin, has renewed interest in this hormone. Short-term treatment with newer arginine vasopressin receptor blockers has resulted in improved fluid management and hemodynamics.²¹⁻²³ Fluid excretion achieved with these agents has been associated with improved renal function and electrolyte balance compared with loop diuretic administration.²⁴

The Efficacy of Vasopressin Antagonism in Heart Failure Outcome Study With Tolvaptan (EVEREST) is a program of pivotal trials designed to explore both the short-term and long-term impact of the vasopressin V₂ receptor blocker tolvaptan in patients hospitalized with acute decompensated HF and signs and symptoms of volume overload. Results of 2 identical trials examining short-term effects on symptoms and fluid balance are reported in an accompanying article.²⁵ The present report provides results of the larger combined trial that was designed principally to examine long-term effects of tolvaptan on clinical outcomes.

METHODS

Study Overview

The design of the study has been previously described.²⁶ EVEREST was a prospective, international, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study conducted at 359 North American, South American, and European sites enrolling participants be-

tween October 7, 2003, and February 3, 2006. Patients 18 years of age or older with reduced left ventricular ejection fraction ($\leq 40\%$), signs of volume expansion, New York Heart Association class III/IV symptoms, and hospitalization for exacerbation of chronic HF no more than 48 hours earlier were eligible for the study. Race/ethnicity was obtained from patient medical records. Criteria for exclusion included cardiac surgery within 60 days of enrollment, cardiac mechanical support, biventricular pacemaker placement within the last 60 days, comorbid conditions with an expected survival of less than 6 months, acute myocardial infarction at the time of hospitalization, hemodynamically significant uncorrected primary cardiac valvular disease, refractory end-stage HF, hemofiltration or dialysis, supine systolic arterial blood pressure less than 90 mm Hg, serum creatinine level greater than 3.5 mg/dL (309 $\mu\text{mol/L}$), serum potassium level greater than 5.5 mEq/L, and hemoglobin level less than 9 g/dL.

Institutional review board or ethics committee approval was obtained at each site. After providing proper written informed consent, patients were randomly assigned by interactive voice response system to receive oral tolvaptan, 30 mg/d, or matching placebo. The study included an inpatient treatment period and a postdischarge treatment and follow-up period. In the absence of death or premature study drug discontinuation, patients received the study drug for a minimum of 60 days. All patients received standard HF therapy, including diuretics, digoxin, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers, β -blockers, aldosterone blockers, hydralazine, and/or nitrates, at the discretion of the treating physician.

EVEREST consisted of 3 studies: 2 identical studies designed to investigate short-term effects on clinical status and symptoms and an outcome study consisting of all randomized patients, designed primarily to investigate long-term clinical outcomes. The design and results of the 2 short-term clinical status studies are reported separately.²⁵

Definition of Study End Points

The outcome study had 2 primary end points: all-cause mortality and the composite of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for HF. Each of these 2 end points was primarily analyzed as time to first event. Secondary end points included the composite of cardiovascular mortality or cardiovascular hospitalization; incidence of cardiovascular mortality; and incidence of clinical worsening of HF (death, hospitalization for HF, or unscheduled visit for HF). Additional secondary end points included changes from baseline in body weight at day 1, serum sodium level at day 7 or discharge in patients with a baseline serum sodium level of less than 134 mEq/L, edema score at day 7 or discharge for those with edema at baseline, patient-assessed dyspnea at day 1 for those with dyspnea at baseline, and Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire (KCCQ) overall summary score at outpatient week 1. Tertiary end points included change in KCCQ domains at outpatient weeks 1 and 24, and at end of treatment (last scheduled visit while receiving treatment). Cause of death, cardiovascular hospitalizations, and unscheduled visits for worsening HF events were adjudicated by a blinded clinical events committee.

Statistical Analysis

The EVEREST statistical design allowed for the analysis of the short- and long-term effects of tolvaptan using 3 studies in an integrated but independent manner.²⁶ Two clinical status studies, trial A and trial B, each designed and powered to assess the short-term effect of tolvaptan on patient clinical status, combined to form the single, larger outcome study designed to assess the effects of tolvaptan on short- and long-term clinical outcomes.

The study-wide type I error rate of .05 was maintained by allocating $\alpha = .0402$ to the analysis of all-cause mortality, $\alpha = .009$ to the analysis of death from cardiovascular causes or first HF hospitalization, and $\alpha = .0008$ to the short-term clinical status studies.²⁶ The study was designed to terminate after

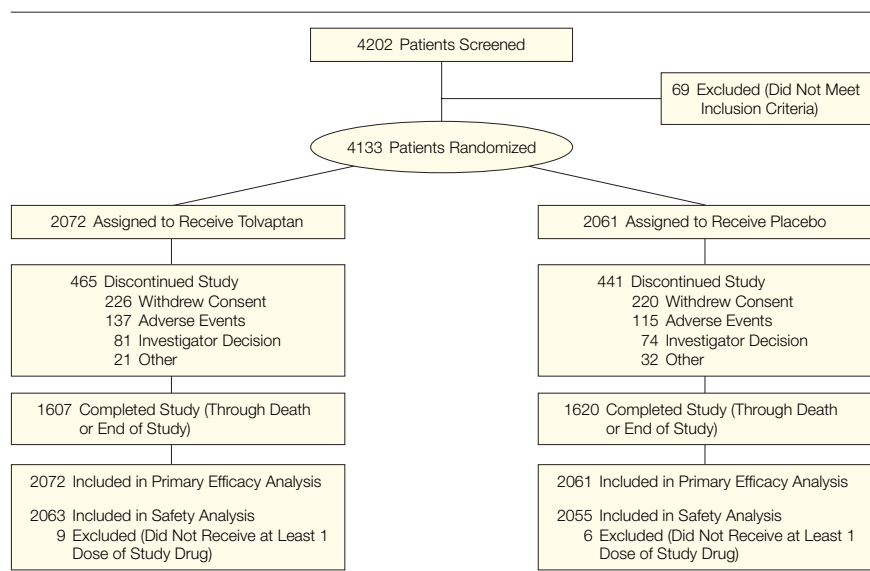
the accrual of 1065 deaths and a minimum of 60 days of follow-up for all enrolled patients. One thousand sixty-five deaths ensured 90% power to detect a relative reduction in mortality hazard of 18.7% with a type I error rate of .0402. It was expected that approximately 1490 patients would either die of cardiovascular causes or be hospitalized for HF, yielding 90% power to detect a relative reduction in hazard for this outcome of 18.2% with a type I error rate of .009.

The primary end point of time to all-cause mortality was tested for both superiority (tolvaptan superior to placebo) and noninferiority (tolvaptan not inferior to placebo). For consistency with the $\alpha = .0402$ allocated to the superiority analysis, noninferiority could be claimed if the 96% upper confidence limit of the hazard ratio for all-cause mortality in patients receiving tolvaptan relative to placebo did not exceed 1.25. Because this testing procedure is closed, no type I error penalty was incurred at a significance of .0402.²⁷

The Peto-Peto-Wilcoxon log-rank test was used to assess differences between treatment groups in the incidence of each of 2 primary outcomes. The relative risk and corresponding confidence interval (CI) for both of the primary end points were computed using a Cox proportional hazards model without adjustment for other baseline covariates. Survival distributions were summarized with Kaplan-Meier curves. The secondary outcome of time to first cardiovascular death or cardiovascular hospitalization was analyzed using the Peto-Peto-Wilcoxon test. The secondary outcomes of incidence of cardiovascular mortality and incidence of clinical worsening of HF (death, hospitalization, or unscheduled visits) were analyzed using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test stratified by geographic region.

Continuous outcomes are presented herein as means and standard deviations; categorical variables are presented as counts and percentages of participants with available data. For follow-up measurements, differences between treatment groups were assessed

Figure 1. Flow of Participants Through the Trial



using analysis of covariance, with the baseline value as a covariate.

All time-to-event analyses were done by intention to treat, censoring patients at the end-of-study date or date of last contact. All patients who received at least 1 dose of the study medication were included in the safety analyses, which included analyses of adverse events, vital signs, and results of clinical laboratory tests. All randomized patients who discontinued study medication early were followed up for outcome events through the end-of-study date.

An external data and safety monitoring board conducted 3 interim analyses; a 1-sided α level of .0062 was the threshold for early termination for harm in the interim analyses of mortality from any cause. An O'Brien-Fleming α -spending function with an overall $\alpha = .009$ (2-sided) was used for efficacy monitoring of the all-cause mortality end point. The interim analyses were conducted by an independent statistical group for the independent data monitoring committee.

Database management was performed by the sponsor according to a prespecified plan of analysis prepared in collaboration with the executive steering committee. All final analyses

were conducted by the sponsor using SAS software, version 8.2 (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC) and, independently, by the University of Wisconsin Statistical Data Analysis Center, Madison.

RESULTS

Study Patients

A total of 4133 patients underwent randomization at 359 centers in 20 countries between October 7, 2003, and February 3, 2006. In total, 2072 were assigned to tolvaptan and 2061 were assigned to placebo (FIGURE 1). There were no significant differences between the 2 groups at baseline (TABLE 1). At baseline, the majority of patients were receiving standard therapies for HF, including diuretics in 4002 (96.8%), angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers in 3479 (84.2%), and β -blockers in 2903 (70.2%). Nine patients in the tolvaptan group and 6 in the placebo group did not take any study medication.

During the study, 906 patients (22%) (465 [22%] in the tolvaptan group and 441 [21%] in the placebo group) discontinued the study medication permanently for reasons other than death (median time from randomization to last dose, 8.0 months). The most fre-

quent reasons for early treatment termination were a request by the patient to withdraw from the study (in 226 patients in the tolvaptan group and 220 in the placebo group) and adverse events (in 137 patients in the tolvaptan group and 115 in the placebo group; see "Safety" section later in text). Twenty-five patients (9 in the tolvaptan group and 16 in the placebo group) had unknown vital status on the closing date of the study (April 17, 2006). The median duration of follow-up was 9.9 months.

Outcome End Points

All primary and secondary outcome end-point results are summarized in TABLE 2. A total of 537 patients in the

tolvaptan group (25.9%) and 543 patients in the placebo group (26.3%) died (hazard ratio, 0.98; 95% CI, 0.87-1.11; *P* = .68). Kaplan-Meier estimates of mortality at 1 year were 25.0% in the tolvaptan group and 26.0% in the placebo group (FIGURE 2). The upper limit of the 1-sided 96% CI for the comparison of tolvaptan with placebo was within the prespecified margin for non-inferiority with regard to mortality (*P* < .001). The second of the 2 primary end points (death from cardiovascular causes or first hospitalization for HF) was reached by 871 patients in the tolvaptan group (42.0%) and 829 patients in the placebo group (40.2%; hazard ratio, 1.04; 95% CI, 0.95-1.14; *P* = .55) (Figure 2).

