

News

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Next DAHTS telecast to highlight New York symposium on antihypertensive drug, propranolol.

DALLAS--A relatively new antihypertensive drug, propranolol, will be discussed by researchers, pro and con, on the next Dallas Area Hospital Television System (DAHTS) broadcast Oct. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The broadcast will originate in New York City at a symposium "Beta-Adrenergic Blockade: A New Era in Cardiovascular Medicine" sponsored by Excerpta Medica and The New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Eugene Braunwald, head of internal medicine at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, is coordinator of the program. The two-day symposium is supported by a grant from Ayerst Laboratories, the manufacturer of the only beta-adrenergic blocker approved for use in this country--Inderal (brand name for propranolol).

This program is of particular interest because only part of propranolol's mechanism of action is known and there is considerable debate in this area.

This DAHTS broadcast will feature a panel of noted research physicians who will summarize the presentations at the symposium and then answer questions phoned in by members of the television audience.

Dallas physicians may watch the broadcast at any of the DAHTS member locations--The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas (UTHSCD), Baylor University Medical Center, Methodist Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, St. Paul Hospital or Veterans Administration Hospital.

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first add beta-adrenergic

An advantage of propranolol for patients with hypertension, angina pectoris or cardiac arrhythmia is relatively few side-effects. It interferes less with body function, including sexual activity, than other anti-hypertensive drugs.

One disadvantage of the drug is that it is expensive.

"Also, congestive heart failure, bronchial asthma and the use of hypoglycemic agents (as in patients with diabetes) are relative contraindications to its use," said Dr. William Pettinger, chairman of clinical pharmacology at UTHSCD.

Dr. Pettinger and Dr. Robert M. Graham, post-doctoral fellow at the health science center, will present a paper "The role of beta-adrenergic receptors in mediation of renin release" at the symposium. Also from UTHSCD, Dr. Norman Kaplan, professor of internal medicine, will present "Beta-blockade in the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension."

The Dallas researchers will not appear, however, on the telecast, which will follow the symposium.

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