

QUESTION

A 65-year-old male patient with a long history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia presents to the emergency department with acute chest pain. The patient reports a sharp, tearing pain that radiates to his back. He has a blood pressure of 180/100 mmHg and a heart rate of 100 bpm. Physical examination is unremarkable. An electrocardiogram (ECG) shows sinus tachycardia. A chest X-ray is normal. The patient is diagnosed with aortic dissection. Which of the following is the most appropriate initial management?

- A. Administer aspirin and nitroglycerin
- B. Administer morphine and beta-blockers
- C. Administer aspirin and beta-blockers
- D. Administer morphine and nitroglycerin
- E. Administer aspirin and morphine

ANSWER: B

ANSWER



The most appropriate initial management for aortic dissection is to administer morphine and beta-blockers. Morphine helps to reduce pain and anxiety, while beta-blockers help to reduce the heart rate and blood pressure, which can help to prevent further tearing of the aorta. Aspirin and nitroglycerin are not recommended as they can increase the risk of bleeding and worsen the condition. Calcium channel blockers are also used in the management of aortic dissection, but beta-blockers are the first-line treatment.

ANSWER: B