The secondary end points of the composite of cardiovascular death or cardiovascular hospitalization, the incidence of cardiovascular mortality, and the incidence of clinical worsening of HF did not differ between the 2 treatment groups. A larger number of cardiovascular hospitalizations were adjudicated as due to myocardial infarction in the placebo group (42) than in the tolvaptan group (25) and a larger number were adjudicated as due to stroke in the tolvaptan group (45) than in the placebo group (24).

Interaction tests for both primary end points, using baseline demographics and other prespecified subgroups related to, among others, signs and symptoms of congestion and indicators of renal function, found no nominally significant treatment × subgroup interaction except for an interaction between all-cause mortality and age 65 years or older (*P* = .02) (FIGURE 3).

Body Weight, Symptoms, Serum Sodium, and Health-Related Quality of Life

TABLE 3 shows effects of tolvaptan on secondary end points related to body weight, symptoms, serum sodium, and the KCCQ. In patients with dyspnea at baseline, patient-assessed dyspnea scores significantly improved at day 1 in patients receiving tolvaptan compared with placebo (*P* < .001), with 74.3% of the tolvaptan group and 68.0% of the placebo group demonstrating an improvement in dyspnea score (FIGURE 4). Mean body weight at day 1 was reduced by 1.76 kg (SD, 1.91 kg) in the tolvaptan group and by 0.97 kg (SD, 1.84 kg) in the placebo group (*P* < .001). This effect was maintained long after the index hospitalization (FIGURE 5).

Among patients with baseline serum sodium levels less than 134 mEq/L, mean serum sodium concentrations increased by 5.49 mEq/L (SD, 5.77 mEq/L) at day 7 or discharge, if earlier, with tolvaptan, compared with 1.85 mEq/L (SD, 5.10 mEq/L) in the placebo group (*P* < .001). This effect was observed as early as day 1 and was maintained through 40 weeks of treat-

Table 1. Baseline Participant Characteristics*

Characteristics	Tolvaptan (n = 2072)	Placebo (n = 2061)
Age, mean (SD), y	65.9 (11.7)	65.6 (12.0)
Male	1520 (73.4)	1555 (75.4)
Race		
White	1767 (85.3)	1766 (85.7)
Black	161 (7.8)	149 (7.2)
Other†	144 (7.0)	146 (7.1)
Systolic blood pressure, mean (SD), mm Hg	120.8 (19.9)	120.2 (19.4)
Ejection fraction, mean (SD), %	27.5 (8.0)	27.5 (8.2)
Ischemic heart failure etiology	1332 (65.1)	1340 (65.9)
Previous hospitalization for heart failure	1642 (79.2)	1608 (78.1)
NYHA class		
III	1218 (60.1)	1186 (58.7)
IV	801 (39.5)	821 (40.6)
Medical history		
Hypertension	1468 (70.8)	1464 (71.1)
Diabetes mellitus	824 (39.8)	774 (37.6)
Atrial fibrillation	902 (43.6)	888 (43.2)
Chronic renal insufficiency	549 (26.5)	558 (27.1)
Valvular disease, mitral	646 (31.2)	658 (31.9)
Baseline therapy		
ACE inhibitors/ARBs	1746 (84.3)	1733 (84.1)
β-Blockers	1468 (70.8)	1435 (69.6)
Diuretics	2012 (97.1)	1990 (96.6)
Aldosterone blockers	1110 (53.6)	1127 (54.7)
Baseline cardiovascular assessment		
Dyspnea, frequent/continuous	1839 (90.9)	1840 (91.1)
Orthopnea, frequent/continuous	1081 (53.5)	1089 (54.1)
Rales	1642 (81.0)	1653 (81.8)
Pedal edema, slight/moderate/marked	1607 (79.3)	1602 (79.3)
Jugular venous distention ≥10 cm	544 (27.0)	538 (26.9)

Abbreviations: ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; NYHA, New York Heart Association.

*Data are expressed as No. (%) unless otherwise indicated.

†Defined as Asian, unknown, and other. The "other" category was used when the patient did not meet one of the other specified categories.

ment (Figure 5). In patients with baseline pedal edema, edema scores significantly improved at day 7 or discharge in patients receiving tolvaptan compared with placebo ($P = .003$), with 73.8% of tolvaptan patients and 70.5% of placebo patients manifesting improvement in edema by at least 2 grades. A significant improvement in physician-assessed pedal edema was observed as early as day 1 and continued through postdischarge week 4.

No significant changes were observed at outpatient week 1 in the KCCQ overall summary score. Statistically significant changes favoring tolvaptan were observed at the time of the last scheduled on-treatment assessment at study end for the quality-of-life domain ($P = .003$), the social limitation domain ($P = .05$), and the overall summary score ($P = .02$) (prespecified tertiary end points). The other domains (clinical summary, physical limitation, total symptom, symptom frequency, symptom burden, symptom stability, and self-efficacy) favored tolvaptan numerically but did not reach significance at the time of the last on-treatment assessment.

Serum Urea Nitrogen and Creatinine Concentrations

Beginning at day 1, there was a significant difference favoring tolvaptan in se-

rum urea nitrogen levels between the 2 groups, an effect that tended to persist long after discharge (Figure 5). At day 7 or discharge, mean serum urea nitrogen levels had increased by 1.94 mg/dL (SD, 11.70 mg/dL) in the tolvaptan group and by 3.30 mg/dL (SD, 12.16 mg/dL) in the placebo group ($P < .001$). At day 7 or discharge, mean serum creatinine levels had increased by 0.08 mg/dL (7.07 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) (SD, 0.31 mg/dL [27.4 $\mu\text{mol/L}$]) in the tolvaptan group and by 0.03 mg/dL (2.65 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) (SD,

0.35 mg/dL [30.94 $\mu\text{mol/L}$]) in the placebo group ($P < .001$), a difference that was observed at many of the long-term follow-up points (Figure 5).

Safety

Adverse events occurred in 89.0% of tolvaptan patients and 86.1% of placebo patients. Adverse events resulting in study drug discontinuation occurred in 6.5% of tolvaptan patients and 5.5% of placebo patients. Among these, only thirst occurred significantly more

Table 2. Summary of Primary and Secondary Outcome End-Point Results

	No. (%) of Patients		Hazard Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	P Value	
	Tolvaptan (n = 2072)	Placebo (n = 2061)		Superiority	Noninferiority
Primary end points					
All-cause mortality	537 (25.9)	543 (26.3)	0.98 (0.87-1.11)	.68*	<.001
Cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure	871 (42.0)	829 (40.2)	1.04 (0.95-1.14)	.55*	
Secondary end points					
Cardiovascular death or cardiovascular hospitalization	1006 (48.5)	958 (46.4)	1.04 (0.95-1.14)	.52*	
Incidence of cardiovascular mortality	421 (20.3)	408 (19.8)		.67†	
Incidence of clinical worsening of heart failure (death, hospitalization, or unscheduled visits)	757 (36.5)	739 (35.8)		.62†	

*Based on Peto-Peto-Wilcoxon test.
†Based on Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test.

Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier Analyses of All-Cause Mortality and Cardiovascular Mortality or Hospitalization for Heart Failure

