

labetalol) diminish pain-free walking distance, possibly via a “vascular steal” effect; combining a nonvasodilating β -blocker (e.g., atenolol) with a vasodilator (e.g., nifedipine) also results in a decrease in pain-free walking distance.

8. High-risk patients (with peripheral arterial disease/aortic aneurysm) coming to noncardiac surgery who receive a low dose of highly β_1 -selective bisoprolol 1 month pre- and postsurgery experience a highly significant reduction in cardiac deaths and nonfatal MI with no change in the frequency of stroke, still apparent after 2 years' follow-up; these benefits were not seen with metoprolol (significant increase in stroke and death rate) possibly owing to starting the β -blocker on the day before surgery, at too high a dose (inducing intra- and perisurgical hypotension).