



Egyptian Society  
of Cardiology

الجمعية المصرية لأمراض القلب

Dear WHO Representative,

I, Prof. Eslam Shawky – Professor of Cardiology – Al Azhar University in Cairo and the President elect of the Egyptian society of cardiology, would like to declare my support for AstraZeneca's submission of ticagrelor for inclusion in the 2023 World Health Organization (WHO) List of Essential Medicines update. The key reasons behind my decision are as follows:

- Access to drugs for cardiovascular disease is limited in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs); patients and their healthcare professionals require access to more treatment options, including ticagrelor to reduce the personal and economic burden of the disease
- Clopidogrel is on the WHO Essential Medicines List, but ~30% of patients are deemed to have some degree of resistance to clopidogrel that may be attributed, in part, by gene polymorphisms
  - **Ticagrelor was demonstrated as more efficacious** than clopidogrel in preventing the primary endpoint of the PLATO study in acute coronary syndrome (ACS), irrespective of gene polymorphisms, and **eliminates the need for recommended, often expensive genetic testing** before dual antiplatelet treatment
- Ticagrelor has also shown **superior efficacy** vs clopidogrel:
  - **Reduced the risk of cardiovascular death and all-cause death (secondary endpoints) in ACS patients vs clopidogrel**, without an increase in the rate of overall major bleeding<sup>†</sup>
  - **Achieved greater platelet inhibition** than clopidogrel
  - **Observed to reduce cardiovascular mortality and all-cause mortality** vs clopidogrel in a meta-analysis
  - **Associated with a reduction in the risk of in-hospital cardiac arrest** in patients with STEMI
- International **guidelines recommend the use of ticagrelor over clopidogrel** in ACS in numerous clinical scenarios
- Cost-effectiveness assessments in LMICs have found **ticagrelor to be as, or more, cost-effective than clopidogrel** in ACS

I hope this information supports the decision to include ticagrelor in the 2023 WHO List of Essential Medicines update, and I remain at your disposal for any questions you may have.

Signed Islam Shawky

Date 15/12/2022

Prof Islam Shawky

Head of Egyptian Society of Cardiology