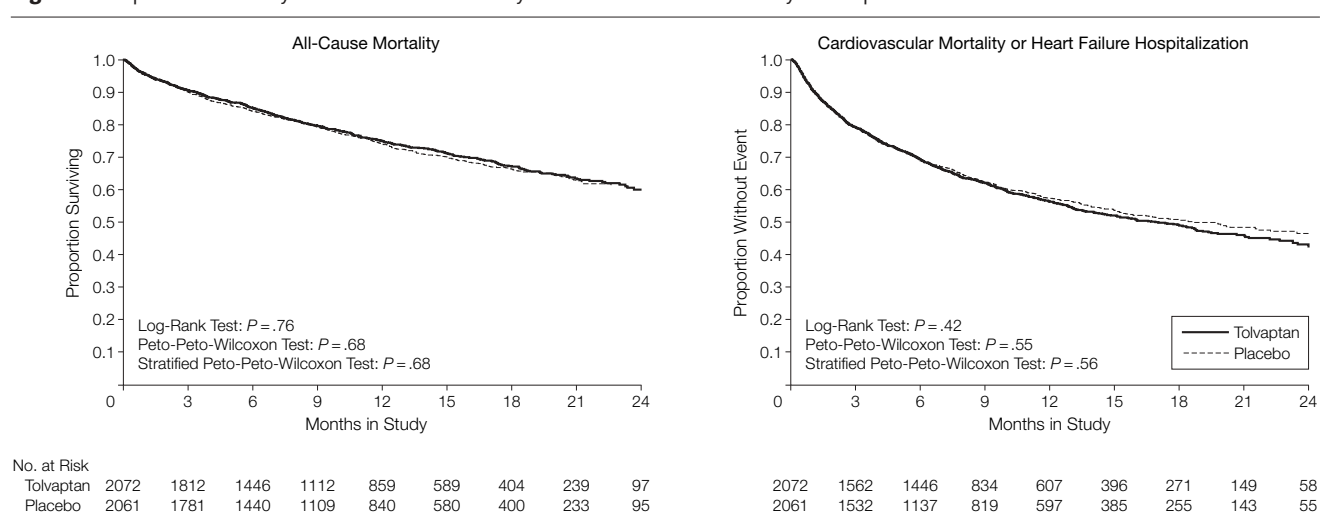
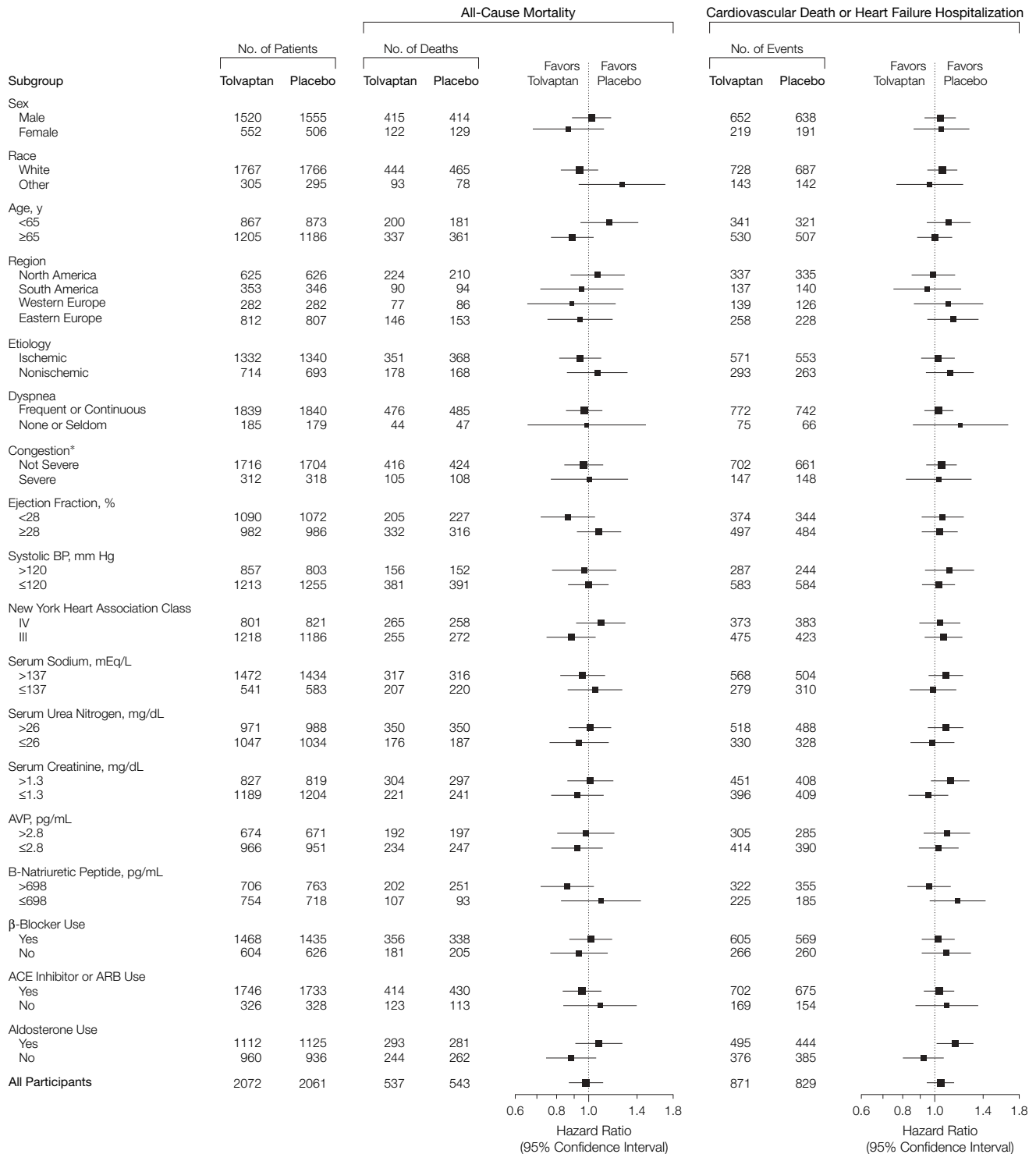


Figure 3. Prespecified Subgroup Analyses Related to All-Cause Mortality and Cardiovascular Mortality or Hospitalization for Heart Failure



ACE indicates angiotensin-converting enzyme; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; AVP, arginine vasopressin. To convert creatinine to $\mu\text{mol/L}$, multiply by 88.4. The size (area) of the data markers is proportional to the standard deviation of the hazard ratio estimate.

*Severe congestion is defined as presence of moderate or marked pedal edema, jugular venous distention of at least 10 cm, and frequent or continuous dyspnea at baseline.

frequently with tolvaptan (n=7 vs n=0; P=.02). Dry mouth resulted in discontinuation in 4 tolvaptan and 0 placebo patients (P=.12). TABLE 4 displays adverse events that occurred in at least 5% of patients within either group. Events that occurred more commonly in the tolvaptan group included dry mouth and thirst. In addition, hypernatremia occurred in 1.7% of tolvaptan patients compared with 0.5% of placebo patients. The incidences of renal failure and hypotension were comparable in the 2 groups. Compared with baseline measurements, blood pressure and heart rate trended downward, slightly and similarly, in the 2 groups. For tolvaptan and placebo patients, respectively, systolic blood pressure decreased by a mean of 3.3 mm Hg (SD, 15.6 mm Hg) and 3.7 mm Hg (SD, 15.4 mm Hg) at day 1 and by 2.2 mm Hg (SD, 18.8 mm Hg) and 2.1 mm Hg (SD, 18.4 mm Hg) at outpatient week 8. Heart rate decreased by a mean of 1.6/min (SD, 11.6/min) and 2.5/min (SD, 11.3/min) at day 1 and by 4.4/min (SD, 16.3/min) and 4.6/min (SD, 16.0/min) at 8 weeks.

COMMENT

The EVEREST outcome trial was designed to investigate the long-term effects of the vasopressin V₂ receptor antagonist tolvaptan on morbidity and mortality in patients hospitalized with worsening HF and with signs and symptoms of fluid overload. Long-term tolvaptan treatment had no effect, either favorable or unfavorable, on all-cause mortality or the combined end point of cardiovascular mortality or subsequent hospitalization for worsening HF. The results documented the noninferiority of tolvaptan treatment for mortality within the prespecified confidence limits. The secondary observations included short- and long-term benefits on body weight and serum sodium and short-term improvement in dyspnea score and pedal edema, with maintenance of renal function. These findings were consistent with those of the separately reported short-term clinical status trials.²⁵ The combined results identify vasopressin recep-

tor blockade with tolvaptan as a useful treatment in this patient population to safely accelerate fluid removal and improve short-term symptoms, without evidence of adverse outcomes with long-term use.

Arginine vasopressin secretion is increased in severe HF.²⁹⁻³⁴ Recent investigations with vasopressin receptor antagonists have suggested that these agents are effective in short-term improvement in hemodynamics, congestion, renal function, and electrolyte balance.²¹⁻²⁴ Within a severe but stable HF population, a single dose of a nonselective antagonist of V_{1a} and V₂ receptors caused a reduction in pulmonary artery wedge pressure, associated with increased urinary volume.²¹ These findings, in the absence of significant ef-

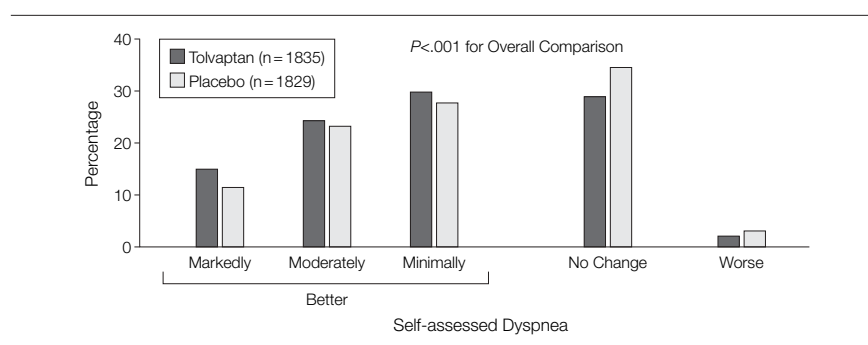
fects on blood pressure, cardiac output, or systemic vascular resistance, suggest that the observed effects were mediated through V₂ antagonism, with little or no demonstrable benefit exerted through the V_{1a} blockade. Subsequent investigations with tolvaptan have shown an early and sustained reduction in body weight over 7 to 30 days,^{22,23} consistent with inhibition of an active V₂ receptor-mediated effect on fluid retention. Further, tolvaptan administration tended to normalize serum sodium concentrations in patients with baseline hyponatremia and was not associated with hypokalemia. In patients with stable HF, the increased urine volume seen with tolvaptan was associated with relative preservation of renal hemodynamics and

Table 3. Effects of Tolvaptan on Change From Baseline in Secondary End Points: Body Weight, Patient-Assessed Dyspnea, Serum Sodium Concentration, Edema, and KCCQ Overall Summary Score

	Tolvaptan	Placebo	P Value
Change in body weight at 1 day, mean (SD), kg	-1.76 (1.91) [n = 1999]	-0.97 (1.84) [n = 1999]	<.001*
Change in dyspnea at 1 day, % showing improvement in dyspnea score†	74.3 [n = 1835]	68.0 [n = 1829]	<.001‡
Change in serum sodium at 7 days (or discharge if earlier), mean (SD), mEq/L§	5.49 (5.77) [n = 162]	1.85 (5.10) [n = 161]	<.001*
Change in edema at 7 days (or discharge), % showing at least a 2-grade improvement†	73.8 [n = 1600]	70.5 [n = 1595]	.003‡
Change in KCCQ overall summary score at postdischarge week 1, mean (SD)	19.90 (18.71) [n = 872]	18.52 (18.83) [n = 856]	.39*

Abbreviation: KCCQ, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire.
 *Based on analysis of covariance model.
 †Among patients with symptoms at baseline.
 ‡Based on van Elteren test.²⁸
 §Among participants with baseline sodium levels of less than 134 mEq/L.

