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Contact: Shari Leventhal: 202-416-0658, sleventhal@asn-online.org (before Oct. 27)
October 27–28: ASN Management Office, America’s Center, Room 130, (314) 342-5511
Friday, Oct. 29 – Monday, Nov. 1: ASN Media Room, America’s Center, Room 250,
(314) 342-5508 (media room), 202-236-8142 (after hours)

RESULTS FROM BENEDICT TRIAL LIKELY TO IMPACT PATIENT CARE

St. Louis, MO (October 31, 2004)— More than 100 million patients suffering from type 2 diabetes may soon reap the benefits of new scientific research aimed at creating earlier intervention to limit renal complications and cardiovascular mortality and morbidity thanks to recent findings from the Bergamo Nephrologic Diabetes Complication Trial (BENEDICT). Results of the BENEDICT Trial will first be revealed during the American Society of Nephrology’s 37th Annual Meeting and Scientific Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.

By 2030, there will be about 370 million people worldwide with type 2 diabetes and approximately one third of these individuals will develop nephropathy and require dialysis therapy; many will die of cardiovascular disease.

The BENEDICT Trial, conducted by Giuseppe Remuzzi and his colleagues of the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research, is a multi-center, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized study developed to address the rising epidemic of type 2 diabetes. The study examined the effects of various combinations of the ACE inhibitor, Trandolapril, and the non-dihydro-pyridine calcium channel blocker, Verapamil, during the onset of micralbuminuria in more than 1200 subjects with type 2 diabetes, arterial hypertension, and normoalbuminuria for a median of 3.5 years.

“Currently, the outcome is only marginally affected when patients use antihypertensive treatment with R.A.S. inhibitors or calcium channel blockers (CCBs) after nephropathy has been established. This is why early intervention is so important,” says Remuzzi, Director, Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research, Bergamo. “I believe the results of this study will have major implications for the treatment of people with diabetes.”

The study results will be presented at a news briefing from 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. on Friday, October 29 in Room 251 of the America’s Center and discussed in detail during an Official Luncheon Symposia entitled, “Early Identification and Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease: Reaching Patients with Hypertension and Diabetes” on Sunday, October 31 from 12:00 p.m.– 1:15 p.m. in Room 225 of the America’s Center. The scientific paper of the BENEDICT Trial will be published on The New England Journal of Medicine website on October 31, 2004.

The ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 9,000 physicians and scientists dedicated to the study of nephrology and committed to providing a forum for the promulgation of information regarding the latest research and clinical findings on kidney diseases. ASN’s Renal Week 2004, the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, will provide a forum for more than 12,000 nephrologists to discuss the latest findings in renal research and engage in educational sessions relating advances in the care of patients with kidney and related disorders from October 27- November 1, 2004 at the America’s Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

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