



Mass General Brigham

What's New, Innovative, and Controversial in Chronic Kidney Disease

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Disclosures

None



Objectives

- To highlight recent treatment innovations in chronic kidney disease
- To review recent controversies in chronic kidney disease
- To understand innovative strategies to eliminate disparities in kidney health



Case 1

A 61-year-old man of African descent presents for follow-up. He feels well and has no complaints. His 81-year-old mother has hypertension and end-stage kidney disease on hemodialysis.

Past Medical History

- Hypertension
- Gout
- Obstructive sleep apnea



Case 1-Medications

Amlodipine 5 mg daily

Lisinopril 20 mg daily

Allopurinol 100 mg daily



Case 1: Question

Which of the following diagnostic tests is/are appropriate in this patient?

- A. Electrolytes
- B. Serum creatinine
- C. Urine albumin/creatinine
- D. All of the above



Case 1: Answer

The correct answer is D.

This patient has hypertension and a first-degree relative with end-stage kidney disease. He is therefore at risk for chronic kidney disease, which is usually manifested first by albuminuria. Hence, measuring a serum creatinine and checking for the presence of albuminuria are appropriate. Because he is on an ACE-I, checking an electrolyte panel is also appropriate.



Controversy: Should we routinely screen for chronic kidney disease?

- Chronic kidney disease may remain asymptomatic until advanced
- Is there a role for routine screening of asymptomatic patients?



USPSTF Recommendations for screening asymptomatic adults for CKD

Population	Asymptomatic adults without diagnosed chronic kidney disease
Recommendation	No recommendation
	Grade: I (insufficient evidence)
Risk assessment	There is no generally accepted risk assessment tool for CKD. Diabetes and hypertension are well accepted risk factors with strong links to CKD. Other risk factors for CKD include older age, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and family history.
Screening tests	Although there is insufficient evidence to recommend routine screening, the tests often suggested for screening that are feasible in primary care include testing the urine for protein (microalbuminuria or macroalbuminuria) and testing the blood for serum creatinine to estimate glomerular filtration rate.
Balance of harms and benefits	The USPSTF could not determine the balance between the benefits and harms of screening for CKD in asymptomatic adults.

Moyer, VA Ann Intern Med. 2012;157:567-570



Statement from the National Kidney Foundation on Media Reports of USPSTF Considering Kidney Disease Screening

May 24, 2022, New York, NY —The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is encouraged by reports the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) may consider issuing new guidelines for kidney disease screening. NKF and the Coalition for Kidney Health have long been advocating for USPSTF to revise its CKD recommendations. A statement from Sylvia Rosas, MD, NKF President-elect and Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Joseph Vassalotti, MD, Chief Medical Officer for the NKF follows:

“Ultimately, CKD is a health equity issue – African Americans are 3 – 4 times more likely to develop kidney failure than Whites. If we can identify individuals with CKD earlier – at a more manageable stage of their disease – we can slow disease progression and help achieve better outcomes for all populations, but especially those at highest risk for kidney failure. The news that the USPSTF has agreed to review kidney disease screening again, is welcome. However, no timeline for future recommendations has been set. The USPSTF must act and act soon if we ever hope to adequately address inequity in CKD care.”

- Sylvia Rosas, MD, NKF President-elect and Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School



USPSTF Update for CKD Screening Still in Progress



U.S. Preventive Services
TASK FORCE 40 YEARS
OF IMPROVING HEALTH

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🏠 > Recommendation Topics > Recommendation: Chronic Kidney Disease: Screening

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Chronic Kidney Disease: Screening

An Update for This Topic is In Progress

LAST UPDATED: Jul 07, 2023



The Task Force keeps recommendations as current as possible by routinely updating existing recommendations and developing new recommendations. A multistep process is followed for each recommendation. The Task Force uses gold standard methods to review the evidence and is transparent at each step of the recommendation development process.



ISN-KDIGO Early Identification and Intervention in Primary Care

Step 1:
Identify those at risk

Main Clinical Risk Factors for CKD:

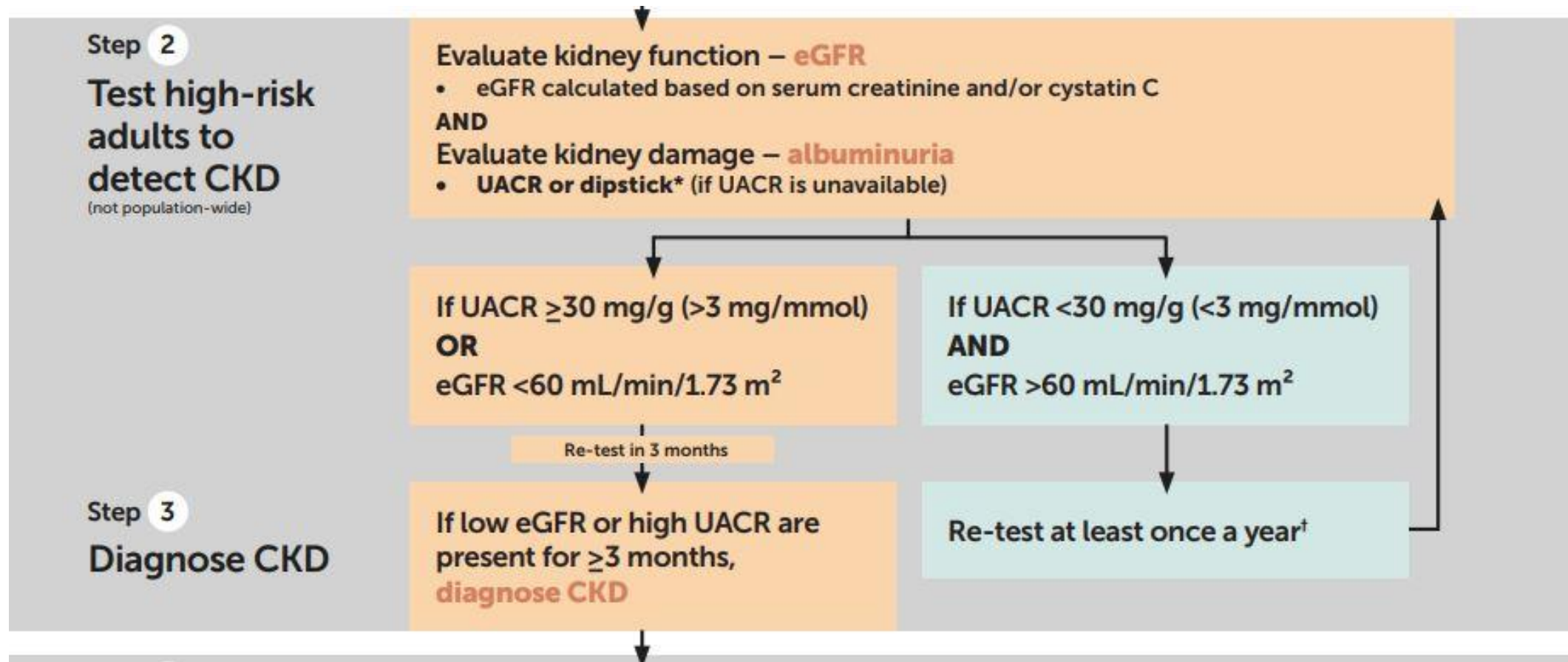
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- CVD
- Family history of CKD

Consider Other Factors:

- Systemic diseases that may affect kidneys (SLE)
- Obesity
- Genetic Risk Factors
- Exposure to nephrotoxins
- Demographics (older age, race/ethnicity)
- History of AKI



ISN-KDIGO Early Identification and Intervention in Primary Care



International Society of Nephrology



ISN-KDIGO Early Identification and Intervention in Primary Care: Step 4, Stratify and Treat

Range	A1 <30 mg/g	A2 30-299 mg/g	A3 >300 mg/g
≥90 G1	Monitor	Treat	Treat and Consult
60-89 G2	Monitor	Treat	Treat and Consult
45-59 G3a	Treat	Treat	Treat and Consult
30-44 G3b	Treat	Treat and Consult	Treat and Consult
15-29 G4	Treat and Consult	Treat and Consult	Treat and Consult
< 15 G5	Treat and Consult	Treat and Consult	Treat and Consult



Treat to slow CKD progression, reduce mortality risk, and manage co-morbidities

- Lifestyle modification
 - Smoking cessation
 - Regular exercise
 - Well balanced diet
 - Avoiding excessive protein intake
 - Avoiding processed foods
 - Limiting sodium intake to < 2 grams/day
- Pharmacologic therapies



Monitor for CKD Progression and Comorbidities

CKD Progression and comorbidities	What to monitor
CKD Monitoring	eGFR, UACR, urinalysis (urine sediment)
CVD and Dyslipidemia	Blood pressure, cardiovascular risk stratification, lipid status
Diabetes	Blood glucose, hemoglobin A1C



Additional considerations for nephrology consultation

- Unexplained, progressive decline in eGFR ≥ 5 mL/min/1.73 m² over 12 months or sudden decline in eGFR over days to weeks
- Unexplained significant albuminuria/proteinuria or hematuria
- Persistent hyperkalemia, resistant hypertension (defined as uncontrolled hypertension on three antihypertensive agents, including a diuretic), recurring kidney stones, or hereditary kidney diseases (e.g. ADPKD)
- Other complications identified (anemia, mineral and bone disorders, metabolic acidosis, etc.)



Blood pressure control guidelines (KDIGO)

- Target systolic blood pressure of < 120 mm Hg when tolerated
- Start ACE-I or ARB in individuals with hypertension, CKD, and moderate to severe albuminuria with or without diabetes
- Avoid any combination of ACE-I, ARB, and direct renin inhibitor therapy in patients with CKD, with or without diabetes



Case 2

A 57-year-old woman with type 2 diabetes, hypertension, PAD, and CKD presents for follow-up.

Past Medical History

- Diabetes mellitus type 2
- Chronic kidney disease
- Hypertension
- Peripheral arterial disease



Case 2-Medications and Labs

- Amlodipine 10 mg daily
- Lisinopril 20 mg daily
- Chlorthalidone 25 mg daily
- Metformin 500 mg bid
- K⁺ 4.8 mEq/L
- Bicarbonate 23 mmol/L
- Creatinine 1.2 mg/dL
- Hemoglobin A1C 8.0%
- Urine albumin/creatinine 400 mg/g



Case 2: Question

What additional medication(s) may be beneficial in improving her cardiorenal outcomes?

- A. Glipizide
- B. Saxtagliptin
- C. Canagliflozin
- D. Insulin



Case 2: Answer

The correct answer is C.

The only one of the medications listed with proven benefits in retarding progression of chronic kidney disease is canagliflozin.