Figure 4. Change in Patient-Assessed Dyspnea at Day 1 for Patients Manifesting Dyspnea at Baseline



electrolyte balance compared with that observed with furosemide.²⁴

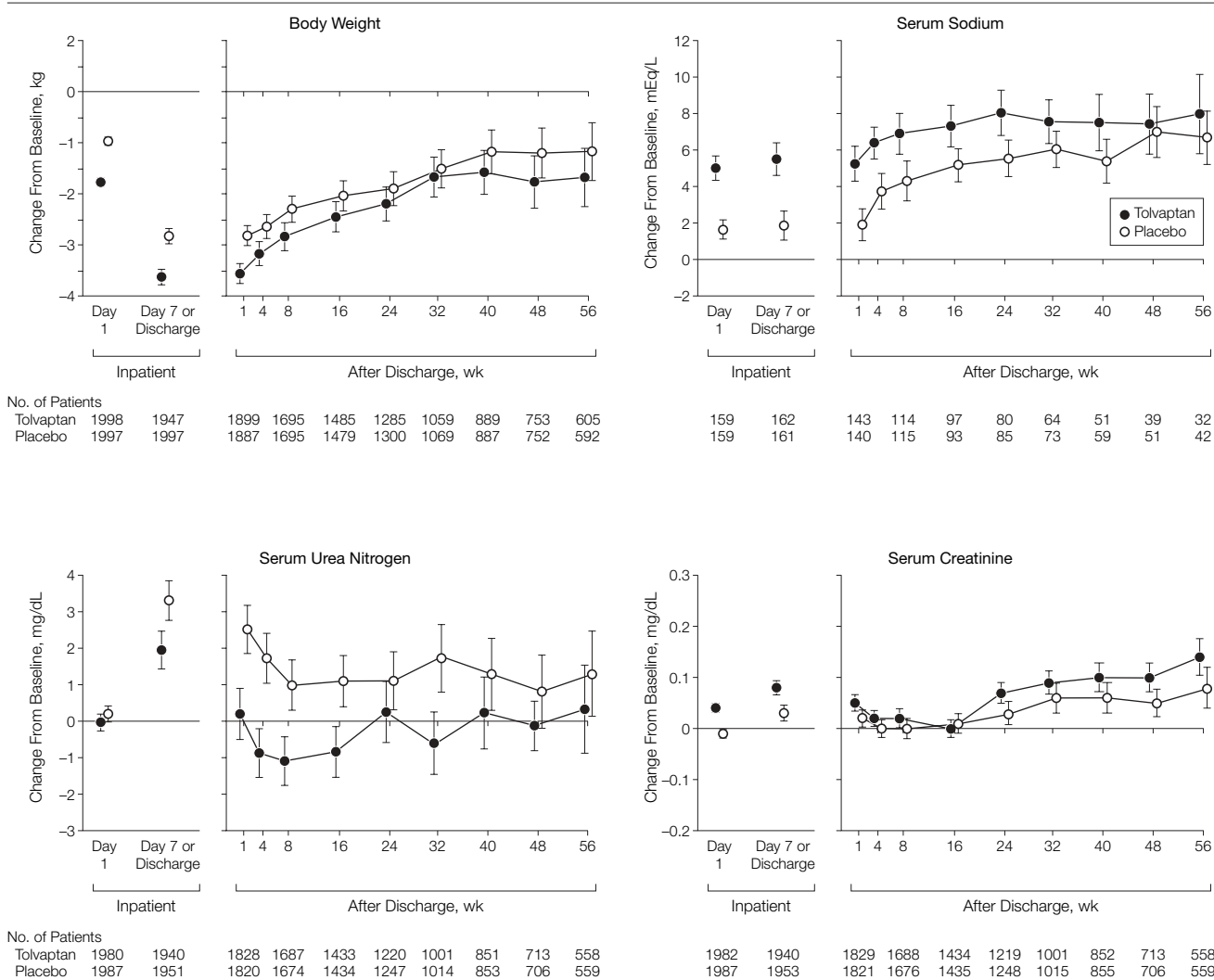
The Acute and Chronic Therapeutic Impact of a Vasopressin Antagonist in Congestive Heart Failure (ACTIV-HF) trial examined the 60-day effect of tolvaptan, in doses of 30, 60, or 90 mg/d, vs placebo in patients admitted to the hospital with acute decompensated HF.²² Tolvaptan-treated groups showed significantly greater weight reduction than those receiving placebo 1 day after randomization, an effect that tended to be sustained at the time of discharge and was not associated with either hypoka-

lemia or worsening renal function. These findings provided the rationale for a definitive investigation that included examination of the long-term effects of tolvaptan on morbidity and mortality in patients hospitalized with worsening HF and signs or symptoms of systemic congestion. They also drove the selection of the dose of 30 mg/d for wider investigation, given that no further benefit in body weight or other end points was observed with the 60- and 90-mg/d doses.

Concern has been raised regarding the long-term effect of short-term ad-

ministration of a variety of agents used to improve clinical status of patients hospitalized with worsening heart failure, including dobutamine, milrinone, and nesiritide.^{16,17,35} Recent investigation of the myocardial calcium-sensitizing inotrope levosimendan showed evidence of improved symptoms over short-term administration, but with a worrisome safety profile, including hypotension, ventricular arrhythmias, and atrial fibrillation.^{36,37} In the Survival of Patients With Acute Heart Failure in Need of Intravenous Inotropic Support (SURVIVE) study,³⁷

Figure 5. Changes From Baseline in Body Weight and Serum Sodium, Serum Urea Nitrogen, and Serum Creatinine Concentrations



Data for body weight, serum urea nitrogen, and serum creatinine are for all patients. Data for serum sodium are for patients with sodium levels less than 134 mEq/L at baseline. All data represent observed cases.

which provided longer-term follow-up in patients receiving short-term infusion, levosimendan-treated patients demonstrated no worsening and no benefit in mortality compared with dobutamine-treated patients, but there was no comparison with placebo. The present study ruled out excess mortality with tolvaptan administration, within the prespecified boundaries. The upper bound of the 96% confidence interval for the hazard ratio for mortality fell well below the prespecified value of 1.25. The implication of this finding, together with the observed safety profile, is that tolvaptan represents the first agent investigated in patients hospitalized with worsening HF that has demonstrable benefit in short-term symptoms and evidence of long-term safety.

A post hoc analysis from the ACTIVE-HF trial showed reduced 60-day mortality with tolvaptan treatment initiated within the first 48 hours of hospitalization with worsening HF and severe volume overload.²² A benefit in mortality and HF-related morbidity was also suggested by a post hoc analysis of the Multicenter Evaluation of Tolvaptan Effects on Left Ventricular Remodeling (METEOR) trial,³⁸ performed in a population with stable HF. However, the findings of the current prospectively designed and well-powered study do not support a mortality benefit for tolvaptan and illustrate the hazards of drawing conclusions regarding clinical outcomes based on underpowered or post hoc analyses.

In the present study, the previously demonstrated short-term reduction in body weight was sustained for the entire duration of the trial. The effect on fluid balance was accompanied by maintenance of renal function throughout the observation period as well as a modest long-term reduction in serum urea nitrogen levels with tolvaptan treatment, relative to placebo. These findings are consistent with those of Costello-Boerrigter et al,²⁴ demonstrating preservation of renal hemodynamics despite fluid loss with tolvaptan treatment in patients with HF.

Table 4. Adverse Events Occurring in at Least 5% of Patients in Either Group

Adverse Events	No. (%) [*]		P Value [†]
	Tolvaptan (n = 2063)	Placebo (n = 2055)	
Thirst	331 (16.0)	43 (2.1)	<.001
Nausea	245 (11.9)	249 (12.1)	.85
Hypotension	233 (11.3)	226 (11.0)	.77
Constipation	199 (9.6)	191 (9.3)	.71
Dizziness	179 (8.7)	161 (7.8)	.34
Dry mouth	174 (8.4)	44 (2.1)	<.001
Hypokalemia	166 (8.0)	202 (9.8)	.05
Hyperkalemia	161 (7.8)	136 (6.6)	.15
Insomnia	161 (7.8)	167 (8.1)	.73
Chest pain	158 (7.7)	140 (6.8)	.31
Anemia	154 (7.5)	165 (8.0)	.52
Diarrhea	147 (7.1)	164 (7.9)	.35
Hyperuricemia	140 (6.8)	119 (5.8)	.20
Headache	137 (6.6)	136 (6.6)	>.99
Urinary tract infection	136 (6.6)	149 (7.3)	.43
Renal failure	133 (6.4)	140 (6.8)	.66
Pneumonia	126 (6.1)	130 (6.3)	.80
Ventricular tachycardia	123 (6.0)	118 (5.7)	.79
Vomiting	120 (5.8)	128 (6.2)	.60
Cough	118 (5.7)	156 (7.6)	.02
Atrial fibrillation	116 (5.6)	122 (5.9)	.69
Pain in extremity	106 (5.1)	94 (4.6)	.43

^{*}Patients with multiple events of one type were counted only once toward the total.

[†]Calculated using the Fisher exact test.

Despite these sustained effects on fluid balance, there was an absence of benefit in the second primary end point of combined cardiovascular mortality or HF hospitalization or in the secondary end point of the incidence of worsening HF. The high rate of study drug discontinuation might have mitigated demonstration of an outcome benefit. One might expect greater benefit among patients with baseline hyponatremia, a likely marker of elevated arginine vasopressin levels. However, few patients in the present study had severe hyponatremia, with only 8% of the population having a baseline serum sodium level less than 134 mEq/L, the prespecified cut point.

Tolvaptan significantly increased serum sodium levels among patients with baseline serum sodium levels less than 134 mEq/L, a prespecified secondary end point. These findings are consistent with those of the recently published Study of Ascending Levels of Tolvaptan in Hyponatremia (SALT)

trials,³⁹ enrolling patients with HF, liver disease, and the syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion. Although the effect of hyponatremia on symptoms and morbidity in patients with HF is uncertain, the SALT trials have shown a significant improvement in the mental component summary (vitality, social functioning, emotionally limited accomplishment, calmness, sadness) of the Short Form-12 Health Survey in hyponatremic patients receiving tolvaptan.

The impact of tolvaptan on HF signs and symptoms was the primary focus of the smaller, paired symptom studies, results of which are reported separately.²⁵ Those results demonstrated improvement in the primary composite end point of change in body weight and in patient global assessment by visual analog scale at day 7 or hospital discharge, whichever came first. A number of signs and symptoms of HF severity constituted secondary end points of the present combined outcome study.

Tolvaptan treatment caused a significant decrease in dyspnea score at day 1 and in edema score at day 7. There was no significant effect on the overall score of the KCCQ at the prespecified primary analysis time point of 7 days following hospital discharge. Overall, the benefits on short-term symptoms, together with the demonstrable short-term and long-term safety profile, support the usefulness of tolvaptan treatment for patients manifesting volume overload during hospitalization for HF.

Our long-term clinical outcome findings do not justify continuation of tolvaptan treatment beyond the time of improvement in fluid balance and clinical status. They suggest that V₂ receptor stimulation is responsible for fluid retention and intermittent worsening of symptoms but does not affect the progression of underlying heart disease, at least not across the broad population studied, a supposition supported by the absence of observed benefit on left ventricular remodeling in the METEOR trial.³⁸ Agents with more balanced inhibition of the V_{1a} and V₂ receptors may have achieved different effects and are worthy of exploration, given the potential vascular and cardiac effects of the V_{1a} receptor. However, our findings of sustained reduction in body weight, without worsening of renal function and with sustained normalization of serum sodium levels in patients with baseline hyponatremia, suggest a role for either longer-term or intermittent tolvaptan treatment, at least in patients in whom abnormalities in fluid and electrolyte balance and/or renal function are difficult to manage by other means. A role for long-term therapy is also suggested by the favorable findings in a number of the KCCQ domains at study end, including the clinical summary score, although caution should be used in interpreting these findings, given their tertiary nature.

