Enzyme inhibitors of the renin-angiotensin system

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1 Introduction

The primary purpose of this review is to summarize new developments in the area of inhibitors of the renin-angiotensin system. Specifically, inhibitors of the two main enzymes involved in the generation of angiotensin II, renin and angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE), will be examined. This review will concentrate primarily on novelty, either chemical or pharmacological, rather than cataloging anticipated and similar results of closely related analogs.

1.1 The renin-angiotensin system (RAS)

As shown in figure 1, the RAS is a closed loop negative feedback system which responds to a variety of factors that reduce renal perfusion or result in excessive sodium loss, including hemorrhage, heart failure,

![Diagram](image)

Figure 1
Diagrammatic representation of the juxtaglomerular apparatus and the factors controlling renin release and angiotensin II formation.