Diabetes and Kidney Disease

Treatment of diabetic kidney disease has focused on

- Blood pressure control
- Blockade of the renin/angiotensin system
 - ACE-I
 - ARB

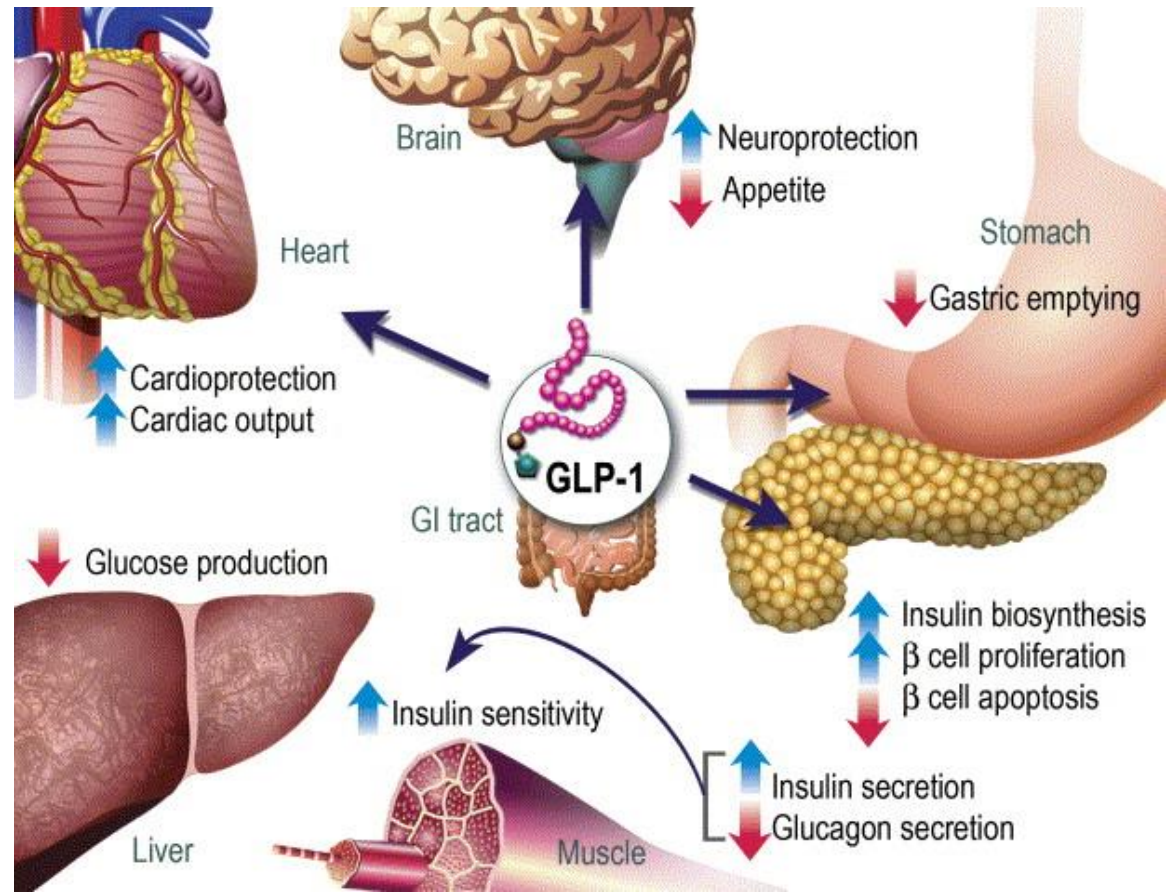


Innovation: Drug class matters

- Despite widespread use of RAS inhibitors, diabetes remains the leading cause of ESRD in the United States
- Some glucose-lowering agents appear to have glucose-independent effects on diabetic nephropathy and its progression
 - GLP-1 analogues
 - Sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors



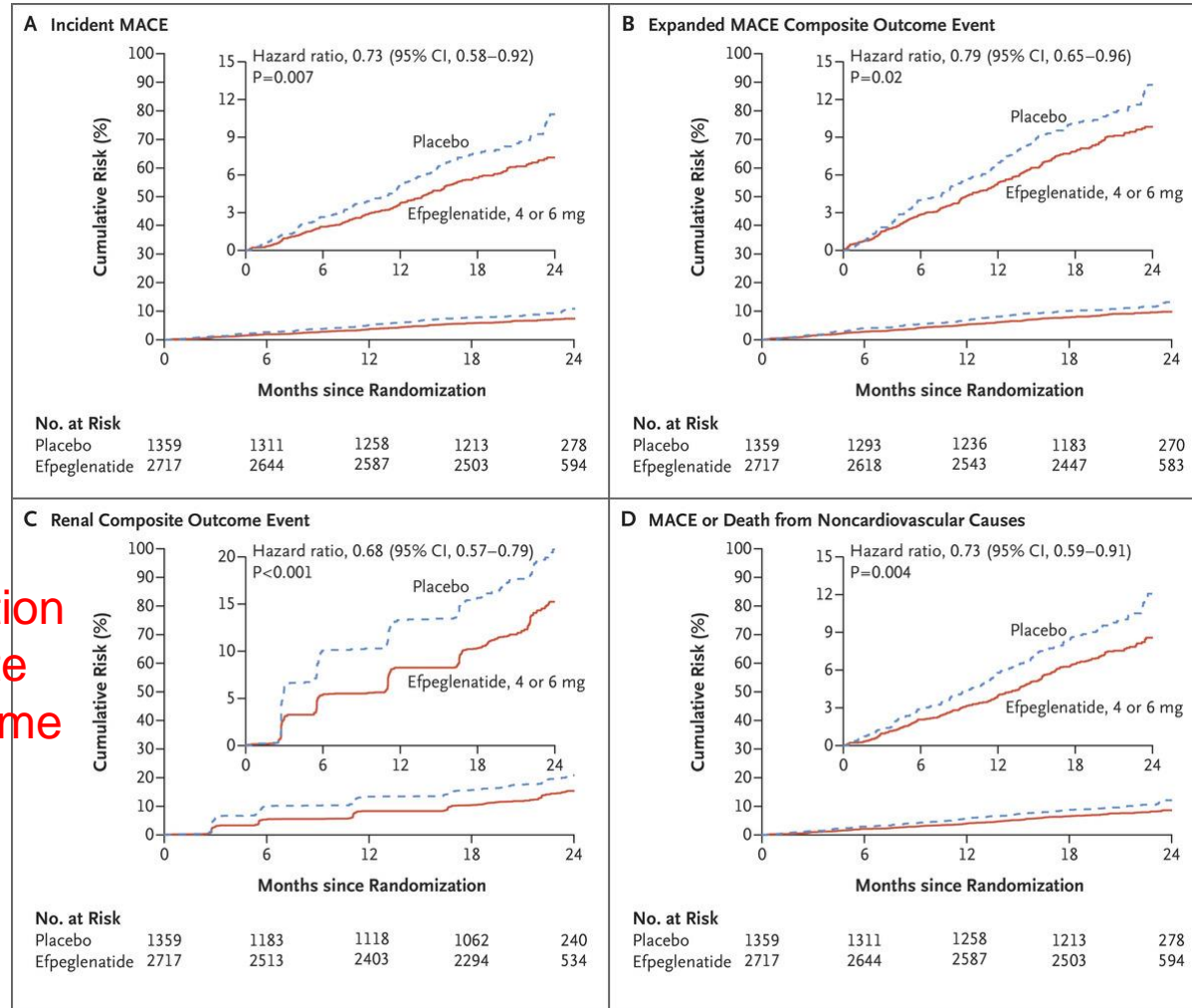
GLP-1 Agonists: Dulaglutide, Semaglutide and others



Drucker DJ Cell Metab 2006



Renal outcomes in AMPLITUDE-O



32% reduction
in composite
renal outcome



GLP-1 Agonists and Renal Outcomes

- Awaiting trial data looking at GLP-1 agonists and other outcomes in a *kidney-focused* clinical trial
 - GFR
 - Progression to ESRD or transplantation
- The Effect of Glucagon-like-peptide 1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonism on Diabetic Kidney Disease
- Effect of LIXIsenatide on the Renal System (ELIXIRS)
- The FLOW study (Effect of semaglutide versus placebo on the progression of renal impairment in subjects with T2DM and CKD)



SGLT-2 Inhibitors

- Sodium-glucose transporter blockers
- Block the reabsorption of glucose at the proximal tubule
- Effective in individuals across stages of CKD
- Lower weight and blood pressure (diuretic effect)
- Low risk of hypoglycemia



CREDESCENCE: A game changer

Randomized trial of canagliflozin 100 mg daily versus placebo
4401 patients randomized

Inclusion criteria:

- Albumin/creatinine > 300 to 5000
- eGFR 30 to < 90
- Treatment with RAS blockade

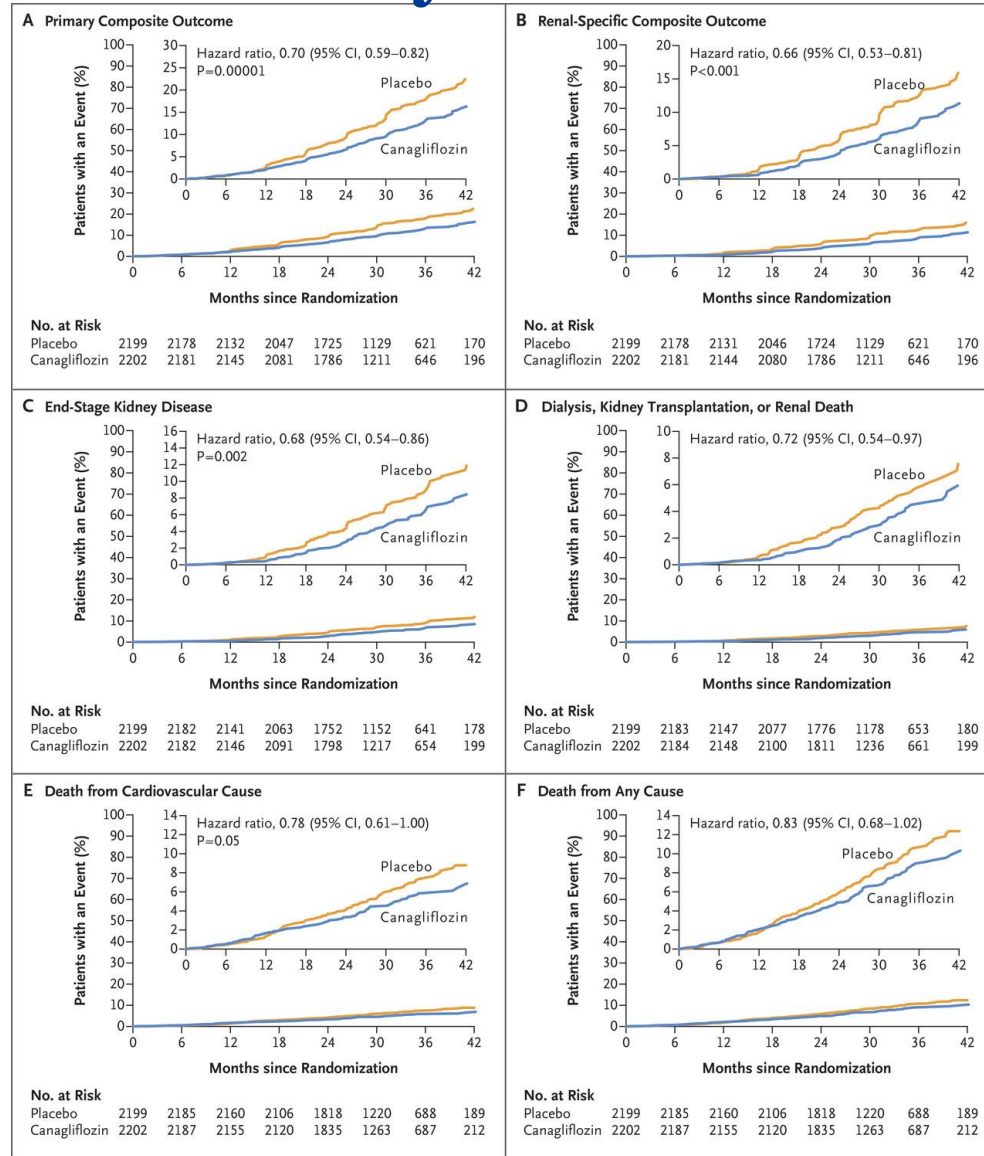
Primary outcomes:

- Composite of ESRD and
- Doubling of the serum creatinine
- Death from renal or cardiovascular causes