We used a fixed dose of tolvaptan, without titration, selected based on previously identified mean responses in fluid balance across a range of doses.

Alternative approaches to dosing, such as tailoring individual doses to response, might have yielded improved efficacy in terms of symptoms and outcomes. Alternative approaches to population targeting, based on factors such as fluid and electrolyte balance, renal function, or hormone levels, might identify patients who would derive optimal clinical benefit. Our findings are limited to hospitalized patients with evidence of volume overload and reduced left ventricular ejection fraction. Although extrapolation to other populations is tempting, additional studies will be needed to explore the effects of tolvaptan in different patient populations, including those with preserved left ventricular ejection fraction (nondilated left ventricle) and in nonhospitalized patients with signs and symptoms of fluid overload. Nevertheless, our investigations confirm the importance of large numbers of patients, studied in a randomized controlled trial, with short- and long-term evaluation of both clinical responses and outcomes.

CONCLUSION

EVEREST represents the most comprehensive investigation to date of the short- and long-term effects of inhibiting arginine vasopressin in patients with symptomatic HF. Tolvaptan initiation within 48 hours of hospitalization for worsening HF in patients manifesting signs and symptoms of volume overload, with long-term continuation of therapy, resulted in neither improvement nor reduction in survival nor in the combined end point of cardiovascular mortality or HF hospitalization. The significant benefits on dyspnea, edema, body weight, and serum sodium, coupled with the neutral survival effect, preservation of renal function, and the overall safety profile, define tolvaptan as a potentially useful agent for treating patients with an exacerbation of heart failure. It is the first agent ever evaluated in patients hospitalized with worsening HF for which the combination of short-term symptomatic benefit and long-term safety has

been established. V₂ receptor antagonism represents an attractive option for managing HF, a condition dominated by congestion. Future investigation is warranted to further define the role of arginine vasopressin receptor blockade in a variety of clinical settings and in patient populations that might be particularly receptive to its clinical benefits.

Published Online: March 25, 2007 (doi:10.1001/jama.297.12.1319).

Author Contributions: Drs Konstam and Cook had full access to all of the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Study concept and design: Konstam, Gheorghiad, Burnett, Maggioni, Swedberg, Zannad, Cook, Ouyang, Zimmer, Orlandi.

Acquisition of data: Grinfeld, Udelson, Zimmer.

Analysis and interpretation of data: Konstam, Burnett, Maggioni, Udelson, Cook, Ouyang, Zimmer, Orlandi. **Drafting of the manuscript:** Konstam, Burnett, Grinfeld, Swedberg, Zannad, Cook, Zimmer, Orlandi.

Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: Gheorghiad, Burnett, Grinfeld, Maggioni, Udelson, Cook, Ouyang, Zimmer, Orlandi. **Statistical analysis:** Cook, Ouyang, Orlandi.

Obtained funding: Zimmer.

Administrative, technical, or material support: Konstam, Burnett, Grinfeld, Udelson, Zimmer, Orlandi. **Study supervision:** Konstam, Gheorghiad, Grinfeld, Swedberg, Udelson, Zannad, Zimmer.

Financial Disclosures: Dr Konstam reports receiving research grants and contracts from, being a consultant for, and receiving honoraria from Otsuka. Dr Gheorghiad reports receiving research grants from the National Institutes of Health, Otsuka, Sigma Tau, Merck, and Scios Inc; being a consultant for Debbio Pharm, Errekappa Terapeutici, GlaxoSmithKline, Protein Design Laboratories, and Medtronic; and receiving honoraria from Abbott, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Medtronic, Otsuka, Protein Design Laboratories, Scios Inc, and Sigma Tau. Dr Burnett reports receiving research grants from the National Institutes of Health, Microbia, and Theravance; being a consultant for Abbott, Bayer, Otsuka, Wyeth, and Astellas; and receiving honoraria from Scios, Otsuka, and Orqis. Dr Grinfeld reports receiving research grants from GlaxoSmithKline, Otsuka, Amgen, and Bristol; being a consultant for Cordis; and receiving honoraria from GlaxoSmithKline, Otsuka, Cordis, Amgen, and Bristol. Dr Maggioni reports receiving research grants from the National Institutes of Health, Italian Ministry of Health, AstraZeneca, Novartis, Pfizer, Takeda, Società Prodotti Antibiotici, Sigma Tau, Sanofi-Aventis, and GiennePharma; being a consultant for Novartis and Daiichi Sankyo; and receiving honoraria from AstraZeneca, Novartis, Takeda, Società Prodotti Antibiotici, Sigma Tau, Sanofi-Aventis, Servier, and Otsuka. Dr Swedberg reports receiving research grants from AstraZeneca, Servier, and Amgen; being a consultant for Cytokinetics, Servier, and Novartis; and receiving honoraria from AstraZeneca, Otsuka, Amgen, and Servier. Dr Udelson reports being a consultant for and receiving research grants and honoraria from Otsuka. Dr Zannad reports receiving research grants from Bayer; being a consultant for Servier and Johnson & Johnson; and receiving honoraria from AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Novartis, Abbott, Sanofi-Aventis, and Otsuka. Dr Cook reports receiving research grants and honoraria from Otsuka. Drs Ouyang, Zimmer, and Orlandi report being employees of Otsuka.

EVEREST Investigators: Executive (Oversight) Steering Committee: M. Konstam (chair), Tufts–New England Medical Center, Boston, Mass; J. Burnett (cochair), Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn; M. Gheorghide (cochair), Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill; L. Grinfeld, TANGO, Buenos Aires, Argentina; A. Maggioni, ANMCO Research Center, Firenze, Italy; C. Orlandi, Otsuka Maryland Research Institute, Rockville, Md; K. Swedberg, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden; F. Zannad, CIC-INSERM-CHU, Toul, France. **Clinical Event Committee:** A. Miller (cochair), University of Florida, Jacksonville; C. O'Connor (cochair), Duke University, Durham, NC; M. C. Bahit, Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina; P. Carson, Washington VA Medical Center, Washington, DC; M. Haass, Theresienkrankenhaus, Mannheim, Germany; R. Patten, Tufts–New England Medical Center, Boston, Mass; P. Hauptman, St Louis University School of Medicine, St Louis, Mo; I. Pena, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; M. Metra, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy; R. Oren, Iowa City Heart Center PC, Iowa City, Iowa; S. Roth, The Scarborough Hospital, Toronto, Ontario; J. Sackner-Bernstein, Dobbs Ferry, NY. **Independent Data Monitoring Committee:** S. Goldstein (chair) Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich; H. Dargie, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland; D. DeMets, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis; K. Dickstein, University of Bergen, Stavanger, Norway; B. Greenberg, University of California, San Diego, Medical Center, San Diego; J. Lerman, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina; B. Massie, VA Medical Center, San Francisco, Calif; B. Pitt, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. **Independent Data Analysis Center:** University of Wisconsin SDAC (T. Cook, R. Bechhofer; S. Anderson). **Main Writing Committee:** M.A. Konstam, M. Gheorghide, J. C. Burnett, L. Grinfeld, A. P. Maggioni, C. Orlandi, K. Swedberg, F. Zannad, C. Zimmer. **Otsuka Maryland Research Institute Representative:** C. Orlandi, C. Zimmer. **Statistical Analysis:** J. Ouyang, T. Cook. **Chief Medical Monitor:** J. Udelson (Boston, Mass). **Regional Medical Monitors:** H. A. Dieterich, Z. Capkova, F. Gadaleta, M. Mule, M. B. Principato. **Clinical Sites and Investigators:** **United States:** *Alabama:* University of Alabama at Birmingham (R. Benza), Birmingham Heart Clinic, PC (C. Brian), The Heart Group (C. Brown), The Heart Center (H. Haught), *Arizona:* Scottsdale Cardiovascular Research Institute (K. Vijay), Saguardo Clinical Research (M. Goldberg), Advanced Cardiac Specialists (R. Siegel). *Arkansas:* University of Arkansas for Medical Science (Y. Aude). *California:* Escondido Cardiology Associates (J. Detwiler), LAC/USC Medical Center (U. Elkayam), Cardiology Consultants of Orange County Medical Group Inc. (H. Gogia), San Diego Cardiac Center (J. Gordon), Loma Linda University Medical Center (J. T. Heywood), Central Cardiology Medical Center (T. Ishimori), ARI Clinical Trials (B. Jackson), Western Pulmonary Medical Group Inc. (L. McNabb), Mission Internal Medical Group (M. Miyamoto), Cardiovascular Consultants Medical Group Inc. (M. Nathan), VA Medical Center-W. Los Angeles (B. Singh), Cardiology Associates (J. Sklar). *Colorado:* Heart and Vascular Clinic of Northern Colorado (D. Cullinane), University of Colorado (B. Lowes), Aurora Denver Cardiology Associates (N. Vijay). *Connecticut:* W. William Backus Hospital (J. Foley), Cardiac Specialists (R. Moskowitz). *The District of Columbia:* VA Medical Center (P. Narayan). *Florida:* Jackson Memorial Hospital (M. Bilsker), Cardiology Research Associates (J. Carley), Cardiovascular Center of Sarasota (M. El-Shahawy), Jacksonville Heart Center (D. Hassel), Florida Cardiovascular Research (R. Kachel), Jacksonville Center For Clinical Research (M. Koren), Ocala Research Institute (R. Prashad), Jacksonville Heart

