



1-Minute Consult: How we decide what questions to answer

The 1-Minute Consult on page 89 (Is there an advantage to combination therapy with ACE inhibitors and angiotensin II-receptor blockers [ARBs]?) is a particularly good example of what criteria we use in selecting a topic.

It's a good question for 1-Minute Consult for these reasons:

- **The answer requires some judgment.** It's not a black-and-white issue.
- **The subject is new.** The ARBs are a new class of drugs and therefore clinical experience is limited. They aren't something most of us learned about in medical school. When new drugs first become available for widespread use, only those who took part in clinical trials have had opportunity to gain experience prescribing them. We want to share newer clinical experience with you when you need it most—when it's newly relevant to actual practice.
- **The subject is important for patient care and public health.** Both heart failure and hypertension are pandemic in the US, and their effects are pernicious.
- **Readers asked for it.** Several readers asked this question of us. Many of you write your questions in the space provided on the CME test (page 144), and others send questions via e-mail or regular mail. Readers send us more than 100 suggestions for 1-Minute Consult every month.

We review all your questions and our editors consider how best to answer those that fit the criteria above. Some become review articles, others, a 1-Minute Consult article. Coming up in the months ahead:

- Who should be screened for elevated homocysteine levels?
- Should patients with chronic allergic rhinitis be treated long-term with intranasal steroids?
- Should all elderly patients take a multivitamin?

Although we can't answer every question, we do our best to prioritize according to what will bring the greatest benefit to you and your patients. Thank you for your interest and your excellent suggestions.

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