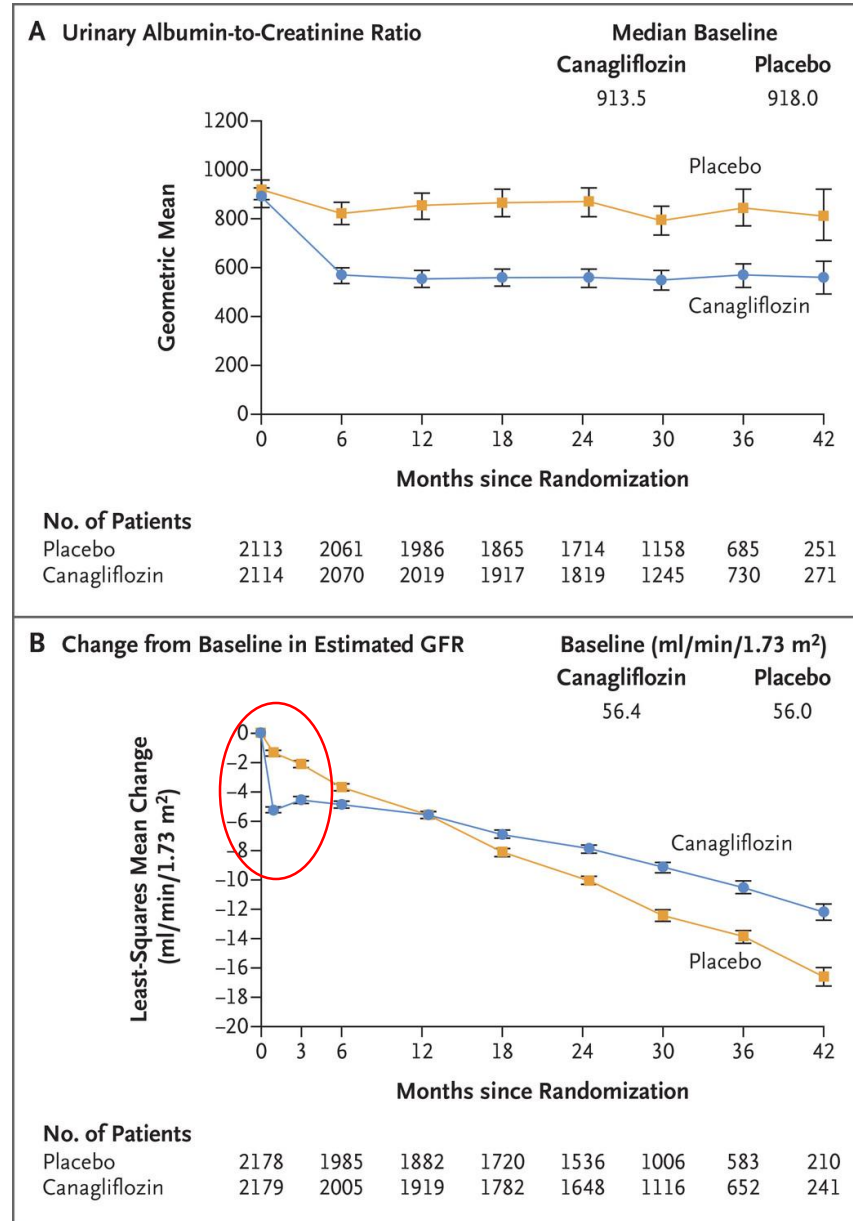


Primary Composite, Renal, and Mortality Outcomes

30% reduction in risk of primary outcome



Effects on Albuminuria and Estimated GFR



Note the acute drop in GFR



SGLT-2 inhibitors in non-diabetic kidney disease



Newer trials have shown SGLT-2 inhibitors to retard progression in *non-diabetic* kidney disease

- DAPA-CKD
- EMPA-KIDNEY



DAPA-CKD

- Randomized trial of dapagliflozin 10 mg daily versus placebo
- 4304 subjects *with or without diabetes* randomized
- Inclusion criteria:
 - Albumin/creatinine > 200 to 5000
 - eGFR 25-75 mL/min/1.73 m²
 - Treatment with RAS blockade
- Primary outcomes:
 - Composite of sustained decline in eGFR of at least 50% and
 - End-stage kidney disease and
 - Death from renal or cardiovascular causes



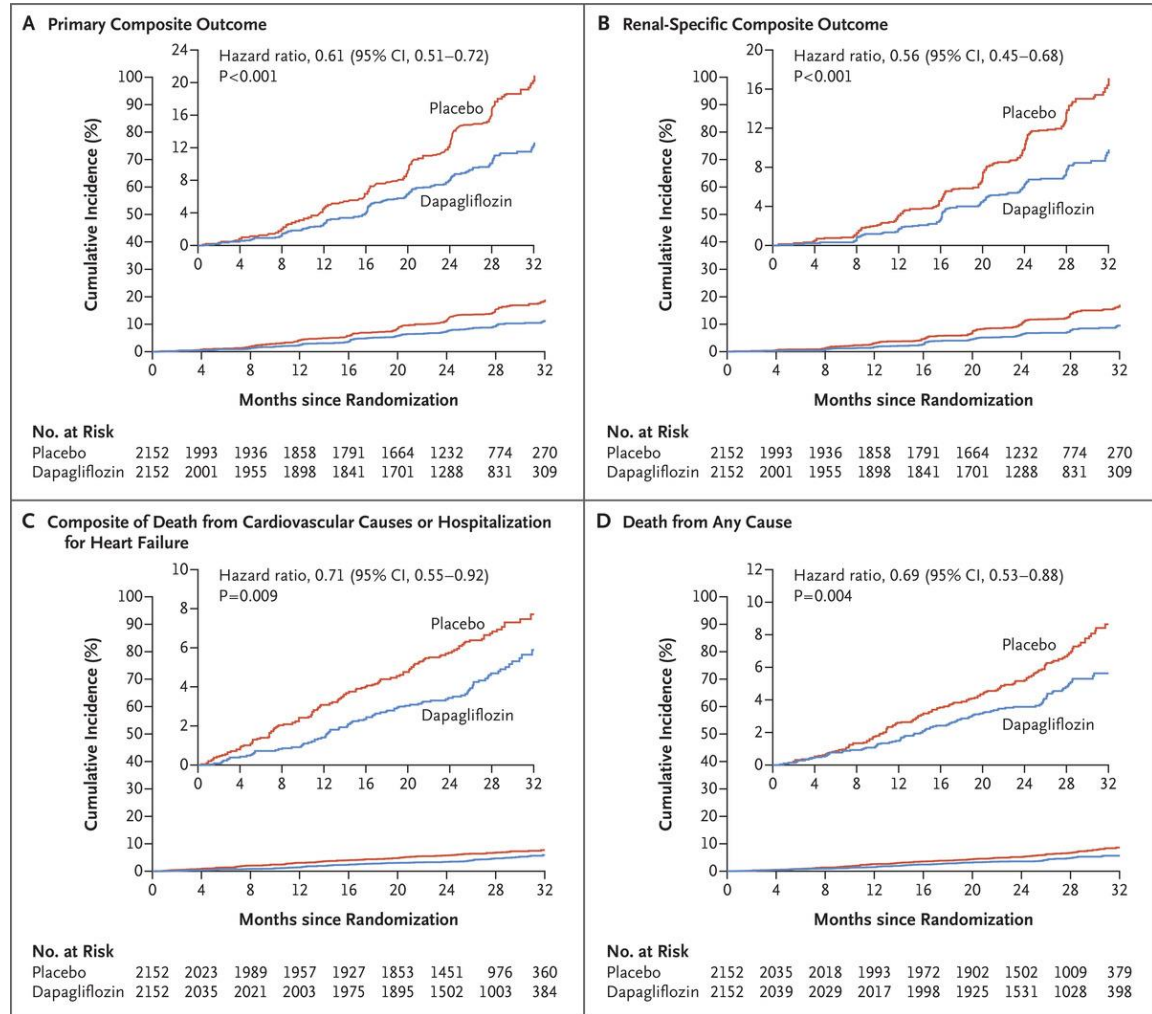
Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Participants at Baseline

Table 1. Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Participants at Baseline.*

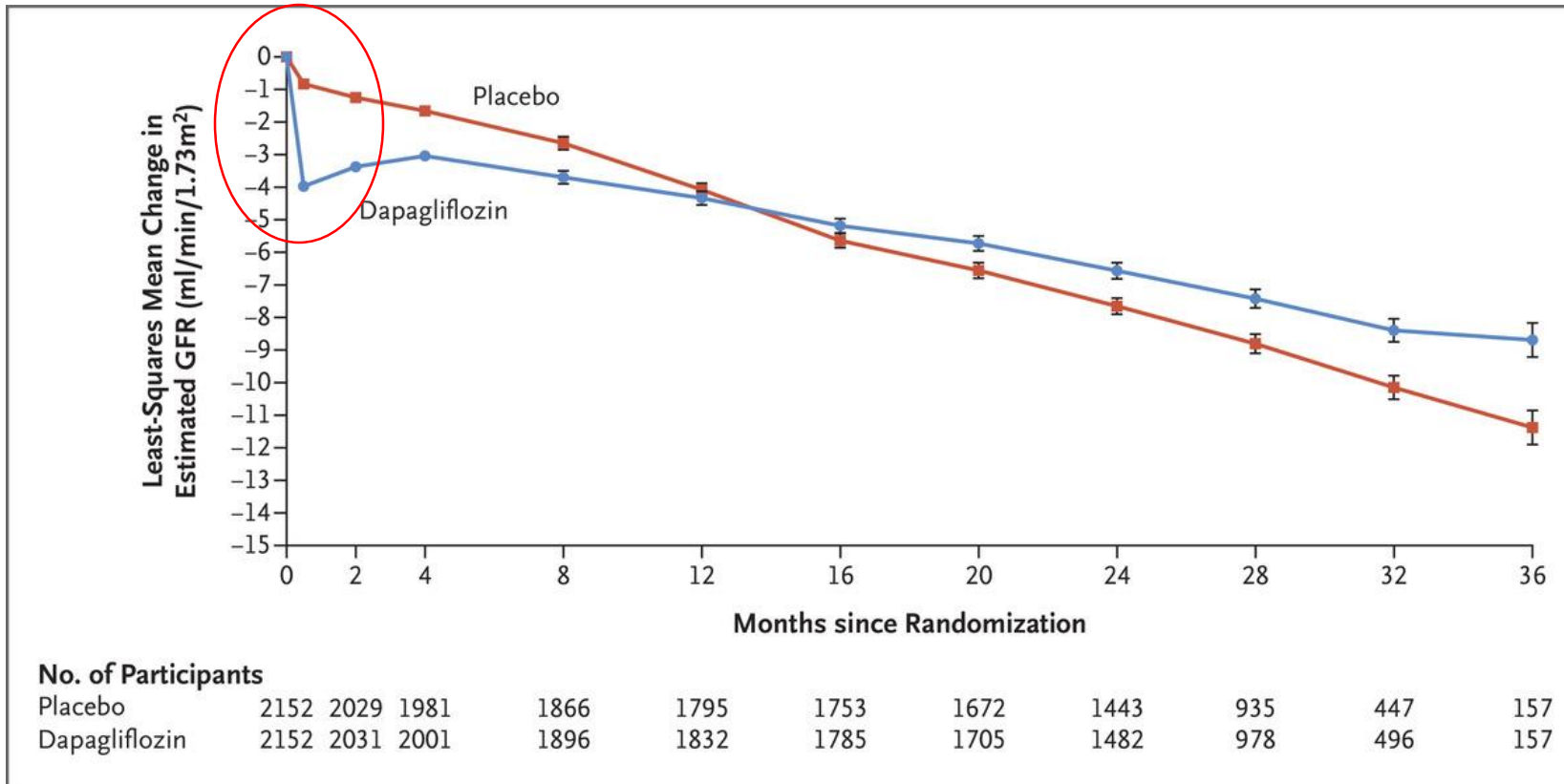
Characteristic	Dapagliflozin (N = 2152)	Placebo (N = 2152)
Age — yr	61.8±12.1	61.9±12.1
Female sex — no. (%)	709 (32.9)	716 (33.3)
Race — no. (%)†		
White	1124 (52.2)	1166 (54.2)
Black	104 (4.8)	87 (4.0)
Asian	749 (34.8)	718 (33.4)
Other	175 (8.1)	181 (8.4)
Weight — kg	81.5±20.1	82.0±20.9
Body-mass index‡	29.4±6.0	29.6±6.3
Current smoker — no. (%)	283 (13.2)	301 (14.0)
Blood pressure — mm Hg		
Systolic	136.7±17.5	137.4±17.3
Diastolic	77.5±10.7	77.5±10.3
Estimated GFR		
Mean — ml/min/1.73 m ²	43.2±12.3	43.0±12.4
Distribution — no. (%)		
≥60 ml/min/1.73 m ²	234 (10.9)	220 (10.2)
45 to <60 ml/min/1.73 m ²	646 (30.0)	682 (31.7)
30 to <45 ml/min/1.73 m ²	979 (45.5)	919 (42.7)
<30 ml/min/1.73 m ²	293 (13.6)	331 (15.4)
Hemoglobin — g/liter	128.6±18.1	127.9±18.0
Serum potassium — mEq/liter	4.6±0.5	4.6±0.6
Urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio§		
Median (interquartile range)	965 (472–1903)	934 (482–1868)
>1000 — no. (%)	1048 (48.7)	1031 (47.9)
Type 2 diabetes — no. (%)	1455 (67.6)	1451 (67.4)
Cardiovascular disease — no. (%)¶	813 (37.8)	797 (37.0)
Heart failure — no. (%)	235 (10.9)	233 (10.8)
Previous medication — no. (%)		
ACE inhibitor	673 (31.3)	681 (31.6)
ARB	1444 (67.1)	1426 (66.3)
Diuretic	928 (43.1)	954 (44.3)
Statin	1395 (64.8)	1399 (65.0)