Center (P. Rama), Miami Research & Education Foundation (J. Roberts), The Broward Heart Group PA (R. Schneider), The Heart and Vascular Institute of Florida (G. Schuyler), Jackson Memorial Hospital (R. Sequeira), Tallahassee Research Institute (D. W. Smith), Melbourne Internal Medicine Assoc. (R. Vicari), Cardiovascular Medical Specialists of Palm Beaches (C. Vogel). *Georgia:* Georgia Heart Specialists (E. Flores), Atlanta Heart and Vascular Research Group (D. Jansen), Northside Hospital (N. Singh), Cardiac Disease Specialists PC (K. Taylor). *Idaho:* Idaho Cardiology Associates (A. Chai), Idaho Cardiology Associates (D. Hinchman). *Illinois:* North Shore Cardiologists (J. Alexander), Heart Care Midwest (B. Clemens), Northwestern University (W. Cotts), Illinois Heart and Lung Associates (J. McCriskin), Midwest Heart Research Found. (M. T. Saltzberg). *Indiana:* The Care Group (M. Walsh). *Iowa:* Iowa Heart Center (W. Wickemeyer). *Kansas:* Mid America Cardiology (D. Bresnahan, C. Porter). *Kentucky:* Louisville Cardiology Medical Group (M. Imburgia), Cardiovascular Associates (J. Lash). *Louisiana:* Northshore Medical Research, LLC (F. Aduli, C. Baier, G.Lasala), Clinical Trials Management LLC (D. Banish), Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (D. Caskey), The Louisiana Heart Center (B. Iteld). *Maine:* Northeast Cardiology Associates (R. Capodilupo, A. Passer), Androscoggin Cardiology Associates (R. Weiss), Maine Medical Center (J. Wight). *Maryland:* Shore Health System (S. Friedman), Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (D. Friedman), MidAtlantic Cardiovascular Associates Baltimore (D. Goldscher), MidAtlantic Cardiovascular Associates Towson (M. Goldstein, B. Kahn), MidAtlantic Cardiovascular Associates Westminster (S. Jerome), MidAtlantic Cardiovascular Associates Bel Air (D. Rubin). *Massachusetts:* Mass General Hospital (W. Dec), Primary Care Cardiology Research (T. Hack). *Michigan:* Michigan Heart (J. Bengtson, M. Leonen), Nisus Research (H. Colfer), John Dingell VA Medical Center (E. Daher), Covenant Medical Center (P. Fattal), William Beaumont Hospital (P. McCullough), Beaumont Hospital (J. Cieszkowski). *Minnesota:* St Paul Heart Clinic (A. Bank), University of Minnesota (A. Boyle), Park Nicollet Heart Center (R. Festin, J. T. Suh), Mayo Clinic (R. Frantz), Hennepin County Medical Center (S. Goldsmith), Regions Hospital (J. McBride), Minneapolis Heart Institute (M. T. Olivari). *Mississippi:* Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi (J. Foster). *Missouri:* Missouri Cardiovascular Specialists (D. Brown), St Louis University (P. Hauptman), VA Medical Center-Kansas City (M. Liston). *Nebraska:* Alegent Health (D. Chapman), Bryan LGH Heart Institute (S. Krueger). *New Hampshire:* New England Heart Institute (C. Haugh). *New Jersey:* Morristown Memorial Hospital (J. Banas, A. Poelnitz), The Valley Hospital (M. Kesselbrenner), The Center for Advanced Heart Failure PC (H. Ribner). *New York:* South Bay Cardiovascular Associates (L. Altschul), New York Presbyterian Hospital (R. Bijou), State University of New York (R. Carhart), Buffalo Cardiology and Pulmonary Ass. (J. Corbelli), Albany Associates in Cardiology (M. El-Zarou), North Shore University Hospital (S. Jauhar, H. Skopicki), Elmhurst Hospital Center (D. Rubinstein), Cardiology Associates P. C. (R. Ryder). *North Carolina:* University of North Carolina (K. Adams), Durham VA Medical Center (F. Cobb, K. Morris), Charlotte Heart Group Research Center (T. Connelly), Alamance Regional Medical (K. Fath), Duke Cardiology Research (G. Felker), Mid Carolina Cardiology (E. McMillan), Pitt County Memorial Hospital (J. Rose). *Ohio:* The Lindner Clinical Trial Center (E. Chung), Northwest Ohio Cardiology Consultants (B. DeVries), The Dayton Heart Center (G. Fishbein), Akron General Medical Center (J. Hodsden), Cleveland Clinic Foundation (E. Hsich, R. Starling), North Ohio Research Limited (H. Ibrahim), North Ohio

Research Limited (D. Joyce), Midwest Cardiology Research Foundation (D. Richards), Sterling Research Group (E. Roth), University Of Cincinnati (L. Waggoner), Clinical Research Limited, United Health Network (F. Whittier). *Oklahoma:* Integris Baptist Medical Center (R. M. Clark), Oklahoma Foundation for Cardiology Research (R. Kipperman), Southwest Cardiology Integris Southwest Medical Center (M. Yasin). *Pennsylvania:* Cardiology Associates of West Reading (R. Alvarez, E. Hope), Buxmont Cardiology Associates, PC (M. Greenspan), Thomas Jefferson University (P. Mather, S. Rubin), Guthrie Clinic, LTD (D. Stapleton), The Western Pennsylvania Hospital (A. Gradman). *Rhode Island:* Rhode Island Hospital (P. Stockwell). *South Carolina:* South Carolina Heart Center (H. Dasgupta), Ralph H. Johnson VAMC (T. O'Brien), Medical University of South Carolina (N. Pereira). *Tennessee:* Tennessee Center for Clinical Trials (D. Gupta), Baptist Clinical Research Center (D. Kraus), Vanderbilt Clinical Trials Center (M. Kronenberg), Cardiovascular Associates (H. Ladley, F. Malik, R. Santos), Stern Cardiovascular Center (F. McGrew), The Chattanooga Heart Institute (V. S. Monroe Jr, W. Oellerich). *Texas:* Wilford Hall Medical Center (M. Almaleh, R. Krasuski), University of Texas (A. Barbagelata, S. Ernst), Austin Heart (T. Carlson, M. J. Pirwitz), Cardiopulmonary Research Science & Technology Institute (E. Eichhorn), The Texas Heart Institute/St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital (R. Delgado, F. Smart), Southeast Texas Cardiology Associates (R. Sotolongo), Covenant Medical Center (C. Wilkins). *Virginia:* University of Virginia Health System (J. Bergin), Cardiovascular Associates of Virginia (S. Kapadia), Inova Institute of Research (J. O'Brien), Medical College of Virginia (M. A. Peberdy), Roanoke Heart Institute (J. Schmedtje), The Cardiovascular Group PC (R. Shor). *Washington:* Hope Heart Institute (T. Amidon), Empire Health Services (T. Bishop). *Wisconsin:* Wisconsin Center for Clinical Research (I. Niazi). **Argentina:** *Buenos Aires:* Policlinica Bancaria (J. J. Blugermann), Hospital Argerich (M. A. Riccietelli), Hospital Central de San Isidro (M. Sultana), Hospital Privado Antartida (J. Tronge), Hospital Nacional Dr Alejandro Posadas (A. E. Ballestrini), Hospital Churrucra (S. M. Chekherdemian), Hospital Ramos Mejia (L. Girotti), Sanatorio Municipal (M. Halac), Hospital Eva Peron (S. Llois), Clinica Constituyentes de Morón (D. Nul), Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires (N. Vulcano). *Córdoba:* Hospital Córdoba (O. Allal), Sanatorio Allende (L. Guzmán), Hospital Privado-Centro Médico de Córdoba (M. Amuchastegui), Hospital Italiano de Córdoba (R. Colque), Hospital de Clínicas Jose de San Martin (O. Grosso), Hospital Fernandez (S. M. Salzberg). *Corrientes:* Instituto de Cardiología J. F. Cabral (E.R. Perna). **Brazil:** *Belo Horizonte:* Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Belo Horizonte (G. Reis). *Campinas:* Sociedade Beneficente Centro Médico de Campinas (J. C. Rocha), Hospital e Maternidade Celso Pierró (J. Saraiva). *Curitiba:* Hospital Evangélico de Curitiba (P. Rossi). *Goiânia:* Hospital das Clínicas da Universidade Federal de Goiás (S. Rassi). *Natal:* Hospital Universitário Onofre Lopes (M. Sanali Moura de Oliveira Paiva). *Porto Alegre:* Irmandade da Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Porto Alegre (C. Blacher), Instituto de Cardiologia do Rio Grande do Sul (O. Dutra), Hospital Mãe de Deus (E. R. Fernandes Manenti) Hospital das Clínicas de Porto Alegre (N. Clausell), Hospital Nossa Senhora da Conceição (P. Filho). *Rio de Janeiro:* Hospital Universitário Pedro Ernesto (D. Albuquerque) Santa Casa de Misericórdia do Rio de Janeiro (L. Soares da Costa). *Salvador:* Hospital Santa Isabel da Santa Casa de Misericórdia da Bahia (G. Soares Feitosa). *São José do Rio Preto:* IMC - Instituto de Moléstias Cardiovasculares (G. V. Greque) Hospital de Base da Faculdade de Medicina de São José do Rio Preto (L. Maia). *São Paulo:* InCor-FMUSP-Hospital Auxiliar

