

Letter to the Editor regarding the recent article in *Circulation* titled "Drugs That May Cause of Exacerbate Heart Failure" by Page et al.

An additional medication that warrants consideration with regards to heart failure is the muscle relaxant cyclobenzaprine. This medication is structurally similar to tricyclic antidepressants; therefore, the same cardiovascular precautions with tricyclic antidepressants are also often applied to cyclobenzaprine. The prescribing information for extended-release cyclobenzaprine (and also the immediate-release product) contraindicates the use of this medication during the acute recovery phase of myocardial infarction, and in patients with arrhythmias, heart block or conduction disturbances, or congestive heart failure (Product Information: AMRIX(R) oral extended release capsules, cyclobenzaprine HCl oral extended release capsules. Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. (per FDA), North Wales, PA, 2013.). Correspondence with the Teva Pharmaceuticals reveals that the rationale for this contraindication is the previously mentioned structural similarity to the tricyclic antidepressant class of medications and also due to postmarketing cardiovascular adverse reactions that been reported with use of immediate-release cyclobenzaprine tablets.

Jon Hoover, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist–Internal Medicine  
Memphis VAMC