

**Statement of the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) on  
hypertension, Renin Angiotensin System blockers and COVID-19**  
March 12th 2020

- Currently there is no clear evidence that hypertension per se is associated with an increased risk of infection by COVID-19. Therefore, patients with hypertension should apply the same precautions as subjects of the same age category and with the same profile of comorbidities (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>).
- In stable patients with COVID-19 infections or at risk for COVID-19 infections, treatment with ACEIs and ARBs should be executed according to the recommendations in the 2018 ESC/ESH guidelines.<sup>1</sup>
- The currently available data on COVID-19 infections do not support a differential use of RAS blockers (ACEI or ARBs) in COVID-19 patients.
- In COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms or sepsis, RAS blockers and other blood pressure lowering drugs should be used or discontinued on a case-by-case basis, taking into account current guidelines.
- Further research analysing the continuously increasing data on the impact of hypertension and blood pressure lowering drugs, particularly RAS blockers, on the clinical course of COVID-19 infections is warranted.

**A note of caution!**

This statement reflects current evidence at time of release and may need updating according to novel evidence.