For Patients with Nonischmeic Heart Failure, are Statins Indicated for the Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death
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Abstract
Objectives: A question was posed on the Family Practice Inquiry Network "are statins indicated for the prevention of sudden cardiac death in patients with heart failure without coronary artery disease"
Methods: A literature search was performed using the research support of Northwestern Galter Library support staff.
Results: Early (2004) observational trials suggested survival benefit for patients with nonischemic heart failure taking statins as well as a modest but not significant benefit for prevention of sudden cardiac death. A 2017 meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials included 8 trials which evaluated the effect of statins on sudden cardiac death. Of these 8 trials, only one trial, the GISSI-HF trial, specifically included patients with nonischemic heart failure. This 2008 trial of 4574 patients found that SCD occurred more often in those patients taking statins (n = 220, 9.6%) compared with the control group (n=196, 8.6%), although in adjusted analyses there was no significant difference between groups (adjusted hazard ratio (aHR) 1.12, 95% CI 0.92-1.36).
Conclusion: Although previous observational studies have suggested a survival benefit for heart failure patients taking statin therapy, high quality RCTs have failed to reproduce this effect.