Calcium-entry blockers have been in clinical use in Europe for more than 15 years but only now are four drugs—lidoflazine, verapamil, diltiazem, and nifedipine beginning to appear on the U.S. market for use in the treatment of angina. In this proceedings of a symposium held in San Francisco March 19, 1981, studies of the physiology, pharmacology and clinical application of these drugs are considered.

"Marked differences among the many agents suggest either that the blocking action of each of the drugs is relatively specific for different tissues or that other actions of these agents account for their heterogeneous effects," wrote Guest Editor Jay N. Cohn, M.D.

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Guest Editors: Robert L. Frye, M D
                   Peter L. Frommer, M.D.

Twenty-three papers, delivered at the Consensus Development conference on Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery held at the National Institutes of Health, December 3-5, 1980, have been published by the American Heart Association. The Conference panel reach a consensus that "coronary artery bypass represents a major advance in the treatment of patients with coronary artery disease . . . in selected subsets of patients." The papers, here published for the first time, "represent a review of current data" as interpreted by investigators.

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Scientific Publications of the American Heart Association

Cellular, Hormonal, and Neural Alterations in Hypertension

Editor: Allen W. Cowley, Jr., Ph D

Thirty-two papers (plus a Preface), constituting the Proceedings of the AHA Council for High Blood Pressure Research at Cleveland, OH, September 24-25, 1981, have been published by the American Heart Association. They focus on three general aspects of hypertension. The first is intracellular and smooth muscle cell membrane physiology that participate in the regulation of vascular smooth muscle tone. Included is a state-of-the-art review by Dr. Richard Murphy concerning the role of calcium calmodulin myosin light-chain kinases in the contraction of arterial smooth muscle. A second aspect is hormonal regulation of arterial blood pressure, including studies of angiotensin, aldosterone, vasopressin, and renal prostaglandin. The third group of papers concern the role of the nervous system in the control of arterial pressure and renal function. Also included are state-of-the-art reviews by Dr. Francois Abboud emphasizing the role of the adrenergic system and by Drs. Matthew Levy and Robert Tarazi on the mechanical aspects of cardiac responses to increased afterload.

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