1989-11-08

University Hospital News:
November 8, 1989

University Hospital, Office of Media Relations

http://hdl.handle.net/2144/20265

Boston University
November 8, 1989

Dear Member of the Media,

Cardiology experts from Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and the University Hospital (UH) will present new research in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease at the Annual American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. The sessions will be held November 13-16 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The following are brief descriptions of some the abstracts to be presented:

David P. Faxon, M.D., an associate professor of medicine at BUSM, will discuss a study indicating that in-hospital risks associated with angioplasty are lower than those of bypass surgery for elderly patients. This information is valuable for physicians considering the relative risks of one procedure over another for their elderly patients who are already at increased risk of complications.

Thomas K. Pow, M.D., and David Faxon, M.D., will present results of a study indicating that low molecular weight heparin prevents restenosis, or the narrowing of arteries, following angioplasty in an animal model. Restenosis occurs in one-third of angioplasty patients, yet there has been no proven method of prevention. Results of the animal study warrant clinical trials of the drug.

Nicholas A. Ruocco, Jr., M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM, will present data suggesting that angioplasty can benefit a larger patient population than previously indicated. The researchers compared long-term clinical outcome of angioplasty patients with total versus partial occlusion, or narrowing of the vessels. They documented similar complications in patients with total occlusion but found that the group's outcome was as favorable as those with partial occlusion.

Peter B. Berger, M.D., a fellow in UH's Section of Cardiology, will discuss a study demonstrating that people who have heart block during a heart attack experience a larger infarction, or permanent damage to the organ, and a four-fold increase in mortality despite prompt treatment to dissolve blood clots. Of the heart attack patients with heart block (14 percent of those studied), 25 percent had occluded, or closed, vessels after thrombolytic therapy compared with 15 percent of patients without heart block. While thrombolytic therapy decreased the overall incidence of mortality, these results suggest that aggressive treatment is necessary for heart block patients.

-more-
Bruce A. Bergelson, M.D., a fellow in UH's Section of Cardiology, will present data indicating that angioplasty patients' cholesterol levels are predictive of restenosis. The researchers determined that low HDL levels predict high incidence of restenosis, suggesting that improving cholesterol levels in angioplasty patients may be important in ensuring a favorable long-term outcome.

William Kannel, M.D., a professor of medicine at BUSM and a Framingham Heart Study researcher for more than 30 years, will describe blood pressure trends among patients participating in the study. These findings suggest that a decrease in high blood pressure is due to treatment since the underlying causes have not declined. In another presentation, Kannel will discuss the relationship between age and cardiovascular disease.

William Hollander, M.D., a professor of medicine and biochemistry at BUSM, will discuss how immunological changes taking place within blood vessels in response to artheriosclerosis may play a major role in accelerating heart and blood-vessel disease. One of the questions raised by this study is whether the effectiveness of current medications is limited by these immunological changes.

If you would like further information or copies of the abstracts please call me or Gina DiGravio at (617) 638-8491.

Sincerely,

Sarah Downey
Media Relations Representative
Boston University Medical Center