de Cotoxó (A. C. Pereira Barreto). **Belgium:** *Antwerpen:* A. Z. Middelheim (G. De Keulenaer, national coordinator). *Bonheiden:* A.Z. Imeldaziekenhuis (F. Charlier). *Namur:* Clinique St. Elisabeth (J. Salembier). *Yvoir:* Cliniques UCL Mont-Godinne (L. Gabriel & B. Marchandise). **Bulgaria:** *Dimitrovgrad:* MHAT (A. Mihov). *Pleven:* UMHAT Clinic of Cardiology (V. Yordanova). *Rousse:* UMHAT (S. Dimitrova). *Sofia:* Central Clinical Hospital at Ministry of Interior (D. Raev- National Coordinator). *Veliko Turnovo:* MHAT (H. Benov). **Canada:** *Calgary:* Cardiology Consultants/Heart Health Institute (P. Ma). *Fluerimont:* Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Sherbrooke (S. LePage). *Joliette:* CHRDL (S. Kouz). *Kelowna:* Kelowna General Hospital (F. Halperin). *Mississauga:* Mississauga Clinic Research Center (T. Rebane). *Montreal:* Montreal Heart Institute (A. Ducharme). *Montreal General Hospital (T. Huynh).* *Niagara Falls:* Greater Niagara General Hospital (Y. K. Chan). *Oshawa:* Lakeridge Health Oshawa (A. Bakbak). *Scarborough:* Scarborough Cardiology Research (J. E. Goode, F. Halperin), Scarborough Hospital (S. Roth). *St. John's:* Health Sciences Center (B. Sussex). *Toronto:* University Health Network, Toronto Western Hospital (D. Delgado), St. Michael's Hospital (G. Moe). *Victoria:* Victoria Heart Institute Foundation (W. P. Klinke). **Winnipeg:** St. Boniface General Hospital (A. Morris). **Czech Republic:** *Brno:* Nemocnice u sv. Anny (J. Vitovec). *Jablonec nad Nisou:* Nemocnice Jablonec nad Nisou (D. Tichy). *Nachod:* Oblastni Nemocnice Nachod (J. Jandík). *Pardubice:* Krajska Nemocnice Pardubice (P. Vojtisek). *Praha:* Vseobecna Fakultni Nemocnice (L. Golan). *Nemocnice Motol (D. Alan), Institut Klinicke a Experimentalni Mediciny (L. Hoskova), Nemocnice Na Homolce (E. Mandysova), Nemocnice Na Bulovce (F. Padour), Prostejov:* Nemocnice Prostejov (B. Cernosek). *Trutnov:* Oblastni Nemocnice Trutnov a. s. (J. Janousek). *Usti nad Labem:* Masarykova Nemocnice (J. Drazka). *Zlin:* Batova Krajska Nemocnice Zlin (I. Oral, national coordinator). **France:** *Essey lès Nancy:* Cabinet de Cardiologie et d'Explorations Vasculaires (Z. Chati). *Langres:* Centre Hospitalier (M. Martelet). *Montpellier:* CHU Montpellier (M. Ferriere). *Nantes:* Centre Hospitalier—Universitaire de Nantes (J. Trochu). *Nice:* Hospital Pasteur (P. Gibelin). *Saint Denis:* Centre Cardiologique du Nord (T. Laperche). *Toulouse:* Groupe Hospitalier Rangueil-Larrey CHU (M. Galinier). *Vandoeuvre les Nancy:* Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Nancy-Brabois (F. Zannad). *Bron:* Hôpital Louis Pradel (F. Delahaye, national coordinator). **Germany:** *Augsburg:* Klinikum Augsburg (W. von Scheidt). *Bad Krozingen:* Herzzentrum Bad Krozingen (G. Hauf). *Bad Oeynhausen:* Herz- und Diabetes Zentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen (D. Horstkotte). *Berlin:* Vivantes Klinikum Neukölln (H. Darius). *Essen:* Universitätsklinik Essen (R. Erbel), Akademisches Lehrkrankenhaus d. HGS Essen (J. Kolditz). *Göttingen:* Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (G. Hasenfuß). *Greifswald:* Klinikum der Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität (S. Felix). *Halle:* Klinikum der Medizinischen Fakultät der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (M. Buerke). *Heidelberg:* Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg (T. Dengler). *Jena:* Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena (H.-R. Figulla). *Köln:* Klinikum der Universität zu Köln (J. Müller-Ehmsen, R. Schwinger). *Leipzig:* Universität Leipzig Herzzentrum (R. Hambrecht, S. Möbius-Winkler). *Münster:* Universitätsklinikum Münster (T. Wichter). *Neustadt/Saale:* Herz- und Gefäßklinik Bad Neustadt (H. Neuser). *Regensburg:* Universitätsklinikum Regensburg (S. Fredersdorf, S. Holmer). *Soest:* Marienkrankenhaus Soest (H. Ochs, national coordinator). *Stuttgart:* Robert-Bosch-Krankenhaus (U. Sechtem, H. Vogelsberg). **Italy:** *Arezzo:* Ospedale Valdichiana (F. Cosmi). *Brescia:* Presidio Spedali Civili (M. Metra). *Cagliari:* Azienda Ospedaliera S. Michele (M. Porcu). *Carpi:* Ospedale

Civile (S. Ricci). *Cecina:* Ospedale Civile (C. Marabotti). *Milano:* Centro Cardiologico Monzino (P. Agostoni). *Montescano:* Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri (A. Caporotondi, F. Cobelli). *Palermo:* Presidio Ospedaliero Villa Sofia (V. Cirrincione). *Parma:* Ospedali Riuniti (F. Masini). *Pavia:* IRCCS Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri (C. Opasich, R. Tamarina), IRCCS Policlinico S. Matteo (L. Tavazzi, national coordinator). *Sassari:* Ospedali Civili SS Annunziata (P. Terrosu). *Veruno:* Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri (P. Giannuzzi). **Lithuania:** *Kaunas:* Kaunas Medical University Hospital (A. Kavoliuniene, national coordinator). *Klaipeda:* Klaipeda Seamen's Hospital (S. Norkiene). *Panevezys:* Panevezys Hospital (I. Skripkauskiene). *Siauliai:* Siauliai Hospital (R. Mazutavicius). *Vilnius:* Vilnius University Hospital (B. Petrauskienė). **Netherlands:** *Amsterdam:* Sint Lucas Andreas Ziekenhuis (R. Groutars, A. Willems). *Blaricum:* Tergooiziekenhuizen, locatie Blaricum (E. Buys). *Den Haag:* Medisch Centrum Haaglanden (P. Leemans, R. Veldcamp). *Deventer:* Deventer Ziekenhuis (D. Lok, national coordinator). *Ede:* Ziekenhuis Gelderse Vallei (F. Hartog, P. Kalmthout). *Enschede:* Medisch Spectrum Twente (P. van der Burgh). *Groningen:* Martini Ziekenhuis (G. L. Bartels). *Hilversum:* Ziekenhuis Hilversum (P. de Milliano). *Hoofddorp:* Spaarne Ziekenhuis (J. Wespord). *Nijmegen:* Canisius Wilhelmina Ziekenhuis (D. Hertzberger). **Norway:** *Lørenskog:* Hjertemed. avd. Akerhus Universitetssykehus (T. Omland, national coordinator). *Oslo:* Diakonhjemmets Sykehus Oslo (A. Semb). *Skien:* Med. Avd. Sykehuset Telemark (C. Ostvold). *Stavanger:* Stavanger Helseforskning (V. Bonarjee). **Poland:** *Bydgoszcz:* Wojewódzki Szpital im. dr J. Biziel (W. Sinkiewicz). *Kraków:* Szpital Specjalistyczny im. J. Dietla (J. Maciejewicz). *Lodz:* III Szpital Miejski im. dr K. Jonschera (E. Fiutowska). *Olawa:* Samodzielny Publiczny Zakład Opieki Zdrowotnej (R. Sciborski). *Opole:* Wojewódzkie Centrum Medyczne (W. Pluta). *Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski:* Zespół Opieki Zdrowotnej (M. Krzciuk). *Piotrkow Trybunalski:* Samodzielny Szpital Wojewódzki (M. Ogorek). *Plock:* Wojewódzki Szpital Zespólny (A. Malinski). *Sieradz:* SP ZOZ w Sieradzu (P. Ruzkowski). *Torun:* Wojewódzki Szpital Zespólny (K. Jaworska). *Tychy:* Wojewódzki Szpital Specjalistyczny Nr 1 (F. Prochaczek). *Warszawa:* Instytut Kardiologii (J. Grzybowski), Samodzielny Publiczny Centralny Szpital Kliniczny AM (G. Opolski, national coordinator). *Wloclawek:* Szpital Wojewódzki (J. Kopaczewski). **Romania:** *Brasov:* Spitalul Judetean Brasov (M. Radoi). *Bucharest:* Spitalul Universitar de Urgenta Bucuresti (C. Fierbințeanu Braticevići), Spitalul de Urgenta Floreasca (G. Tatu-Chitoui), Spitalul Universitar de Urgenta Bucuresti (M. Cinteza), Institutul de Boli Cardiovasculare (C. Ghingina), Institutul de Boli Cardiovasculare (C. E. Macarie, national coordinator), Spitalul Caritas (I. Nanea). *Cluj-Napoca:* Institutul Inimii, N. Stancioiu Cluj-Napoca (R. Capalneau). *Craiova:* Centrul de Cardiologie Craiova (D. Ionescu). *Iasi:* Spitalul Clinic Universitar (M. D. Datcu). *Targu-Mures:* Spitalul Clinic Judetean Mures (D. Nastase-Melicovici), Institutul de Boli Cardiovasculare Timisoara (S. Dragulescu). **Russian Federation:** *Moscow:* Russian State Medical University (A. Baranov), City Clinical Hospital 20 (I. Bokarev), Institute of Physico-Chemical Medicine City Hospital 29 (N. Gratsiansky), Cardiology Research Center (V. Mareev, national coordinator), Moscow State Medical and Dentistry University based on City Clinical Hospital 40 (A. Martynov), Veterans' Hospital 3 (V. Mkrchtchuan), City Clinical Hospital 2 (V. Novozhenov), Moscow Regional Research Clinical Institute (N. Sanina), Central Clinical Hospital Presidential Medical Center (B. Sidorenko), Russian State Medical University Hospital ZIL (G. Storzachkov), Moscow State University of Medicine & Dentistry based on City Clinical Hospital 67 (R. Stryuk), City Clinical Hospital (B. M. Tankhile-

itch), Moscow State University of Medicine and Dentistry based on City Clinical Hospital 11 (V. Zadionchenk), State Dep. Ed. Scientific of Medical Centre of Gen. Manag. Dep. President of RF City Clinical Hospital 51 (D. Zateyschikov), Burdenko Main Military Clinical Hospital (S. Chernov). *St Petersburg:* Saint Petersburg Clinical Hospital of Russian Academy of Sciences (M. Ballyuzek), St Petersburg State University (O. Berkovich), City Alexandrovskaya Hospital (M. Boyarkin), Saint Petersburg Dzhanelidze State Scientific Research Institute for Emergency Medical Care (V. Kostenko), City Hospital 31 (N. B. Perepech), Military Medical Academy (S. Shustov), St. Petersburg Medical Postgraduate Academy City Hospital 26 (V. Simanenkov), Cardiology Research Institute of the Ministry of Health (M. Sitnikova), St. Elisabeth City Hospital (L. Sorokin), City Hospital 8 (K. Zrazhevsky). **Spain:** *Almeria:* Hospital de Torrecárdenas (M. Vida). *Barcelona:* Hospital Clinic y Provincial (F. Pérez-Villa). *Córdoba:* Hospital Reina Sofia (J. Arizón). *Madrid:* Hospital Doce de Octubre (J. Delgado, national coordinator), Hospital Severo Ochoa (A. Grande). *Tarragona:* Hospital Universitari de Tarragona Joan XXIII (J. Mercé). *Valencia:* Hospital General Universitario de Valencia (F. Ridocci). **Sweden:** *Göteborg:* Medicinkliniken (K. Swedberg). *Linköping:* Kardiologkliniken Universitetssjukhuset (U. Dahlström). *Malmö:* Universitetssjukhuset MAS (R. Willenheimer). *Stockholm:* Hjärtklin Karolinska Universitetssjukhus Huddinge (I. Hagerman), Karolinska Institutet Danderyds sjukhus Enheten för internmedicin (T. Kahan, national coordinator), Karolinska Sjukhuset (C. Linde). *Umea:* Hjärtcentrum Norrlands Universitetssjukhus (B. Johansson). *Uppsala:* Akademiska sjukhuset (G. Wikström). **Switzerland:** *Lugano:* Cardiocentro Ticino SRC (T. Moccetti). **United Kingdom:** *Kingston upon Hull:* Hull Royal Infirmary (J. Cleland, national coordinator). *Leeds:* Leeds General Infirmary (M. Baig). *Manchester:* Wythenshawe Hospital (N. Brooks), Scunthorpe General Hospital (J. Dhawan, J. John). The clinical sites and investigators were compensated by Otsuka. **Funding/Support:** Otsuka Inc funded the EVEREST trial under the guidance of the EVEREST steering committee. **Role of the Sponsor:** The data collection and management for this study was by Otsuka; analysis was by University of Wisconsin Statistical Data Analysis Center and Otsuka; and administrative and material support was by Otsuka. **Independent Statistical Analysis:** Thomas Cook, PhD, who holds an appointment at the University of Wisconsin Department of Biostatistics and is an author of the article, had access to all of the data and performed an independent statistical analysis that supports the conclusions. Dr Cook received salary support through a contract between the University of Wisconsin and Otsuka Maryland Research Institute. **Acknowledgment:** We thank Holly Krassa, MS, Otsuka, and Robin Bechhofer, BA, University of Wisconsin, for their tireless efforts in producing the manuscript. Ms Krassa received compensation through her Otsuka salary and Ms Bechhofer received compensation through a contract between the University of Wisconsin and Otsuka Maryland Research Institute.

