

BI's type 2 diabetes drug can lower cardio risks too: Study

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Singapore: Jardiance, a diabetes drug by Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly, has demonstrated positive result in reducing cardiovascular risk and cardiovascular death in patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D).

EMPA-REG OUTCOME was a long-term, multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial that involved around 7,000 patients from 42 countries with type 2 diabetes at high risk for cardiovascular events. The study was designed to assess the effect of Jardiance (10mg or 25mg once daily) added to standard of care compared with placebo added to standard of care.

"People with Type 2 diabetes are at risk for cardiovascular diseases (stroke and heart attacks) not just from high blood sugar, but also other risk factors like high blood pressure, cholesterol, overweight and smoking," said Dr Kevin Tan, vice president, Diabetic Society of Singapore. "The EMPA-REG OUTCOME trial now provides physicians and patients with a treatment option that delivers on both blood glucose lowering as well as cardiovascular benefits. I am excited by the EMPA-REG OUTCOME results as they prove that newer therapies can be safe and beneficial for our Type 2 diabetes patients in Singapore."

Life expectancy of people with T2D at high CV risk is, on average, decreased by up to twelve years with approximately 50 percent of deaths in people with T2D caused by CV disease.

"The EMPA-REG OUTCOME trial results are encouraging for healthcare professionals and their patients," said Dr Christopher P Cannon, Cardiovascular Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, who was not involved in the study. "Patients in the study were already being treated with medications that have been proven to reduce cardiovascular events. The observation that empagliflozin provided additional cardiovascular death reduction on top of these other medications is a very important finding."

"The long-term impact of glucose-lowering medications on the cardiovascular outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes has remained unclear," said Dr Edith Dalisay, head of medical affairs, Boehringer Ingelheim regional operating unit South East Asia and South Korea. "Today, the EMPA-REG OUTCOME trial shows promise as it was found to be the only glucose lowering therapy to exhibit cardiovascular risk reduction in a dedicated outcome trial. Previous trials have already confirmed the efficacy of Jardiance as a glucose-lowering agent with additional benefits of lowering body weight and blood pressure."

"The Boehringer Ingelheim and Lilly Diabetes Alliance is very pleased to share the results of the EMPA- REG OUTCOME trial with the healthcare community," said Prof. Hans-Juergen Woerle, global vice president Medicine, Boehringer Ingelheim. "Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in people with type 2 diabetes worldwide and reducing cardiovascular risk, including death, is an essential component of diabetes management."