

## **Changing to Different PH Medications: Important Things to Know Before, During & After Grand Ballroom K**

### **Presenters:**

David B. Badesch, MD; Univ. of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Murali Chakinala, MD; Washington Univ., Mo.

Greg Elliott, MD; Intermountain Medical Center, Utah

Robert P. Frantz, MD; Mayo Clinic, Minn.

Rhonda Groebner, ANP; Minneapolis Heart Institute, Minn.

**Brief Synopsis:** A number of PH medications currently are available to PH patients, and new experimental medications are on the way. For patients already on a medication, there may be a reason to switch to another medication, such as failure to improve, side effects to a medication or the complex nature of some medications. In this session, we will explore and discuss questions around the issue of switching between PH medications.

### **Overview:**

There are currently six FDA-approved therapies for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. They can be divided into three therapeutic classes: 1) endothelin receptor antagonists, 2) phosphodiesterase inhibitors, and 3) prostanoids. These classes of agents differ somewhat in terms of anticipated treatment effects and side effects, and even the agents within the therapeutic classes differ from one another. Some patients may have relative contraindications to therapy with a specific agent or class of agents. Others may not experience the desired response to an initial treatment choice. This session will address these important issues. It is important to note that there may be relatively little evidence currently available to guide such changes in therapy, and therefore the presentations in this session may largely represent the opinions of the presenters. As always, treatment decisions should be guided by a PH expert familiar with an individual patient's specific situation.

### **Topics:**

Introduction of the session: David Badesch, MD

In the absence of the desired therapeutic response to an agent, should another agent be added to the first, or substituted for it? Murali Chakinala, MD

What assessments should be made prior to initiating a change in therapy? How do you assess the results of your change in therapy? What is appropriate follow-up after a therapeutic change is made? Robert Frantz, MD

Changing from one prostanoid to another: indications, challenges, and how to do it (dosing, monitoring, follow-up): Greg Elliott, MD

What are the practical aspects of changing therapies in terms of patient education, insurance issues, etc.?

Rhonda Groebner, ANP