DAPA-CKD Outcomes



Change in GFR from Baseline



Acute drop in GFR

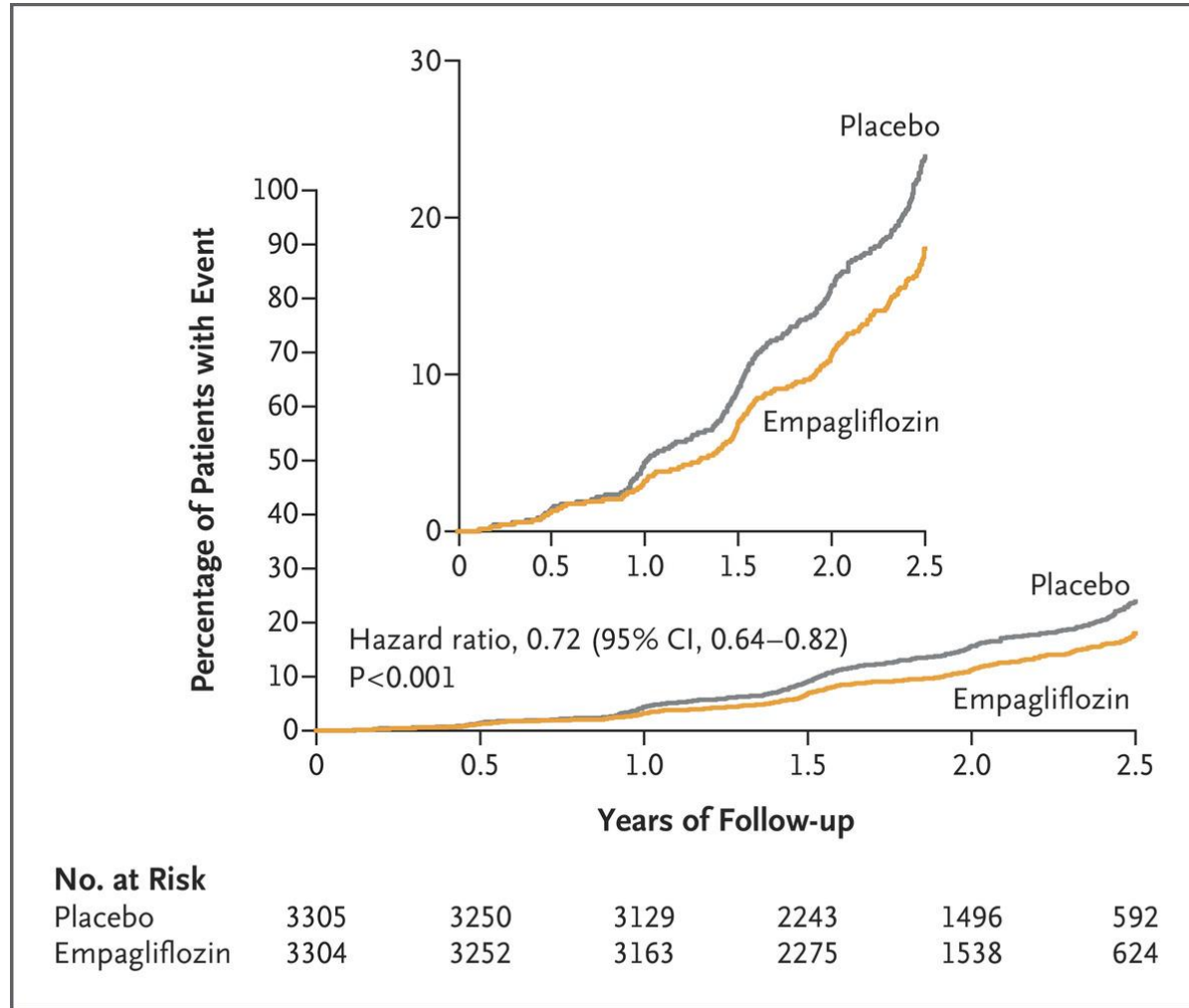


EMPA-KIDNEY

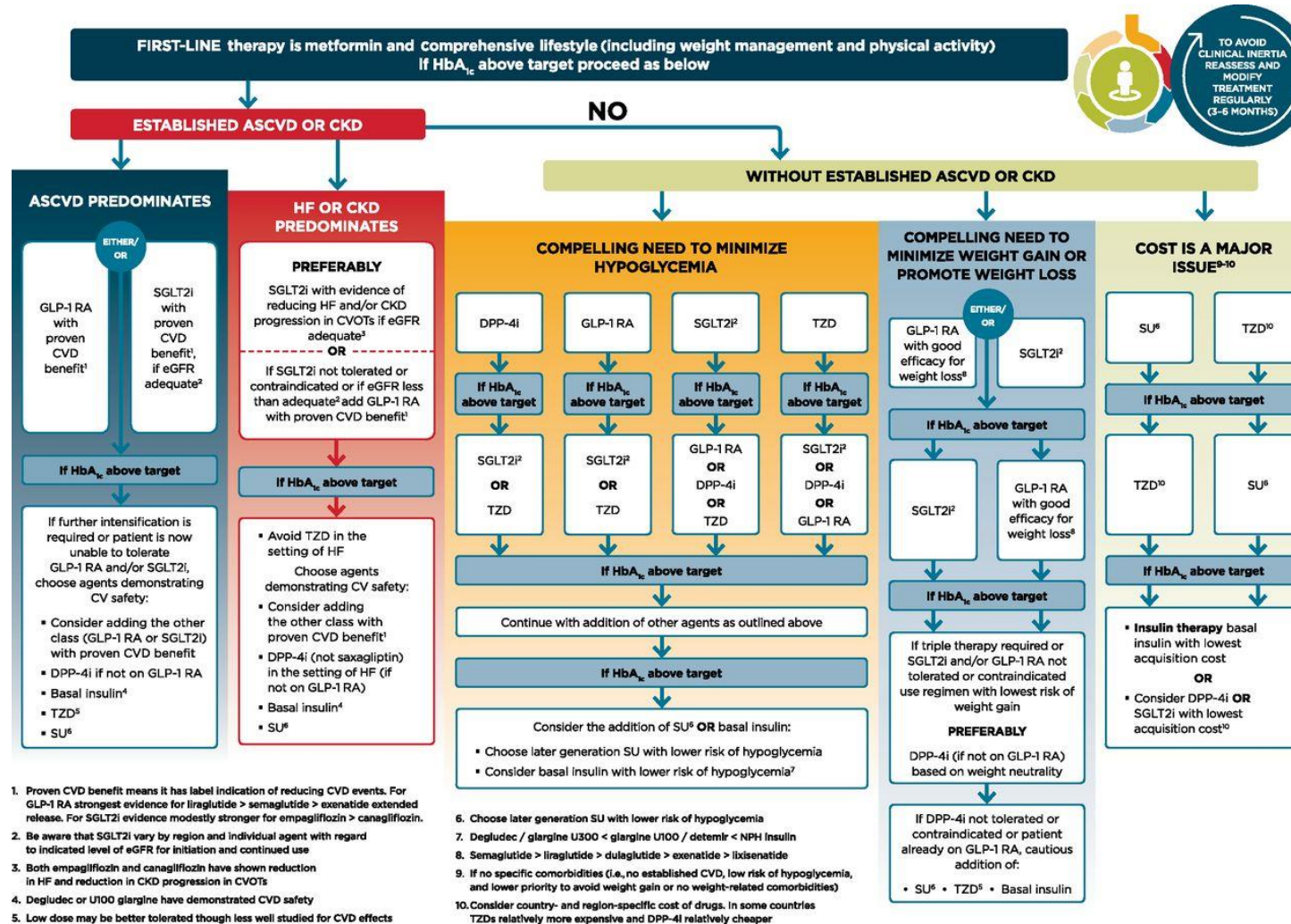
- Randomized trial of empagliflozin 10 mg daily versus placebo
- 6609 subjects *with or without diabetes* randomized
- Inclusion criteria:
 - Albumin/creatinine > 200 to 5000
 - eGFR $\geq 20 < 45$ mL/min/1.73 m² regardless of level of albuminuria
 - eGFR $\geq 45 < 90$ mL/min/1.73 m² with UACR at least 200
 - Treatment with RAS blockade
- Primary outcomes:
 - Progression of kidney disease
 - Death from cardiovascular causes



EMPA-KIDNEY Outcomes



Glucose-lowering medication in type 2 diabetes: overall approach



1. Proven CVD benefit means it has label indication of reducing CVD events. For GLP-1 RA strongest evidence for liraglutide > semaglutide > exenatide extended release. For SGLT2i evidence modestly stronger for empagliflozin > canagliflozin.

