

Medical News in Brief

Lipoprotein(a)-Lowering Agent Fails to Reduce Cardiovascular Events

The experimental drug pelacarsen did not reduce the risk of adverse cardiovascular events in a phase 3 study, despite lowering lipoprotein(a) (Lp[a]) levels, the manufacturer [announced](#).

The 7-year [Lp\(a\)HORIZON trial](#) included about 8300 people with high Lp(a) levels and preexisting heart disease. Participants who received monthly injections of pelacarsen, an investigational antisense oligonucleotide, lowered their Lp(a) levels compared with participants who received a placebo, but the drug did not reduce the risk of cardiovascular events, including urgent coronary revascularization requiring hospitalization, nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, and cardiovascular death.

Elevated Lp(a) is an inherited cardiovascular risk factor with no approved targeted treatment. It was thought that lowering Lp(a) would reduce residual cardiovascular risk beyond guideline-directed care, the manufacturer said in a press release. Phase 3 clinical trials are ongoing for 2 other Lp(a)-lowering agents, [lepodisiran](#) and [olpasiran](#), with a different mechanism of action from pelacarsen. – **Samantha Anderer**

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