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Definition of HTN according to different BP measurement...

Category	SBP (mmHg)		DBP (mmHg)
Office BP ^a	≥140	and/or	≥90
Ambulatory BP			
Daytime (or awake) mean	≥135	and/or	≥85
Night-time (or asleep) mean	≥120	and/or	≥70
24 h mean	≥130	and/or	≥80
Home BP mean	≥135	and/or	≥85

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ESC/ESH Guidelines

Table 1 ESC Classes of recommendations

Classes of recommendations	Definition	Suggested wording to use
Class I	Evidence and/or general agreement that a given treatment or procedure is beneficial, useful, effective.	Is recommended/is indicated
Class II	Conflicting evidence and/or a divergence of opinion about the usefulness/efficacy of the given treatment or procedure.	
Class IIa	Weight of evidence/opinion is in favour of usefulness/efficacy.	Should be considered
Class IIb	Usefulness/efficacy is less well established by evidence/opinion.	May be considered
Class III	Evidence and/or general agreement that the given treatment or procedure is not useful/effective, and in some cases may be harmful.	Is not recommended

Table 2 ESC Levels of evidence

Level of evidence A	Data derived from multiple randomized clinical trials or meta-analyses.
Level of evidence B	Data derived from a single randomized clinical trial or well-conducted observational studies.
Level of evidence C	Consensus of experts of the experts and/or small studies, retrospective studies, registries.

are: (i) to base recommendations on properly conducted studies, identified from an extensive review of the literature; (ii) to give the highest priority to data from randomized controlled trials (RCTs); (iii) to also consider well-conducted meta-analyses of RCTs as strong evidence (this contrasts with network meta-analyses, which we do not consider to have the same level of evidence because many of the comparisons are non-randomized); (iv) to recognize that RCTs cannot address many important questions related to the diagnosis, risk stratification, and treatment of hypertension, which can be addressed by observational or registry-based studies of appropriate scientific calibre; (v) to grade the level of scientific evidence and the strength of recommendations according to ESC recommendations (see section 1); (vi) to recognize that opinions may differ on key recommendations, which are resolved by voting and (vii) to recognize that there are circumstances in which there is inadequate or no evidence, but that the question is important for clinical practice and cannot be ignored. In these circumstances, we resort to pragmatic expert opinion and endeavour to explain its rationale.

Each member of the Task Force was assigned specific writing tasks, which were reviewed by section co-ordinators and then by the two chairs, one appointed by the ESC and the other by the ESH. The text was developed over approximately 24 months, during which the Task Force members met collectively and corresponded intensively with one another between meetings. Before publication, the document was reviewed by European reviewers selected by the ESC and ESH, and by representatives of ESC National Cardiac Societies and ESH National Hypertension Societies.

These 2018 ESC/ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension are designed for adults with hypertension (i.e. aged ≥18 years). The purpose of the review and update of these Guidelines was to evaluate and incorporate new evidence into the Guideline recommendations. The specific aims of these Guidelines were to produce pragmatic recommendations to improve the detection and treatment of hypertension, and to improve the poor rates of BP control by promoting simple and effective treatment strategies.

These joint 2018 Guidelines follow the same principles upon which a series of hypertension Guidelines were jointly issued by the two societies in 2003, 2007, and 2013. These fundamental principles



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ESC/ESH GUIDELINES

2018 ESC/ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension

The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Society of Hypertension (ESH)

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† Professor Zanchetti died towards the end of the development of these Guidelines, in March 2018. He contributed fully to the development of these Guidelines, as a member of the Guidelines Task Force and as a section co-ordinator. He will be sadly missed by colleagues and friends.

The two chairpersons contributed equally to the document.

ESC Committee for Practice Guidelines (CPG), European Society of Hypertension (ESH) Council, ESC National Cardiac Societies having participated in this review process, ESH National Hypertension Societies having participated in the review process (listed in the Appendix).

ESC entities having participated in the development of this document:

Associations: European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI), European Association of Preventive Cardiology (EAPC), European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI), European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), Heart Failure Association (HFA).

Councils: Council for Cardiology Practice, Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions, Council on Cardiovascular Primary Care, Council on Hypertension, Council on Stroke.

Working Groups: Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation, e-Cardiology.

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