2. Be aware that SGLT2i vary by region and individual agent with regard to indicated level of eGFR for initiation and continued use

3. Both empagliflozin and canagliflozin have shown reduction in HF and reduction in CKD progression in CVOts

4. Degludec or U100 glargine have demonstrated CVD safety

5. Low dose may be better tolerated though less well studied for CVD effects

6. Choose later generation SU with lower risk of hypoglycemia

7. Degludec / glargine U300 < glargine U100 / detemir < NPH Insulin

8. Semaglutide > liraglutide > dulaglutide > exenatide > lixisenatide

9. If no specific comorbidities (i.e., no established CVD, low risk of hypoglycemia, and lower priority to avoid weight gain or no weight-related comorbidities)

10. Consider country- and region-specific cost of drugs. In some countries TZDs relatively more expensive and DPP-4i relatively cheaper

Mineralocorticoid receptor blockade

- Among patients with type 2 diabetes and urine albumin/creatinine 30-300 mg/g, eGFR 25-60 and diabetic retinopathy, *or* urine albumin/creatinine 300-5000 mg/g and eGFR 25-75
 - Finerenone lowered risk of CKD progression and cardiovascular events compared to placebo (FIDELIO-DKD)
- Among patients with type 2 diabetes and urine albumin/creatinine 30-300 mg/g and an eGFR 25-90 mL/min or a urine albumin/creatinine of 300-5000 mg/g and an eGFR \geq 60 mL/min:
 - Finerenone improved cardiovascular outcomes compared to placebo (FIGARO-DKD)



Optimal therapies for patients with (type 2) diabetic kidney disease

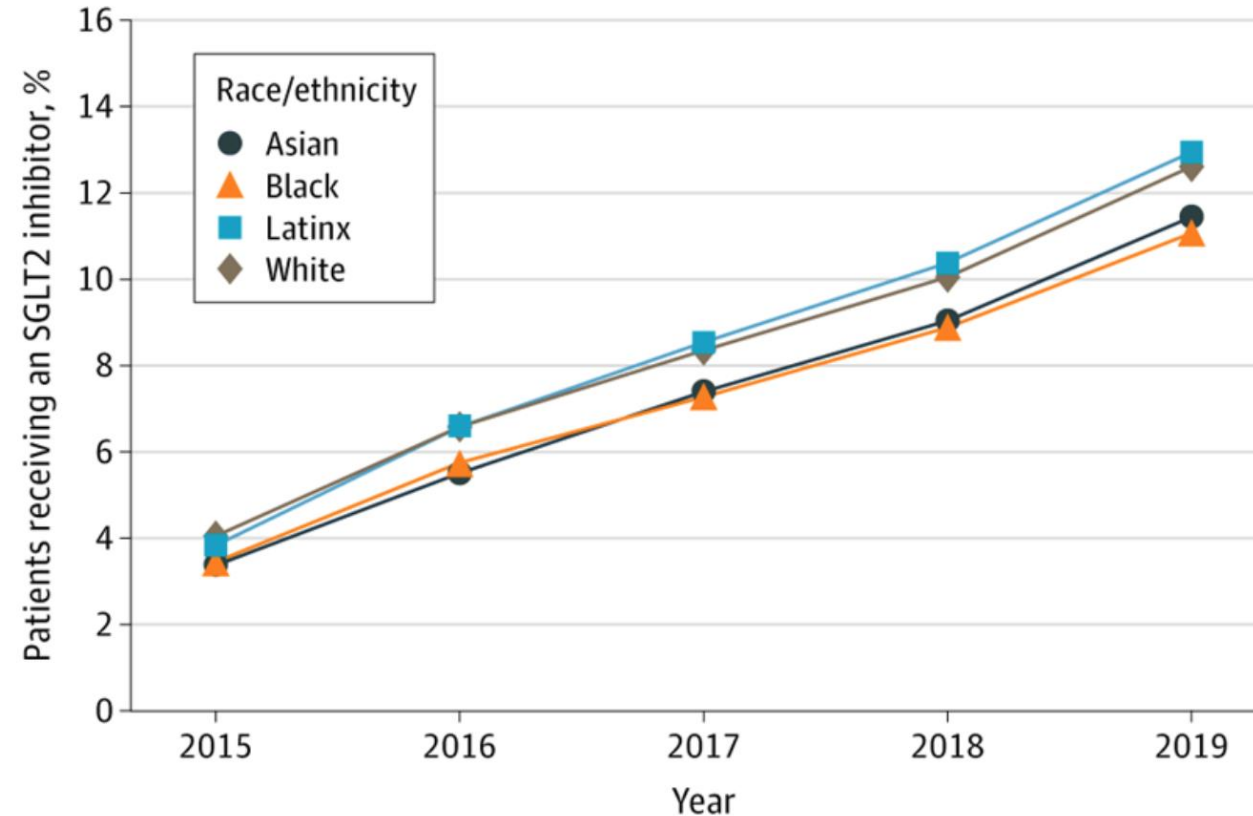
- ACE-I/ARB
- SGLT-2 Inhibitors
- GLP-1 agonists
- Finerenone
- Loop or thiazide diuretics
- Statins
- β -blockers



Are all patients offered
advanced therapies at
the same rates?



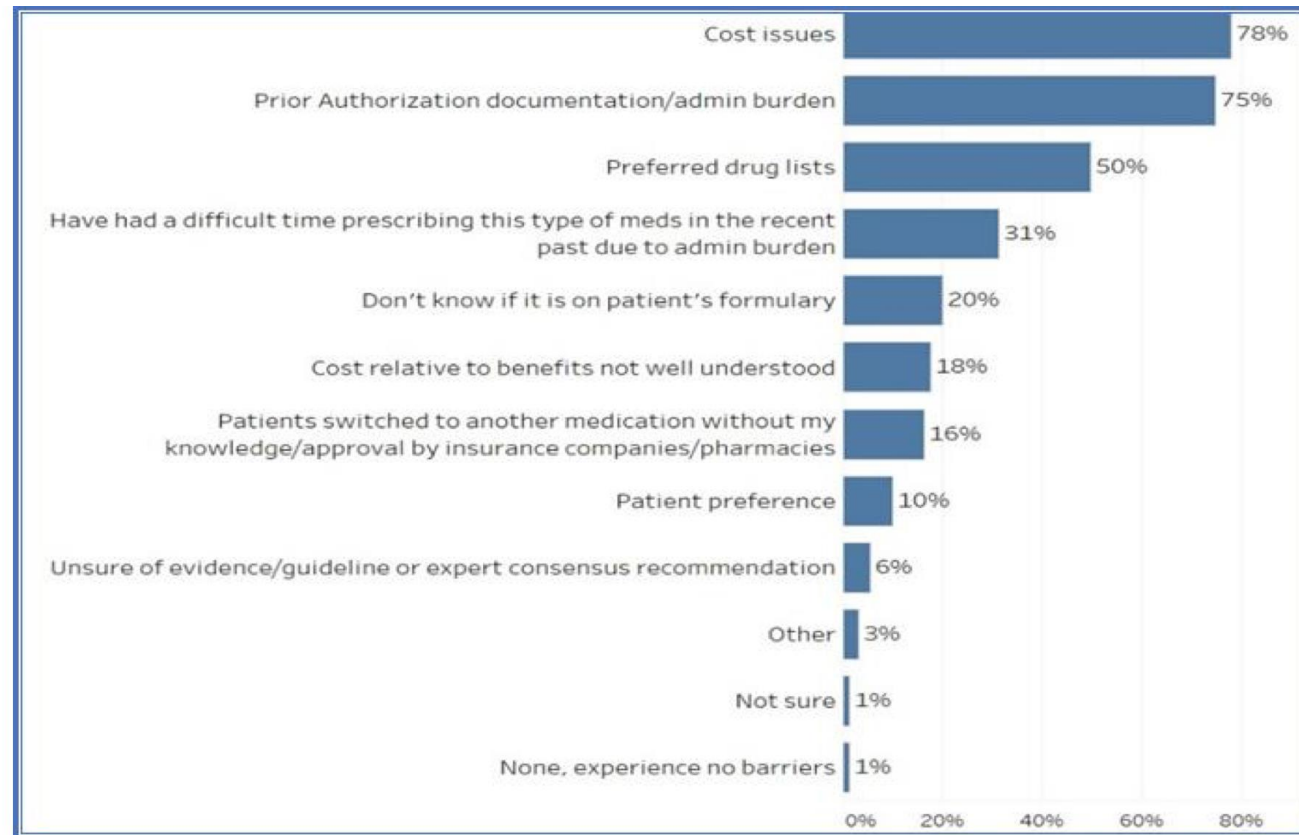
Racial/ethnic differences in use of SGLT-2 inhibitors among patients with diabetes in the United States



Eberly LA et al. JAMA Network Open 2021; 4(4):e216139. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.6139



Barriers to prescribing newest evidence based cardiovascular care



Association of Black Cardiologists, 2019



Case 3

A 45-year-old man with chronic kidney disease secondary to biopsy-proven IgA nephropathy presents for follow-up. He feels generally well and has no complaints. He has been followed by a nephrologist for several years, and despite treatment with an ACE-I and SGLT-2 inhibitor has persistent proteinuria.



Past Medical History/Medications

- Chronic kidney disease due to IgA nephropathy
- Hypertension
- Lisinopril 40 mg daily
- HCTZ 25 mg daily
- Dapagliflozin 10 mg daily



Physical Examination/Labs

- BP 129/77 mm Hg
- HR 70, regular
- Clear lungs
- RRR, normal S1 and S2
- Abdomen soft and nontender
- No lower extremity edema
- K⁺ 4.1 mEq/L
- Creatinine 1.3 mg/dL
- 24-hour urine protein: 1.1 g
- Hemoglobin 13.5 g/dL



Case 3: Question

Which of the following additional therapies should be considered for this patient?

- A. Cyclophosphamide
- B. Prednisone
- C. Tacrolimus
- D. Budesonide



Case 3: Answer

The correct answer is D.



Innovation: Budesonide as new therapy for IgA nephropathy

While immunosuppressive therapies such as cyclophosphamide, prednisone, and tacrolimus have been used in rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis due to IgA nephropathy, they are not indicated in mild cases such as this one. Budesonide has recently been FDA approved for treatment of IgA nephropathy.



IgA nephropathy

- Also known as Berger's disease
- Worldwide is the most common glomerulonephritis
- Typically presents with microscopic hematuria and proteinuria
- Hematuria often becomes apparent (gross hematuria) in the setting of an upper respiratory infection
- In patients with persistent disease (proteinuria > 1 g/day), the risk of ESKD may be 50% at 20 years
- Treatment has focused on blood pressure control and blockade of the renin-angiotensin system



Pathology and Pathogenesis

- Mesangioproliferative glomerulonephritis characterized by mesangial deposition of galactose-deficient IgA1 (Gd-IgA1) immune complexes
- Immune complexes initiate a cascade of inflammatory events, eventually causing irreversible glomerulosclerosis and tubulointerstitial inflammation and fibrosis with loss of kidney function
- Accumulating evidence for the gut mucosal immune system and mucosal-derived Gd-IgA1 in the pathogenesis of primary IgAN
- New formulation of the oral glucocorticoid budesonide targets Gd-IgA1 production within the ileum.

Barratt J *et al.* *Kidney International* 2023; 103: 391-402



Neflgard Trial

Results from part A of the multi-center, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled NeflgArd trial, which evaluated targeted-release formulation of budesonide for the treatment of primary immunoglobulin A nephropathy



Cohort and intervention

- Randomised
 - 201 patients with IgAN
 - Nefecon 16 mg od: n=97
 - Placebo: n=102

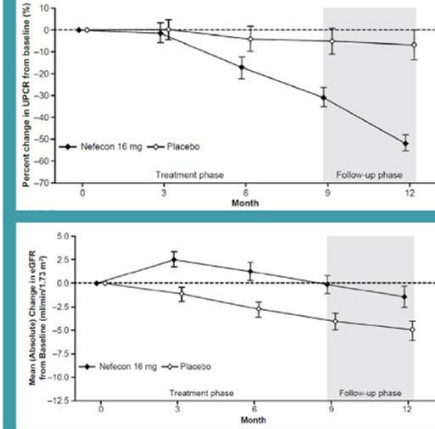
9-month treatment → 3-month follow-up

Key baseline characteristics

- Optimised RAS blockade: **ALL**
- Median UPCR: **1.26 g/g**
- Median proteinuria: **2.26 g/24 h**
- ≥2g/24h proteinuria: **58%**
- Median eGFR: **55 ml/min/1.73 m²**

Barratt et al, 2022

Outcomes



UPCR:

- At 9 months: **27% reduction** vs placebo ($P = 0.0003$)
- At 12 months: **48% reduction** vs placebo ($P < 0.0001$)

eGFR:

- At 9 months: **3.87 ml/min/1.73 m² treatment benefit** ($P = 0.0014$)
- 1-year eGFR slope **improvement: 3.37 ml/min/1.73 m²** ($P = 0.0111$)

Safety:

- Patients with **TEAEs**: 86.6% with Nefecon vs 73.0% with placebo, mostly mild or moderate
- No severe infections requiring hospitalisation**

CONCLUSION

9 months of treatment with Nefecon, in addition to optimised and stable RAS blockade, was well tolerated and resulted in clinically important improvements in UPCR, UACR, and eGFR compared with optimised supportive care alone



FDA approves budesonide for decreasing proteinuria in IgA nephropathy

FDA approves first drug to decrease urine protein in IgA nephropathy, a rare kidney disease

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Drugs

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Action

FDA has granted [accelerated approval](#) for [Tarpeyo \(budesonide\) delayed release capsules](#) to reduce proteinuria (increased protein levels in the urine) in adults with primary immunoglobulin A (IgA) nephropathy at risk of rapid disease progression. It has not been established whether Tarpeyo slows kidney function decline in patients with IgA nephropathy.

