



Beta-blockers after surgery reduce death risk: study

PERIOPERATIVE beta-blockade is associated with significantly lower rates of mortality in high-risk patients undergoing major non-cardiac, non-vascular surgery, retrospective research shows.

The study of >136,000 patients found those receiving beta-blockers just after surgery had a 27% reduced risk of dying in the next month, compared to those not receiving the agents, and they also had a 33% reduced risk of non-fatal cardiac complications including myocardial infarction and cardiac arrest.

Despite earlier research flagging increased stroke risk with beta-blockade, the present study suggested the need for a randomised trial among lower-risk patients, the researchers said.

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