Why wasn’t a beta-blocker tested as first-line therapy?
Reasons for no beta-blocker arm

• Feasibility considerations allowed only 3-4 arms--traditional drug(s), ACEI, CCB, +1?
• Traditional drug choices considered—diuretic, beta-blocker, or either/both.
• Most hypertension trials used diuretics.
• Pooled results of 3 older diuretic vs. beta-blocker trials showed no CVD differences.

(Collins et al. Lancet 1990;335:827-38)
Reasons for no beta-blocker arm (continued)

• Concerns about beta-blockers in patients with diabetes (oversampled in ALLHAT), although UKPDS results (atenolol vs captopril) subsequently lessened concerns (BMJ 1998;317:713-720).

• Pooled analyses of 18 trials → low-dose diuretics but not beta-blockers prevent first CHD events (Psaty et al. JAMA 1997;277:739-45).