Disease or Condition

IgA nephropathy, also known as Berger's disease, is a rare kidney disease that occurs when IgA (a type of antibody) deposits build up in the kidneys, causing inflammation that damages kidney tissues. The deposits can cause the kidneys to leak blood and protein into the urine. IgA nephropathy complications can include high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease, which can sometimes progress to kidney failure.

Content current as of:
12/17/2021

Regulated Product(s)
Drugs



Case 4

A 72-year-old man with ESRD on HD, diabetes mellitus type 2, and peripheral arterial disease is admitted with a diabetic foot ulcer. He has a hemoglobin of 7.8 g/dL on admission. He has had no evidence of GI bleeding.



Case 4

Past Medical History

- ESRD
- Diabetes mellitus type 2
- Hypertension
- Colon cancer s/p partial colectomy 5 year prior; no metastatic disease
- TIA



Case 4

Outpatient Medications

- Amlodipine 10 mg daily
- ASA 81 mg daily
- Calcitriol 0.25 ug 3x/weekly
- Labetalol 300 mg bid
- Lisinopril 10 mg daily
- Pravastatin 40 mg daily
- Nephrocaps 1 daily
- Iron gluconate 125 mg weekly



Anemia Labs

- Hemoglobin 7.8 g/dL
- T-sat 13%
- Ferritin 602 ug/L



Case 4 Question 1

What would you do next in managing this patient's anemia?

- A. Do nothing. The patient is asymptomatic.
- B. Add an ESA.
- C. Transfuse to a hemoglobin of 10-11 g/dL.
- D. Give intravenous iron.



Case 4 Question 1 Answer

The patient is anemic but also iron deficient. The goal transferrin saturation in a hemodialysis patient is 30-40%. The first step in management of this patient would be to administer IV iron.



Follow-up

The patient is treated with a course of intravenous iron. His transferrin saturation rises to 35% and his hemoglobin rises to 8.1 g/dL. The patient complains of fatigue with minimal exertion.



Case 4 Question 2

What would you do next in managing this patient's anemia?

- A. Do nothing. The patient is asymptomatic.
- B. Add an ESA.
- C. Transfuse to a hemoglobin of 10-11 g/dL.
- D. Refer to hematology.



Case 4 Question 2 Answer

The patient has symptomatic anemia with an adequate transferrin saturation. The next best step would be to add an ESA.

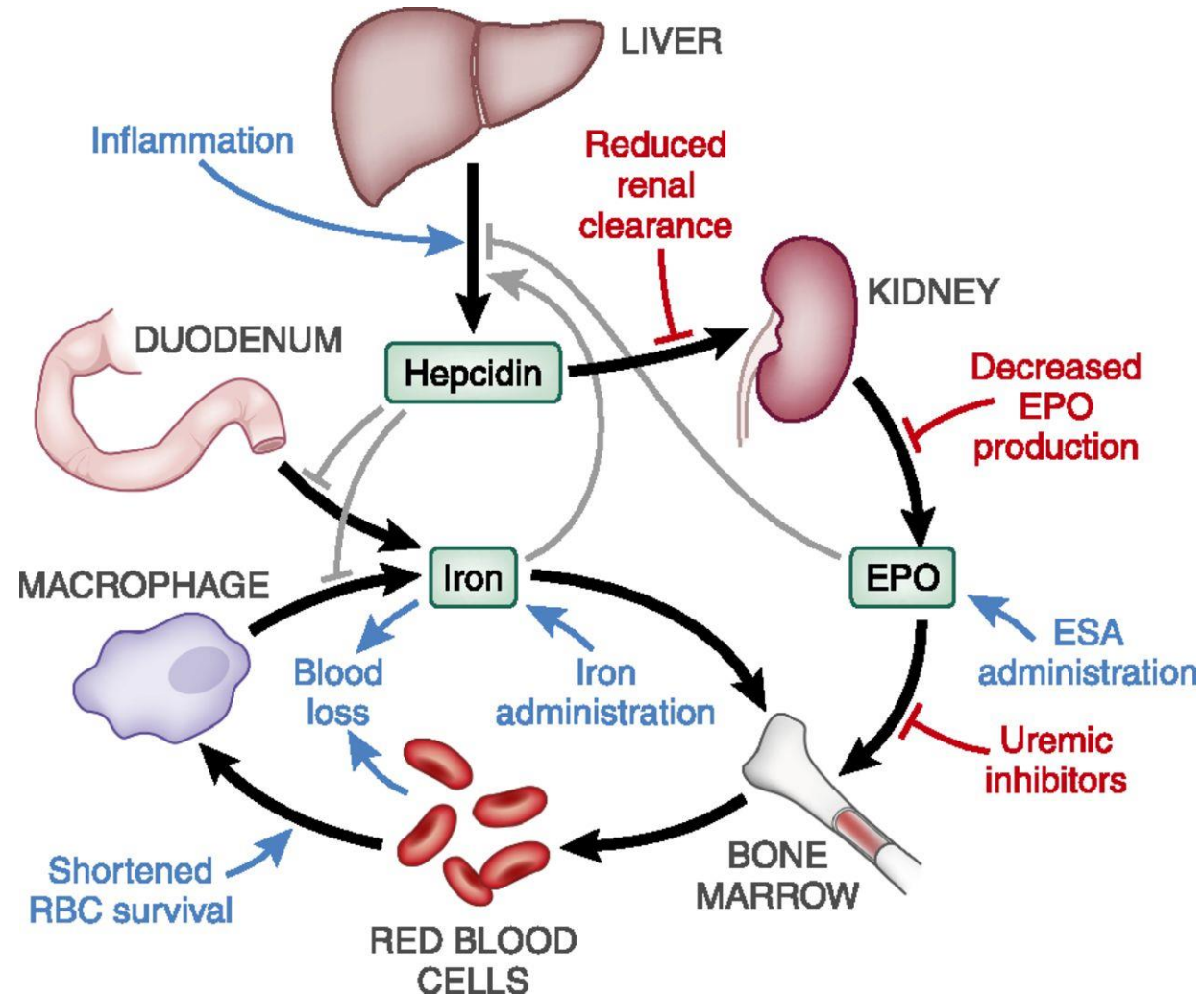


Controversy: Use of ESAs in patients with a history of cancer and recent cardiovascular events

Over the last twenty years or so, there has been increasing evidence of the risks of ESAs, particularly in the setting of cancer and recent cardiovascular events, but those studies must be put into the context of how anemia was being managed at the time of those studies.



Mechanisms underlying anemia of chronic kidney disease



KDIGO Recommendations

In initiating and maintaining ESA therapy, we recommend balancing the potential benefits of reducing blood transfusions and anemia-related symptoms against the risks of harm in individual patients (e.g., stroke, vascular access loss, hypertension). (1B)



Special considerations with ESAs in dialysis

- Cancer
- Stroke
- Vascular access thrombosis



ESAs and Cancer

Beginning in 2010, the FDA required that ESAs be prescribed to cancer patients under its risk evaluation and mitigation strategy program

- Requires additional education for healthcare providers who prescribe and dispense ESAs
- Requires documentation that patients understand ESA-related risks



Source	Cancer Type	Concomitant Therapy	# of patients randomized	ESA Treatment	Hemoglobin Stopping Value g/dL	Adverse Outcome
Henke et al 2003	Head and neck	Radiotherapy	351	Epoetin beta (300 IU/kg 3x/week)	≥ 14 (women) ≥ 15 (men)	Locoregional progression
Hedenus et al 2003	Lympho-proliferative cancers	Chemotherapy	349	Darbepoietin alfa (2.25 ug/kg/week)	≥ 14 (women) ≥ 15 (men)	Shortened overall survival
Leyland-Jones et al 2005	Metastatic breast cancer	Chemotherapy	939	Epoetin alfa (40000 U/wk)	> 14	Overall survival vs placebo
Overgaard et al 2007	Locally advanced head and neck	Radiotherapy	522	Darbepoietin alfa (150 ug/week)	> 15.5	Increased risk in local-regional failure
PREPARE	Breast cancer	Chemotherapy	733	Darbepoietin alfa (4.5 ug/kg/2 wk)	≥ 13	Shortened overall survival

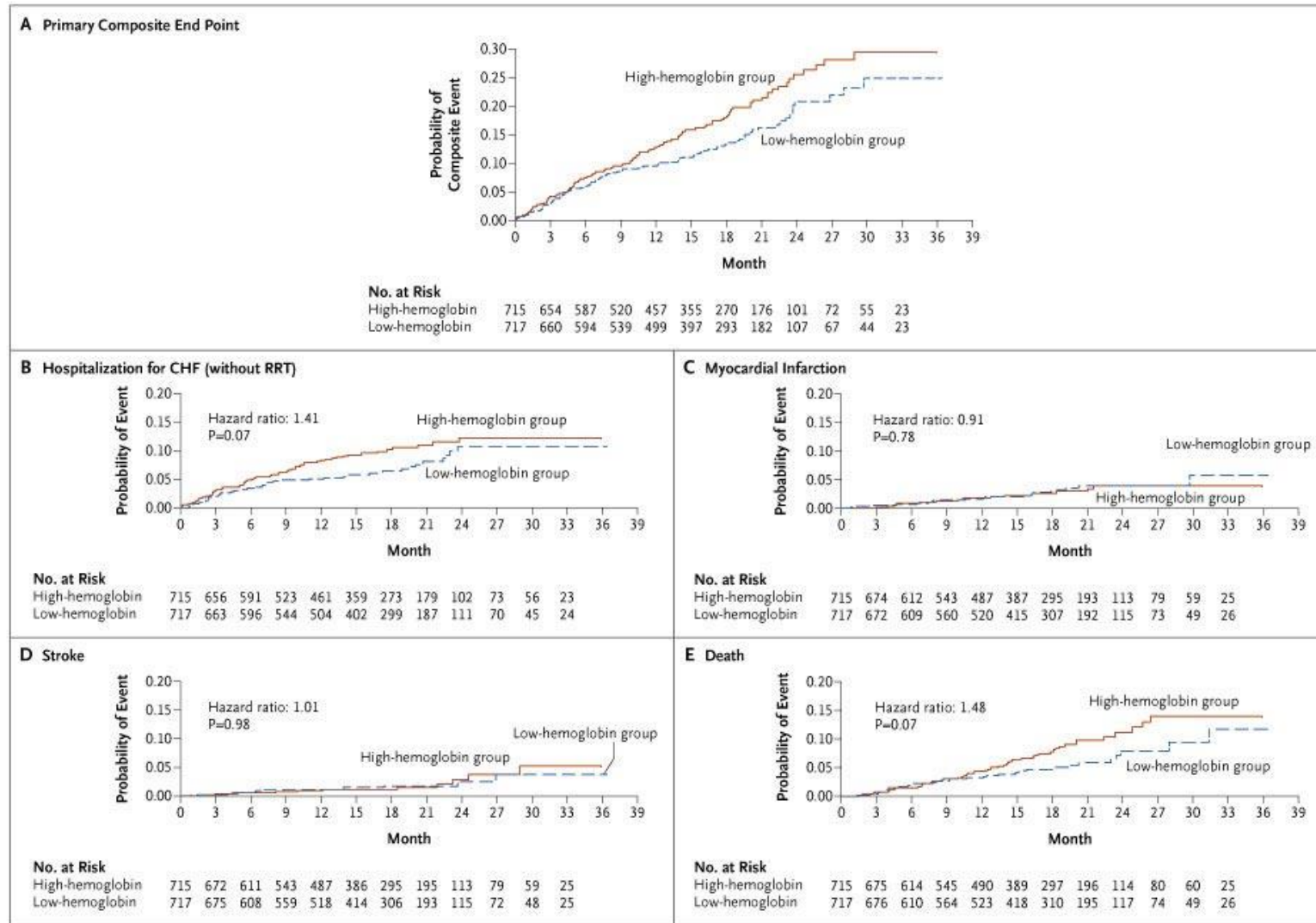


What is the evidence for an increased risk of cardiovascular events?