REFERENCES

1. Adams KF Jr, Fonarow GC, Emerman CL, et al. Characteristics and outcomes of patients hospitalized for heart failure in the United States: rationale, design, and preliminary observations from the first 100,000 cases in the Acute Decompensated Heart Failure National Registry (ADHERE). *Am Heart J.* 2005;149:209-216.
2. Cleland JG, Swedberg K, Follath F, et al. The

- EuroHeart Failure survey programme—a survey on the quality of care among patients with heart failure in Europe. I: patient characteristics and diagnosis. *Eur Heart J*. 2003;24:442-463.
3. Nieminen MS, Brutsaert D, Dickstein K, et al. EuroHeart Failure Survey II (EHFS II): a survey on hospitalized acute heart failure patients: description of population. *Eur Heart J*. 2006;27:2725-2736.
 4. Fonarow GC, Abraham WT, Albert NM, et al. Organized Program to Initiate Lifesaving Treatment in Hospitalized Patients With Heart Failure (OPTIMIZE-HF): rationale and design. *Am Heart J*. 2004;148:43-51.
 5. Gheorghiade M, Zannad F, Sopko G, et al. Acute heart failure syndromes: current state and framework for future research. *Circulation*. 2005;112:3958-3968.
 6. Gheorghiade M, Filippatos G, De LL, Burnett J. Congestion in acute heart failure syndromes: an essential target of evaluation and treatment. *Am J Med*. 2006;119(suppl 1):S3-S10.
 7. Tavazzi L, Maggioni AP, Lucci D, et al. Nationwide survey on acute heart failure in cardiology ward services in Italy. *Eur Heart J*. 2006;27:1207-1215.
 8. Publication Committee for the VMAC Investigators (Vasodilatation in the Management of Acute CHF). Intravenous nesiritide vs nitroglycerin for treatment of decompensated congestive heart failure: a randomized controlled trial [correction appears in *JAMA*. 2002;288:577]. *JAMA*. 2002;287:1531-1540.
 9. Cuffe MS, Califf RM, Adams KF Jr, et al; Outcomes of a Prospective Trial of Intravenous Milrinone for Exacerbations of Chronic Heart Failure (OPTIME-CHF) Investigators. Short-term intravenous milrinone for acute exacerbation of chronic heart failure: a randomized controlled trial. *JAMA*. 2002;287:1541-1547.
 10. Abraham WT, Adams KF, Fonarow GC, et al. In-hospital mortality in patients with acute decompensated heart failure requiring intravenous vasoactive medications: an analysis from the Acute Decompensated Heart Failure National Registry (ADHERE). *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2005;46:57-64.
 11. Benza RL, Tallaj JA, Felker GM, et al. The impact of arrhythmias in acute heart failure. *J Card Fail*. 2004;10:279-284.
 12. O'Connor CM, Gattis WA, Uretsky BF, et al. Continuous intravenous dobutamine is associated with an increased risk of death in patients with advanced heart failure: insights from the Flolan International Randomized Survival Trial (FIRST). *Am Heart J*. 1999;138:78-86.
 13. Butler J, Forman DE, Abraham WT, et al. Relationship between heart failure treatment and development of worsening renal function among hospitalized patients. *Am Heart J*. 2004;147:331-338.
 14. Emerman CL, De Marco T, Costanzo MR, Peacock W. Impact of intravenous diuretics on the outcomes of patients hospitalized with acute decompensated heart failure: insights from the ADHERE registry [abstract]. *J Card Fail*. 2004;10:S116.
 15. Eshaghian S, Horwich TB, Fonarow GC. Relation of loop diuretic dose to mortality in advanced heart failure. *Am J Cardiol*. 2006;97:1759-1764.
 16. Sackner-Bernstein JD, Skopicki HA, Aaronson KD. Risk of worsening renal function with nesiritide in patients with acutely decompensated heart failure. *Circulation*. 2005;111:1487-1491.
 17. Sackner-Bernstein JD, Kowalski M, Fox M, Aaronson K. Short-term risk of death after treatment with nesiritide for decompensated heart failure: a pooled analysis of randomized controlled trials. *JAMA*. 2005;293:1900-1905.
 18. Drazner MH, Rame JE, Stevenson LW, Dries DL. Prognostic importance of elevated jugular venous pressure and a third heart sound in patients with heart failure. *N Engl J Med*. 2001;345:574-581.
 19. Lucas C, Johnson W, Hamilton MA, et al. Freedom from congestion predicts good survival despite previous class IV symptoms of heart failure. *Am Heart J*. 2000;140:840-847.
 20. Domanski M, Norman J, Pitt B, Haigney M, Hanlon S, Peyster E. Studies of Left Ventricular Dysfunction: diuretic use, progressive heart failure, and death in patients in the Studies of Left Ventricular Dysfunction (SOLVD). *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2003;42:705-708.
 21. Udelson JE, Smith WB, Hendrix GH, et al. Acute hemodynamic effects of conivaptan, a dual V_{1a} and V₂ vasopressin receptor antagonist, in patients with advanced heart failure. *Circulation*. 2001;104:2417-2423.
 22. Gheorghiade M, Gattis WA, O'Connor CM, et al; Acute and Chronic Therapeutic Impact of a Vasopressin Antagonist in Congestive Heart Failure (ACTIV in CHF) Investigators. Effects of tolvaptan, a vasopressin antagonist, in patients hospitalized with worsening heart failure: a randomized controlled trial (ACTIV). *JAMA*. 2004;291:1963-1971.
 23. Gheorghiade M, Niazi I, Ouyang J, et al. Vasopressin V₂-receptor blockade with tolvaptan in patients with chronic heart failure. *Circulation*. 2003;107:2690-2696.
 24. Costello-Boerigter LC, Smith WB, Boerigter G, et al. Vasopressin-2-receptor antagonism augments water excretion without changes in renal hemodynamics or sodium and potassium excretion in human heart failure. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol*. 2006;290:F273-F278.
 25. Gheorghiade M, Konstam M, Burnett JC Jr, et al; for the Efficacy of Vasopressin Antagonism in Heart Failure Outcome Study With Tolvaptan (EVEREST) Investigators. Short-term clinical effects of tolvaptan, an oral vasopressin antagonist, in patients hospitalized for heart failure: the EVEREST clinical status trials. *JAMA*. 2007;297:1332-1343.
 26. Gheorghiade M, Orlandi C, Burnett JC, et al. Rationale and design of the multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the Efficacy of Vasopressin Antagonism in Heart Failure: Outcome Study With Tolvaptan (EVEREST). *J Card Fail*. 2005;11:260-269.
 27. Marcus R, Peritz E, Gabriel KR. On closed testing procedures with special reference to ordered analysis of variance. *Biometrika*. 1976;63:655-660.
 28. Van Elteren PH. On the combination of independent two-sample tests of Wilcoxon. *Bull Int Stat Institute*. 1960;37:351-361.
 29. Szatalowicz VL, Arnold PE, Chaimovitz C, Bichet D, Berl T, Schrier RW. Radioimmunoassay of plasma arginine vasopressin in hyponatremic patients with congestive heart failure. *N Engl J Med*. 1981;305:263-266.
 30. Goldsmith SR, Frances GS, Cowley AW, et al. Increased plasma arginine vasopressin levels in patients with congestive heart failure. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 1983;1:1385-1390.
 31. Cohn JN, Levine TB, Francis GS, Goldsmith S. Neurohumoral control mechanisms in congestive heart failure. *Am Heart J*. 1981;102:509-514.
 32. Francis GS, Benedict C, Johnstone DE, et al. Comparison of neuroendocrine activation in patients with left ventricular dysfunction with and without congestive heart failure: a substudy of the Studies of Left Ventricular Dysfunction. *Circulation*. 1990;82:1724-1729.
 33. Creager MA, Faxon DP, Cutler SS, et al. Contribution of vasopressin to vasoconstriction in patients with congestive heart failure: comparison with the renin-angiotensin system and the sympathetic nervous system. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 1986;7:758-765.
 34. Cohn JN. Current concepts in the treatment of congestive heart failure. *Cardiology*. 1997;88(S2):2-6.
 35. Bayram M, De Luca L, Massie MB, Gheorghiade M. Reassessment of dobutamine, dopamine, and milrinone in the management of acute heart failure syndromes. *Am J Cardiol*. 2005;96(6A):47G-58G.
 36. Packer M. REVIVE II: multicenter placebo-controlled trial of levosimendan on clinical status in acutely decompensated heart failure [abstract]. *Circulation*. 2005;112:3363.
 37. Mebazaa A. The SURVIVE-W trial: comparison of dobutamine and levosimendan on survival in acute decompensated heart failure [abstract]. *Circulation*. 2005;112:3364.
 38. Udelson JE, McGrew F, Flores E, et al. Multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled study on the effects of oral tolvaptan on left ventricular dilatation and function in patients with heart failure and systolic dysfunction. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. In press.
 39. Schrier RW, Gross P, Gheorghiade M, et al. Tolvaptan, a selective oral vasopressin V₂-receptor antagonist, for hyponatremia. *N Engl J Med*. 2006;355:2099-2112.