

Cardiovascular Complications of Diabetes

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Objectives

- Review Diabetes Complications (and co-existing conditions)
- Discuss, understand, and implement screening for Diabetes Complications
- Learn guideline based treatment strategies for treatment and referral for Diabetes Complications



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Diabetes Complications

Macrovascular Complications

- Cardiovascular disease
 - Coronary Heart disease (CHD)
 - Stroke
 - Peripheral arterial disease (PAD)/amputation



Diabetes Complications

Microvascular Complications

- Eye disease (retinopathy)
- Kidney disease (nephropathy)
- Nerve disease (neuropathy)



Diabetes Complications

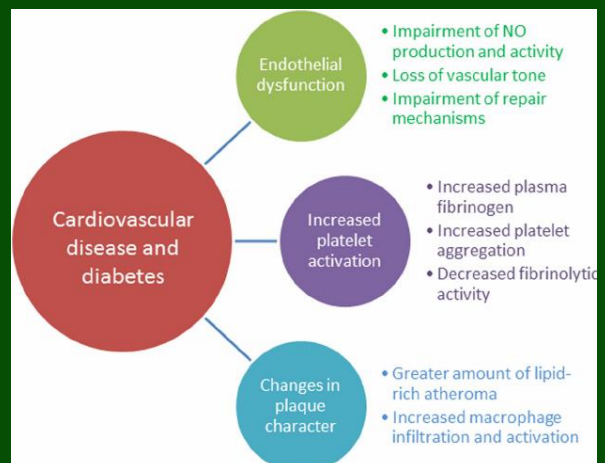
Other complications

- Liver disease (NAFLD, NASH)
- All cause mortality risk



Pathophysiology of the connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease

- Hyperglycemia
 - A1C? Variability, postprandial
- Chronic inflammation and thrombosis
- Dyslipidemia and atherogenesis
- Hypertension
- Inflammatory cytokines
- Endothelial dysfunction
- Oxidative stress

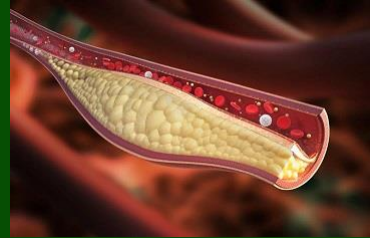


Adv Exp Med Biol. 2012;771:139-54
 Current Cardiology Reports 17(3):566 - March 2015
 Cardiovascular Endocrinology & Metabolism 7(1) 4-9; March 2018



Risk Factors for Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD)

- Diabetes/Insulin resistance
- Hypertension
- Hypercholesterolemia/dyslipidemia
- Cigarette smoking
- Family history
- Sedentary lifestyle/obesity
- Post-menopausal-women
- Over 45- men



Blood Pressure and Lipids

Cardiovascular Disease



Cardiovascular Disease

- Risk:
 - Stroke 2 to 4 times higher
 - Heart Disease 2 to 4 times higher
- ~75% of diabetes patients have high blood pressure (hypertension)
- ~75% of people with diabetes have a dyslipidemia (cholesterol disease)
- Diabetes confers risk about the same as pre-existing CVD in persons without diabetes



Cardiovascular Disease

- Heart disease and stroke ~65% of diabetes deaths
- **Routine screening of asymptomatic not recommended**
- Treat risk factors (lipids, BP, smoking, etc)

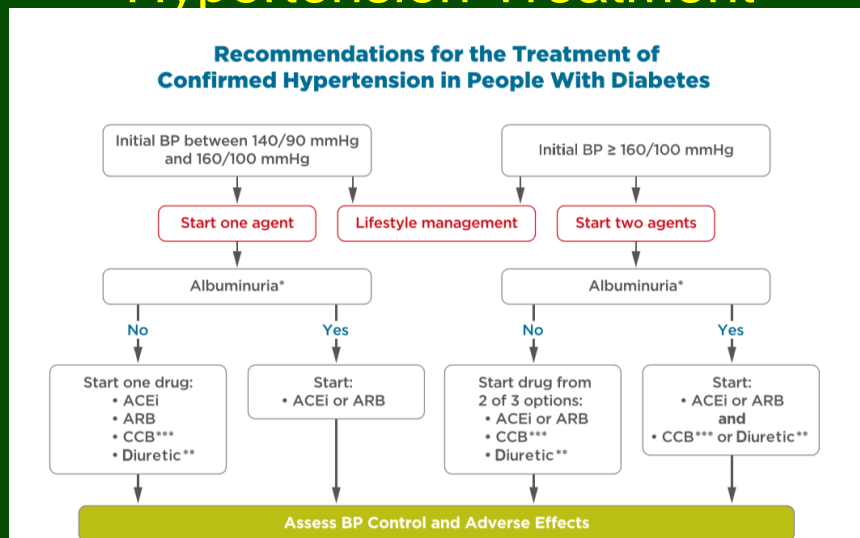


Blood Pressure

- Done at every visit (x2?)
- Target is $<140/<90$, $<130/<80$ if can be safely attained
- Consider weight loss if BP $>120/>80$