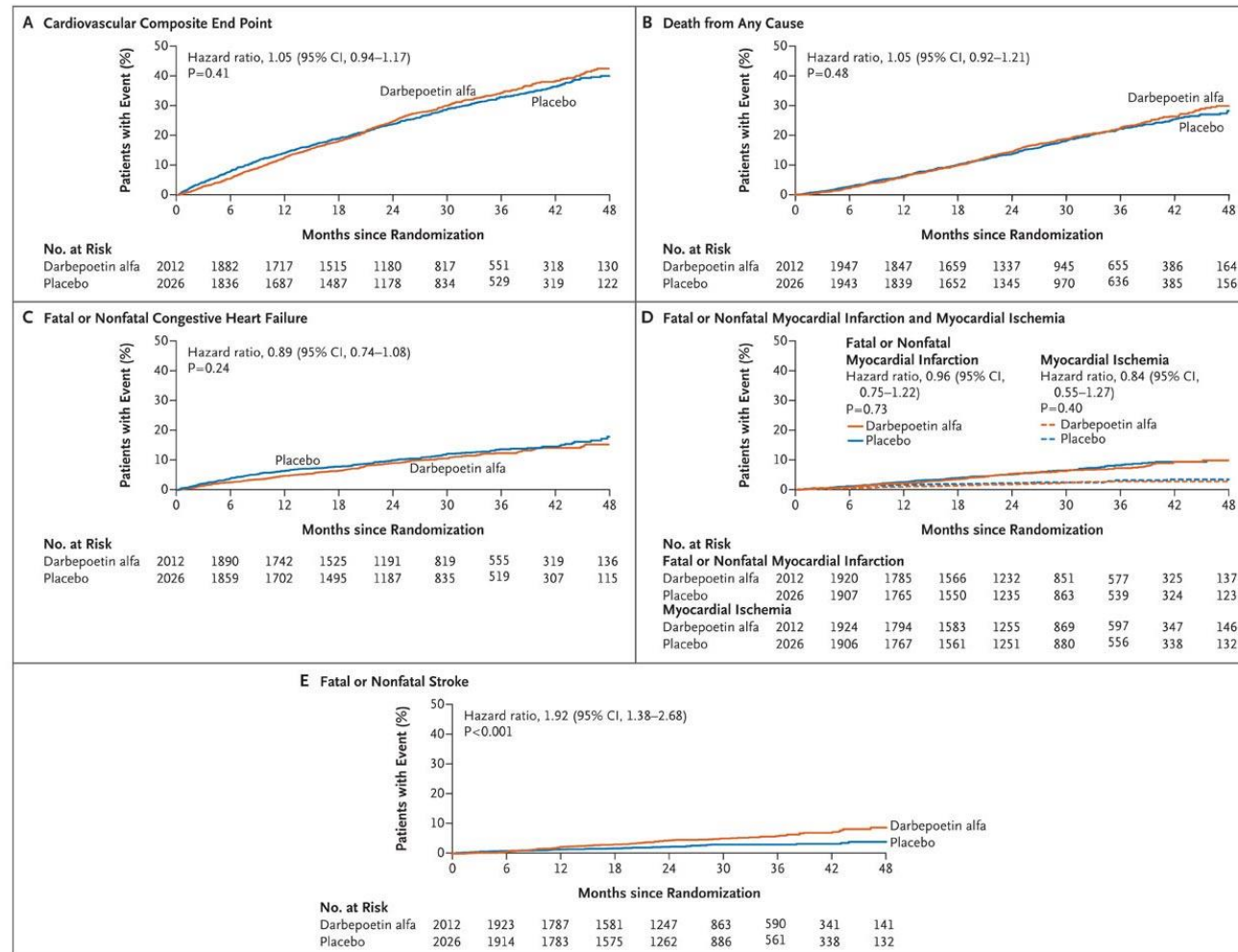
- CHOIR
 - Participants all had CKD and were randomized to two different hemoglobin targets
- TREAT
 - Participants all had CKD and diabetes and were randomized to darbepoietin versus placebo



CHOIR: Probabilities of the Primary and Secondary End Points



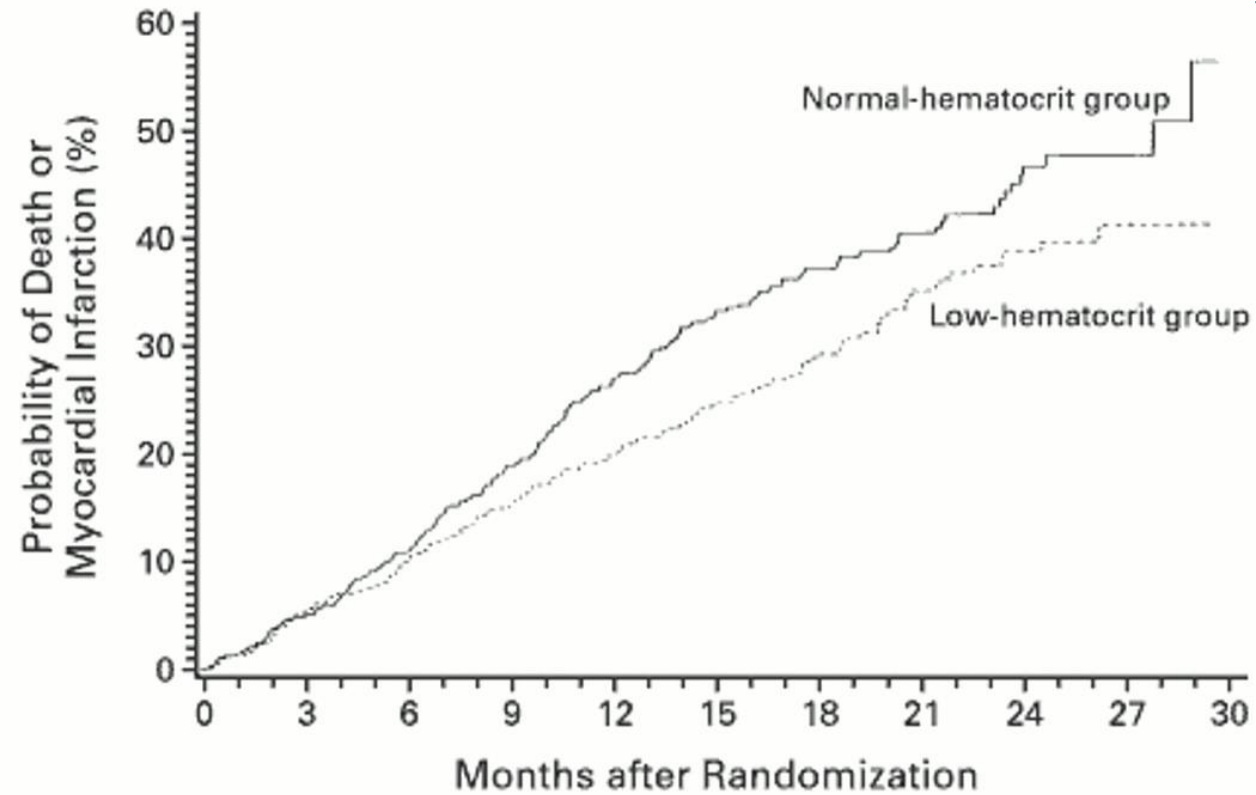
Treat: Kaplan-Meier Estimates of the Probability of the Primary and Secondary End Points (Note Panel E)



Is a higher hemoglobin
better in dialysis
patients?



Probability of Death or a First Nonfatal Myocardial Infarction in the Normal-Hematocrit and Low-Hematocrit Groups



No. AT RISK

Normal hematocrit	618	540	476	415	353	259	186	124	69	26
Low hematocrit	615	537	485	434	391	292	216	131	80	20



FDA changes to the ESA label

June 2011

For patients with CKD on dialysis:

- Initiate ESA treatment when the hemoglobin level is less than 10 g/dL
- If the hemoglobin level approaches or exceeds 11 g/dL, reduce or interrupt the dose of ESA.
- When initiating or adjusting therapy, monitor hemoglobin levels at least weekly until stable, then monitor at least monthly.
- For patients who do not respond adequately over a 12-week escalation period, increasing the ESA dose further is unlikely to improve response and may increase risks.

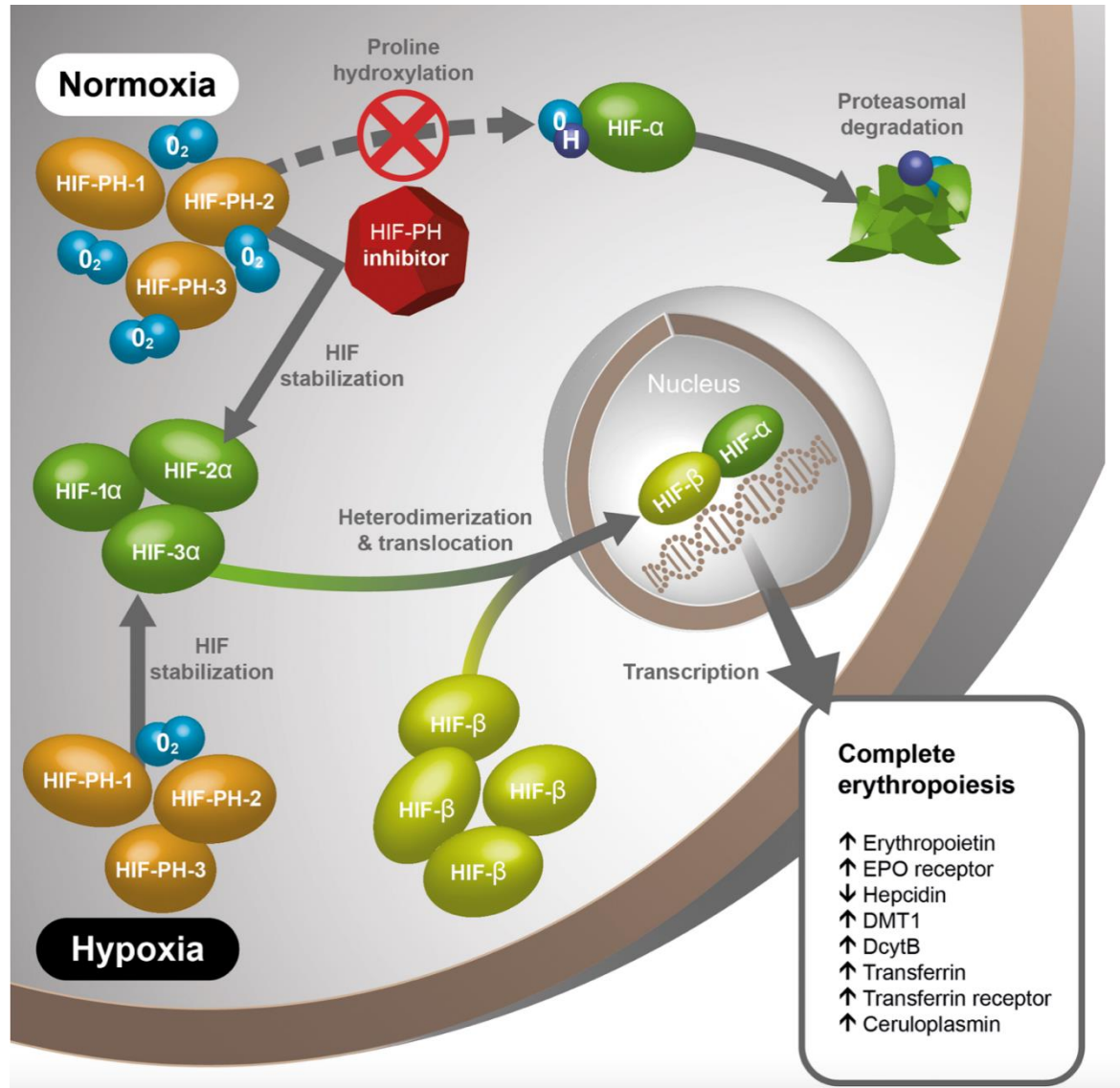


Innovation: New drugs to treat anemia of chronic kidney disease

HIF prolyl hydroxylase inhibitors

- Stabilize the HIF complex
- Stimulate endogenous EPO production
- Orally administered