Hypertension Treatment



Be sure to check potassium levels, serum creatinine, and eGFR



Hypertension Treatment

- Lowering blood pressure reduces CVD and kidney disease
- Caveat: worsening renal function on ACEI or ARB warrants imaging of kidneys/renal arteries or nephrology referral
- If on more than one anti-hypertensive, consider giving one at bedtime



Lipids (Cholesterol)

- Increased cardiovascular risk (e.g., LDL cholesterol ≥ 100 mg/dL [2.6 mmol/L], high blood pressure, smoking, albuminuria, and family history of premature ASCVD) and with ASCVD
- Obtain a lipid profile at initiation of statin therapy and periodically thereafter because doing so may help monitor the response to therapy and inform about adherence



Lipids and Cardiovascular Complications:

“target normal”

- Total cholesterol <200
- Triglycerides <150
- HDL (“good”) >40 men, >50 women
- LDL (“bad”) <100, <70 high risk

These are no longer “targets”, but abnormalities represent “at risk”



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CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Statin Treatment—Primary Prevention

- 10.19 For patients with diabetes aged 40–75 years without atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, use moderate-intensity statin therapy in addition to lifestyle therapy. A
- 10.20 For patients with diabetes aged 20–39 years with additional atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk factors, it may be reasonable to initiate statin therapy in addition to lifestyle therapy. C
- 10.21 In patients with diabetes at higher risk, especially those with multiple atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk factors or aged 50–70 years, it is reasonable to use high-intensity statin therapy. B
- 10.22 In adults with diabetes and 10-year ASCVD risk of 20% or higher, it may be reasonable to add ezetimibe to maximally tolerated statin therapy to reduce LDL cholesterol levels by 50% or more. C



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Statin Treatment—Secondary Prevention

- 10.23 For patients of all ages with diabetes and ASCVD, high-intensity statin therapy should be added to lifestyle therapy. A
- 10.24 For patients with diabetes and ASCVD considered very high risk using specific criteria, if LDL cholesterol is ≥ 70 mg/dL on maximally tolerated statin dose, consider adding additional LDL-lowering therapy (such as ezetimibe or PCSK9 inhibitor). A Ezetimibe may be preferred due to lower cost.
- 10.25 For patients who do not tolerate the intended intensity, the maximally tolerated statin dose should be used. E



Statin Treatment—Secondary Prevention (continued)

- 10.26 In adults with diabetes aged >75 years already on statin therapy, it is reasonable to continue statin treatment. B
- 10.27 In adults with diabetes aged >75 years, it may be reasonable to initiate statin therapy after discussion of potential benefits and risks. C
- 10.28 Statin therapy is contraindicated in pregnancy. B



Statin Intensity

High-intensity statin therapy	Moderate-intensity statin therapy
Lowers LDL by $\geq 50\%$: Atorvastatin 40–80 mg Rosuvastatin 20–40 mg	Lowers LDL by 30% to $<50\%$: Atorvastatin 10–20 mg Rosuvastatin 5–10 mg Simvastatin 20–40 mg Pravastatin 40–80 mg Lovastatin 40 mg Fluvastatin XL 80 mg Pitavastatin 2–4 mg

American Diabetes Association
Standards of Care 2016



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Commonly Used Anti-Lipid Medications

- Statins
 - Potent
 - Lower total cholesterol, LDL most effectively
 - Cut CVD risk by ~30%

Ezetimibe

PCSK-9 inhibitor

- Add to statin if high dose not tolerated, or if LDL is not <70 in those with CVD or high risk

Obtain a lipid profile at initiation of statins or other lipid-lowering therapy, 4–12 weeks after initiation or a change in dose, and annually thereafter as it may help to monitor the response to therapy and inform adherence.



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What About Statin Intolerance?

- Be sure that's what it is
- Consider pravastatin
- Ezetimibe



Anti-Lipid Medications

Caveats:

- Use with caution in known liver disease
(but may improve fatty liver-NAFLD)
- Use with caution in more advanced kidney disease
(usually dose reduction)
- Increasing muscle aches- rare complication of rhabdomyolysis



Summary: Blood Pressure and Lipids Treatment

BP:

ACEI or ARB if albuminuria or proteinuria

Lipids:

- Statins first line +/- ezetimibe
- Fibrates, Fish Oil, Niacin, Colsevelam not a lot of data
- Icosapent ethyl (Vascepa) some benefit with very high triglycerides (>500 mg/dL)

Treating these appropriately aggressively reduces CVD and renal disease



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Anti-hyperglycemics and CVD



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A1C and CVD Outcomes

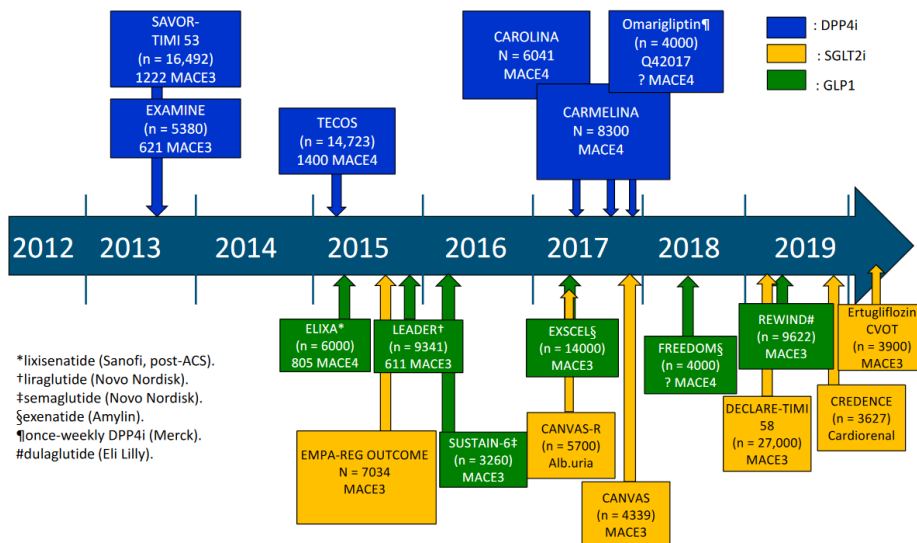
- DCCT: Trend toward lower risk of CVD events with intensive control (T1D)
- EDIC: 57% reduction in risk of nonfatal MI, stroke, or CVD death (T1D)
- UKPDS: nonsignificant reduction in CVD events (T2D).
- ACCORD, ADVANCE, VADT suggested no significant reduction in CVD outcomes with intensive glycemic control. (T2D)
- Post-prandial glucose and glucose variability may be related to CVD

Diabetes Care 2017; 40 (Suppl. 1): S48-S56



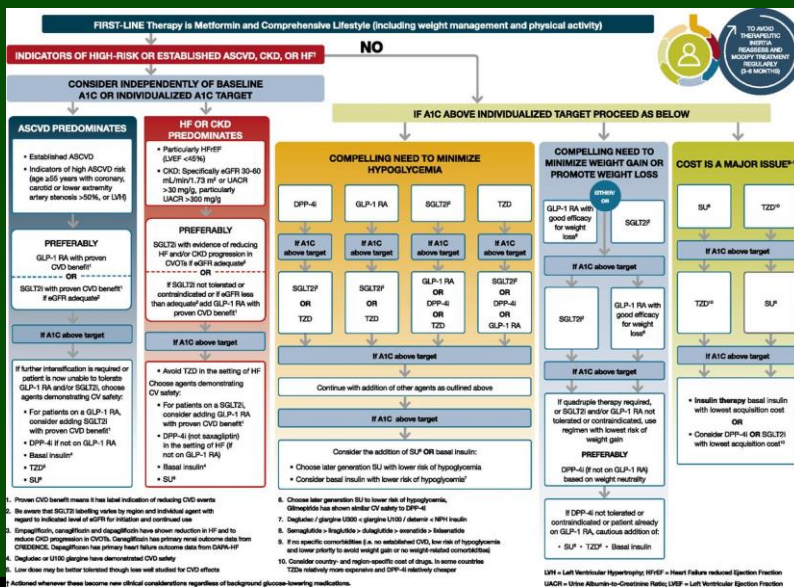
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Major CV Outcome Trials in Type 2 Diabetes