HIF-PH Inhibitors Under Development

Drug	Dosing Frequency
Roxadustat	3x/week
Vadadustat	Daily
Daprodustat	Daily
Molidustat	Daily

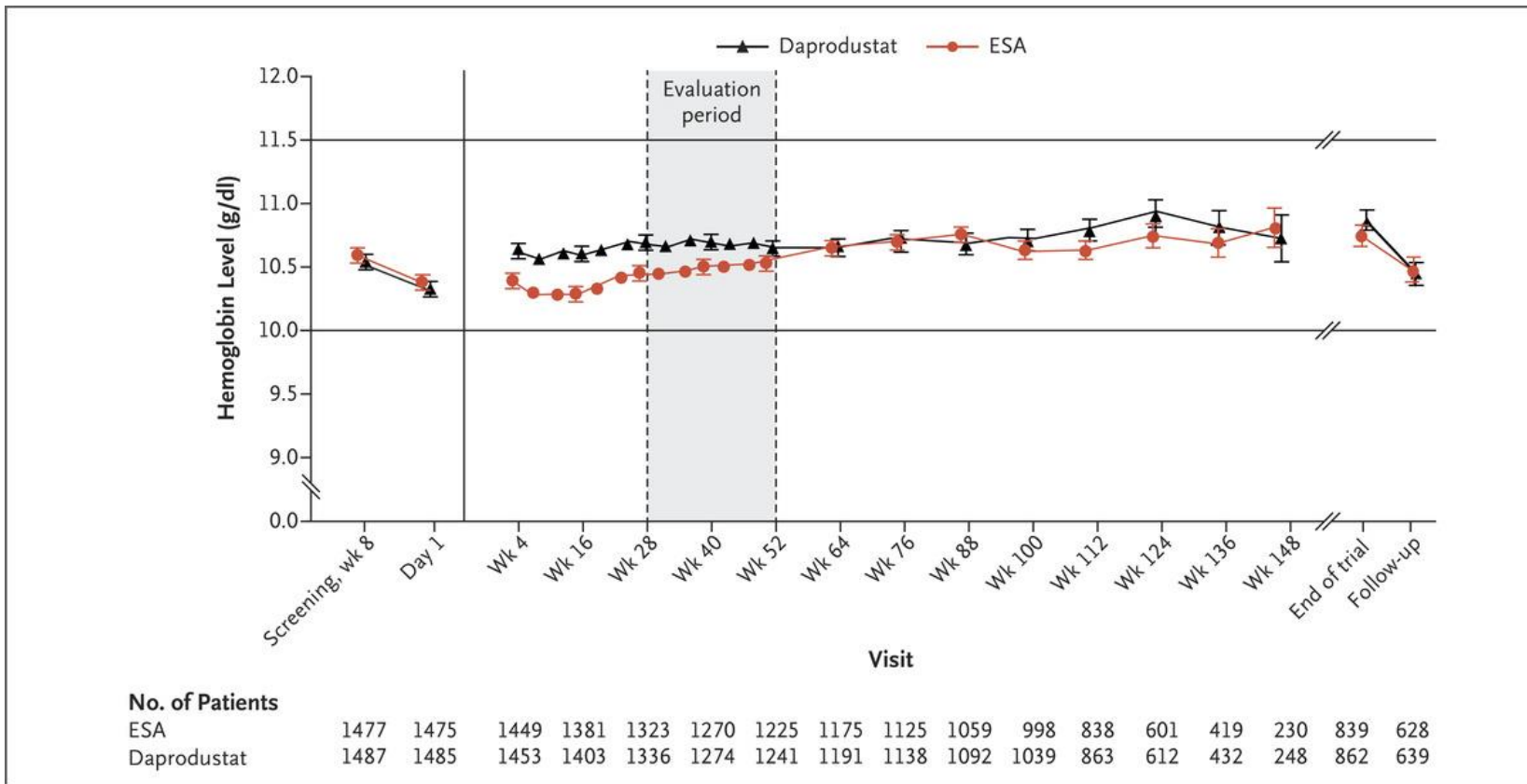


Why look for alternatives to erythropoietin?

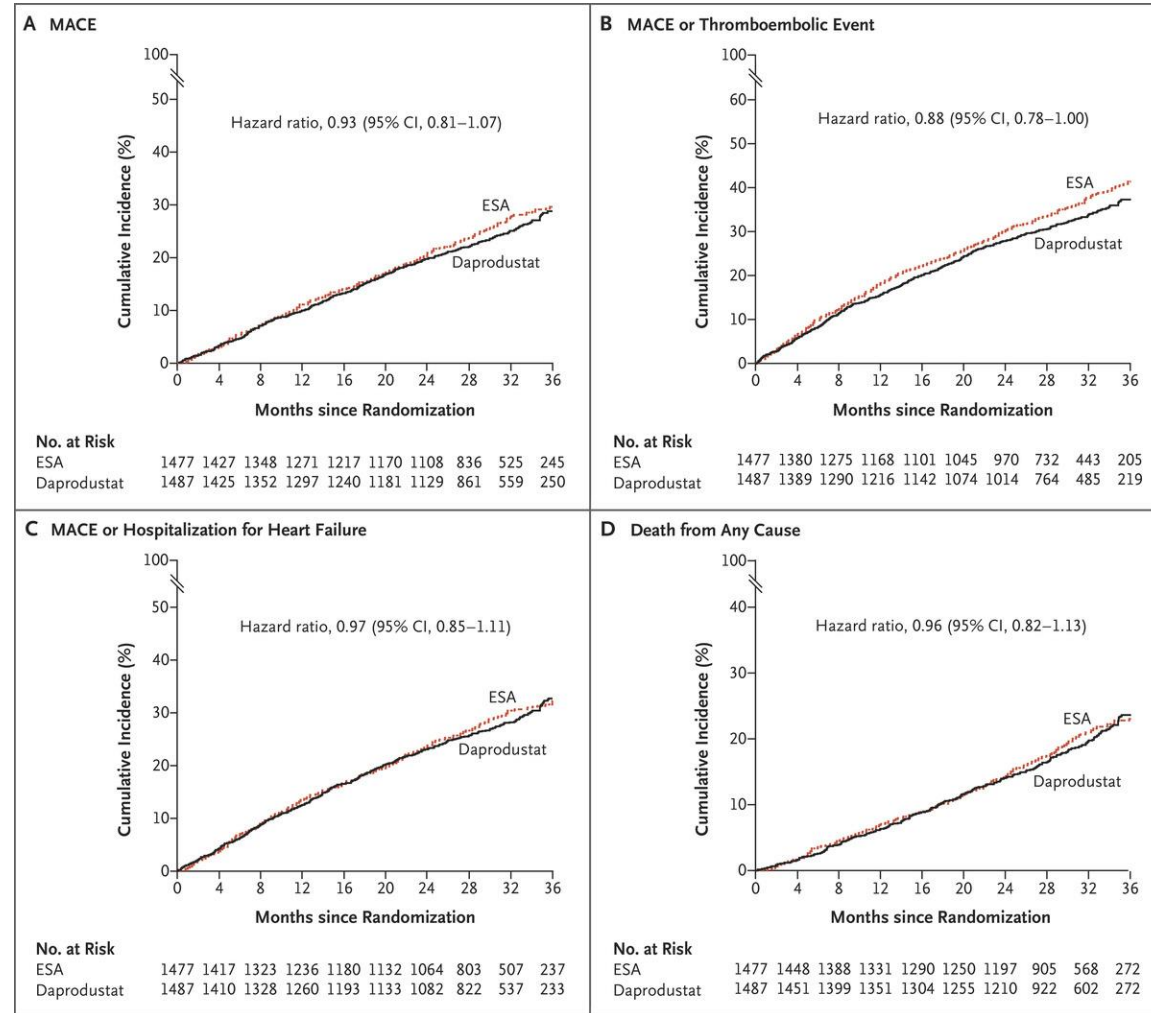
- Cost
- Intravenous or subcutaneous route of administration
- Adverse cardiovascular events
 - CHOIR study: erythropoietin: more CHF in high-hemoglobin group
 - TREAT study: diabetic subjects; more strokes in high hemoglobin group



Daprodustat vs ESA in treatment of anemia



Time to First Occurrence of Cardiovascular Events and Death



Summary of Daprodustat Trials

Dialysis-Dependent CKD

- Daprodustat was non-inferior to EPO with respect to correction of anemia
- Daprodustat was non-inferior with respect to cardiovascular safety

Non-Dialysis-Dependent CKD

- Daprodustat was non-inferior to EPO with respect to correction of anemia
- Daprodustat was non-inferior with respect to cardiovascular

 safety

FDA NEWS RELEASE

FDA Approves First Oral Treatment for Anemia Caused by Chronic Kidney Disease for Adults on Dialysis

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For Immediate Release: February 01, 2023

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Jesduvroq tablets (daprodustat) as the first oral treatment for anemia (decreased number of red blood cells) caused by chronic kidney disease for adults who have been receiving dialysis for at least four months. Jesduvroq is not approved for patients who are not on dialysis. Other FDA-approved treatments for this condition are injected into the blood or under the skin.

“With an oral drug option in addition to the FDA-approved injection options, adults with chronic kidney disease on dialysis now have multiple ways to treat their anemia,” said Ann Farrell, M.D., director of the Division of Non-Malignant Hematology in the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. **“This approval demonstrates the FDA’s commitment to helping bring a range of therapeutic options to patients with chronic diseases. Patients can consult with their healthcare providers to select the option that is most appropriate.”**

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Key Points

- Screen patients at high risk for kidney disease
- SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 agonists are key medications in retarding progression of diabetic kidney disease.
- SGLT-2 inhibitors may be useful in retarding progression of non-diabetic kidney disease
- Iron deficiency is common in CKD and should be corrected before starting an ESA.
- Daprodustat is the first FDA-approved HIF-PH inhibitor for treatment of anemia of CKD



Next best steps

- Endocrine consultation may be helpful in management of poorly controlled type 2 diabetic patients given the number of new diabetic medications and the complexity of some regimens.





Mass General Brigham