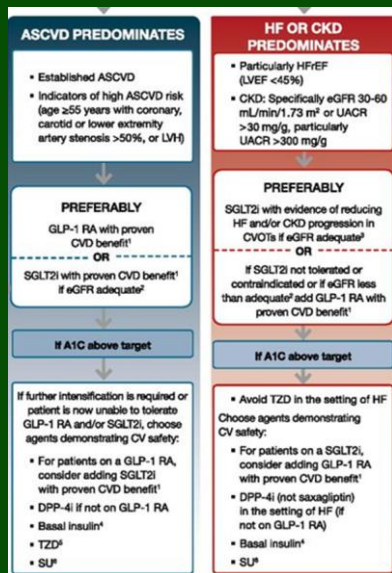
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Refresh: ADA Type 2 Medication Algorithm 2020



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Choosing an anti-hyperglycemic agent



SGLT-2 with CVD Benefit:
Canagliflozin
Dapagliflozin
Empagliflozin

GLP-1 with CVD Benefit:
Liraglutide
Semaglutide
Dulaglutide

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Aspirin

- If no contraindications
- Men >50 years of age
- Women >50 years of age
- Younger if higher risk

American Diabetes Association. *Diabetes Care*. 2013;37(suppl 1)



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Smoking

- Refer to appropriate resources
- Consider FDA approved medications
- E-cigs are NOT recommended at this time

American Diabetes Association
Standards of Care 2016



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Heart Disease and Stroke Symptoms

- Educate patients about heart disease and stroke symptoms
- I have seen patients with fairly advanced disease without a lot of symptomatology
- Large knowledge gaps exist with patients



Pregnancy

- Statins, ACE, ARB contraindicated
- BP usually methyldopa
- Be sure to talk about this preconception



Cases



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Case #1

- 32 year old with type 1 diabetes
- BP 144/86, 148/90 2 separate occasions
- No albuminuria/proteinuria
- “I’ve never had high blood pressure before”
- What next?



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Case #1

- Hard for persons with type 1 to “get their heads around” having high blood pressure
- Clear indication for HTN treatment



Case #2

- 56 year old female 10 years duration type 2 diabetes
- HTN on ARB
- 20 pack year history smoking, quit 3 years ago
- Chol 202 TG 260 HDL 34 LDL 104
- Now what?



Case #2

- Should be on aspirin 81 mg daily
- High risk (2 additional CVD risk factors)
- Would be tempting to use low dose statin to start
- 40-75, risk factors, high dose statin
 - Atorvastatin 40–80 mg
 - Rosuvastatin 20–40 mg
 Take time to explain why



Case 3

- TG, a 58-year-old African American, has had T2D for 8 years
- Currently being treated for hypertension (12 years) and dyslipidemia (10 years)
- History of acute coronary syndrome
- Concerned about uncontrolled blood glucose level, a recent increase in weight (5 lbs)
- Non-smoker and only occasionally consumes alcohol
- Walks 15-20 minutes, three times a week
- Diet has improved over last 5 years after consult with RD, but she admits to having a “sweet tooth”



(Continued...)



Case 3

- **Physical exam:**

- General examination normal, No pallor, cyanosis, clubbing or lymphadenopathy
- Height, 5'2" (157 cm); weight, 152 lbs (69 kg)
- BMI, 27.8 kg/m²
- BP, 132/86 mmHg
- Pulse 80/min, regular, peripheral pulses well felt
- Systemic examination- normal
- Foot examination is normal
- Fundus examination :Grade I non proliferative diabetic retinopathy

(Continued...)



Case 3

- **Medications**

- Glimepiride 2 mg daily BID
- Metformin sustained release preparation 1000 mg daily
- Telmisartan 40 mg daily
- Atorvastatin 80 mg at night
- Aspirin 81 mg at night

(Continued...)



Case 3

- Labs:
 - A1C 8.3 %
 - Lipids TC 160, TG's 210, HDL 35, LDL 68
 - Fasting, preprandial blood glucose values 150's-160's
 - Post-prandial blood glucose values 190's-220's
 - GFR 55, serum creatinine 1.2, hepatic chemistries normal
 - Urine normal (no albuminuria)



Case 3

From the lab results, which plasma glucose patterns of hyperglycemia are present?

- A. Fasting
- B. Preprandial
- C. Postprandial
- D. Nocturnal



Case 3

A drug from which of the following drug classes could you suggest to intensify Mrs. G's treatment to manage her hyperglycemia?

- A. GLP-1 receptor agonist
- B. DPP-4 inhibitor
- C. SGLT2 inhibitor
- D. Basal insulin



Summary

- Diabetes complications can be avoided or minimized with good glucose control
- Appropriate, guideline based screening is important for early detection
- Cardiovascular disease is extremely common in diabetes, treat risk factors appropriately
- Know when to make appropriate referrals

