

# Stay in the Loop: Preventing Progression of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM)



UTAH SOCIETY OF  
HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

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# Disclosure

- Relevant Financial Conflicts of Interest
  - **CE Presenter, Dr. Guadalupe Chavez**
    - None
  - **CE mentor, Dr. Elizabeth Bald**
    - None
- Off-Label uses of the following medications will be discussed:
  - Empagliflozin, dulaglutide, liraglutide, and semaglutide (SUBQ)



# Learning Objectives for Technicians

- **At the end of this presentation, you will be able to:**
  - Examine the prevalence of CKD in patients with T2DM
  - Recognize common side effects associated with medications used for the prevention of CKD progression in T2DM
  - Discuss strategies for ensuring patients with T2DM can access and afford medications used for the prevention of CKD progression



# Learning Objectives for Pharmacists

- **At the end of this presentation, you will be able to:**
  - Describe the pathophysiology of CKD associated with T2DM
  - Interpret primary literature surrounding the medications used for the prevention of CKD progression in T2DM
  - Design an effective therapy regimen for a patient with T2DM to prevent progression of CKD



# CKD Diagnostic Criteria

Abnormalities of kidney structure or function  $\geq$  3 months

Structure: Markers of kidney damage ( $\geq 1$ )

- Urinary Albumin Creatine Ratio (UACR)  $>30$  mg/g (albuminuria)
- Urine sediment abnormalities
- Electrolyte and other abnormalities
- Abnormalities detected by histology
- Structural abnormalities detected by imaging
- History of kidney transplant

Function: Decreased Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR)

- eGFR  $<60$  ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>



# Staging CKD

## 1) CAUSE

i.e., glomerular disease due to diabetes, renal artery stenosis, renal tubular cystinuria, etc.

## 2) GFR CATEGORIES

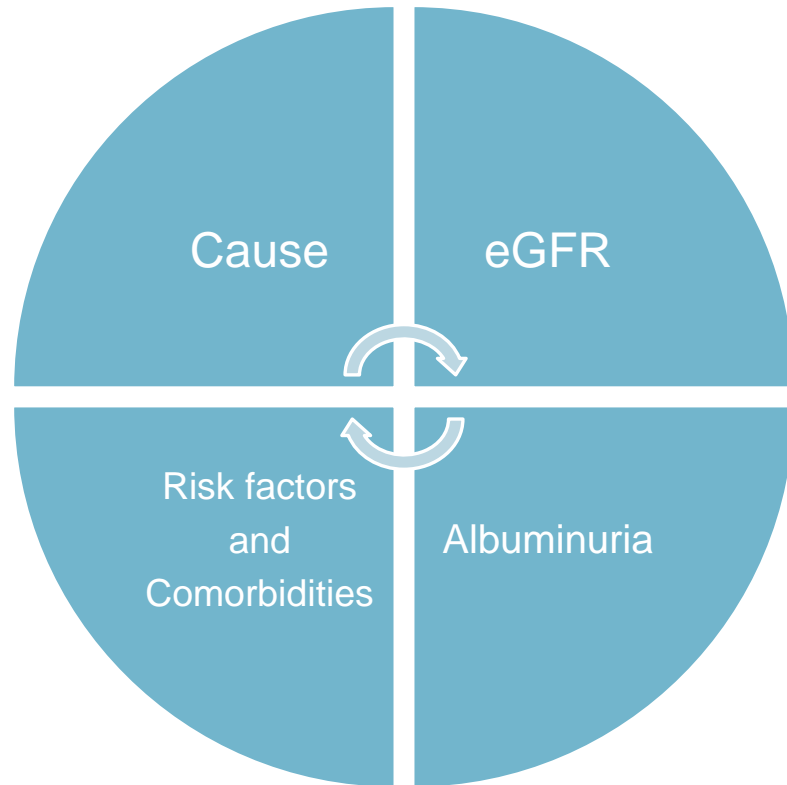
Category	GFR (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	Terms
G1	≥ 90	Normal or high
G2	60-89	Mildly decreased
G3a	45-59	Mildly to moderately decreased
G3b	30-44	Moderately to severely decreased
G4	15-29	Severely decreased
G5	<15	Kidney Failure

## 3) ALBUMINURIA CATEGORIES

Category	UACR (mg/g)	Terms
A1	<30	Normal to mildly increased <b>Normalalbuminuria</b>
A2	30-300	Moderately increased <b>Microalbuminuria</b>
A3	>300	Severely increased <b>Macroalbuminuria</b>



# Prognosis & Monitoring of CKD



## Prognosis of CKD

				Persistent albuminuria categories (mg/g)		
				A1	A2	A3
				Normal to Mildly Increased	Moderately Increased	Severely Increased
				< 30	30-300	>300
GFR categories (ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	G1	Normal or high	≥ 90	1	1	2
	G2	Mildly decreased	60-89	1	1	2
	G3a	Mildly to moderately decreased	45-59	1	2	3
	G3b	Moderately to severely decreased	30-44	2	3	3
	G4	Severely decreased	15-29	3	3	≥ 4
	G5	Kidney Failure	<15	≥ 4	≥ 4	≥ 4

Low risk

(if not other markers, no CKD)

Moderately increased risk

High Risk

Very high risk



# Epidemiology

37 million or ~ 1 in 7 adults have CKD in the US

- DM is the leading cause of CKD and end stage renal disease (ESRD)

34.2 million or ~ 1 in 10 adults have DM (90-95% T2DM)

- ~ 20-40% of patients with DM develop CKD
- Every 24 hours, 170 people with DM begin dialysis

Demographic Risk Factors for CKD associated with T2DM

- Older adults
- Non-Hispanic Black, Hispanics, and Native American



FAQs. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/faqs.html>. Published August 11, 2021. Accessed February 6, 2022.

Diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/managing/diabetes-kidney-disease.html>. Published May 7, 2021. Accessed February 6, 2022.

Chronic kidney disease in the United States, 2021. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/kidneydisease/publications-resources/ckd-national-facts.html>. Published March 4, 2021. Accessed February 6, 2022.



# Cardiovascular Risk in CKD

2-4x

Patients with T2DM more likely to experience cardiovascular (CV) events and have worse outcomes

- 50% of diabetes-related deaths are due to CV causes

10-20x

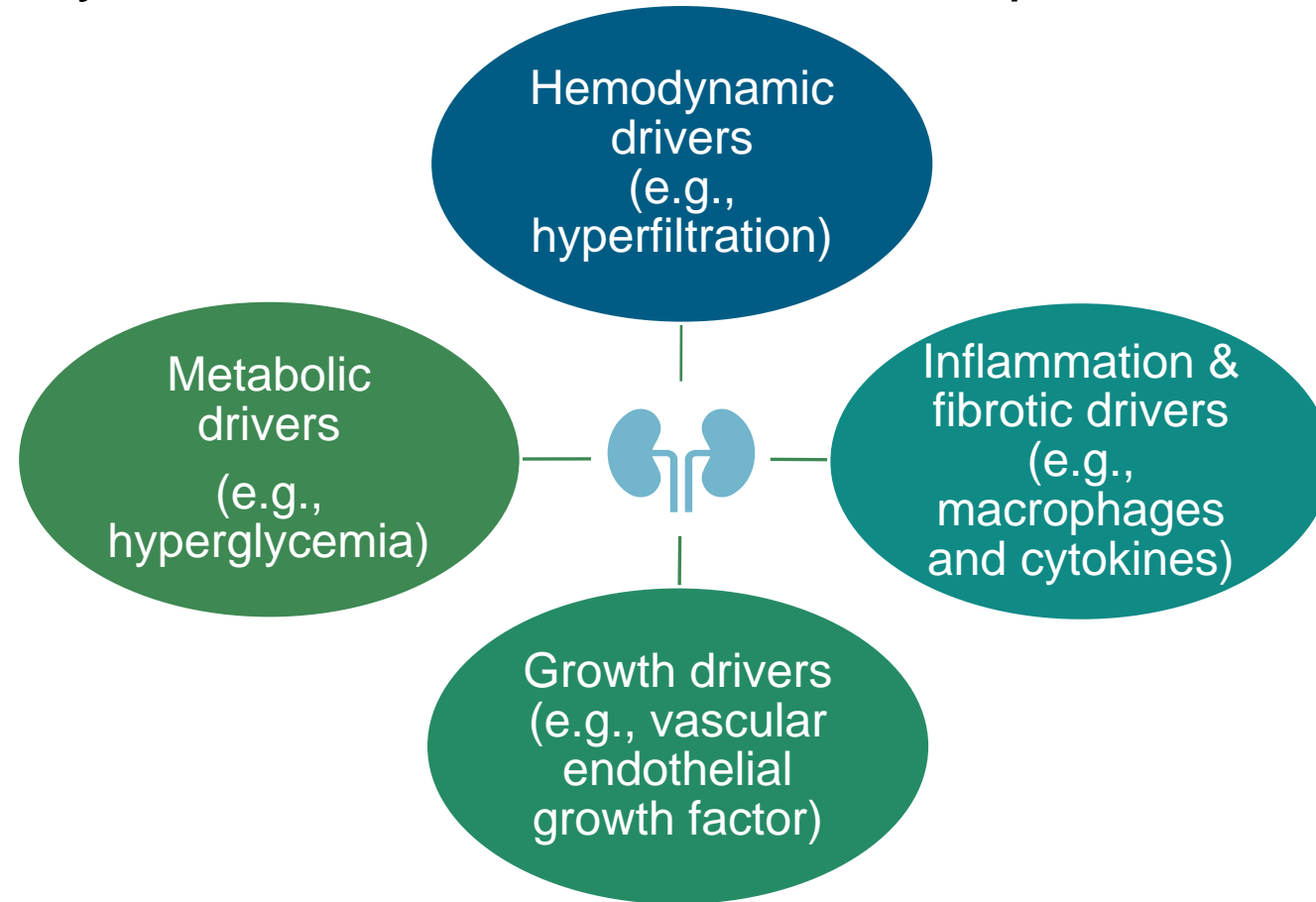
Patients with CKD more likely to die of CV causes

- CKD is an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD)



# Pathogenesis of Diabetic Kidney Disease

- Diabetic kidney disease is a microvascular complication of diabetes



# Terminology CKD vs DKD

- For the remainder of this presentation CKD will be used to define CKD associated with T2DM, sometimes referred to as DKD
- Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) guidelines:
  - We avoid the term “diabetic kidney disease” to avoid the connotation that CKD is caused by traditional diabetes pathophysiology in all cases, although this term is entirely appropriate when this limitation is recognized



# Complications of CKD

## It's important to detect CKD as early as possible

- CKD can often be silent in early stages
- Long standing duration of DM, retinopathy, albuminuria, and gradually progressive loss of eGFR is a typical presentation

## Symptoms

- Diabetic peripheral neuropathy, peripheral edema, less need for insulin or antidiabetic medications, fatigue, cramps, pruritis, or nausea

## Advanced complications

- Elevated blood pressure (BP)
- Volume overload
- Electrolyte abnormalities
- Metabolic acidosis
- Anemia
- Metabolic bone disease



# CKD Progression Factors

## Non-Modifiable

- Older Age/Sex/Race/Ethnicity
- History of CVD
- Duration of DM
- Genetic Factors

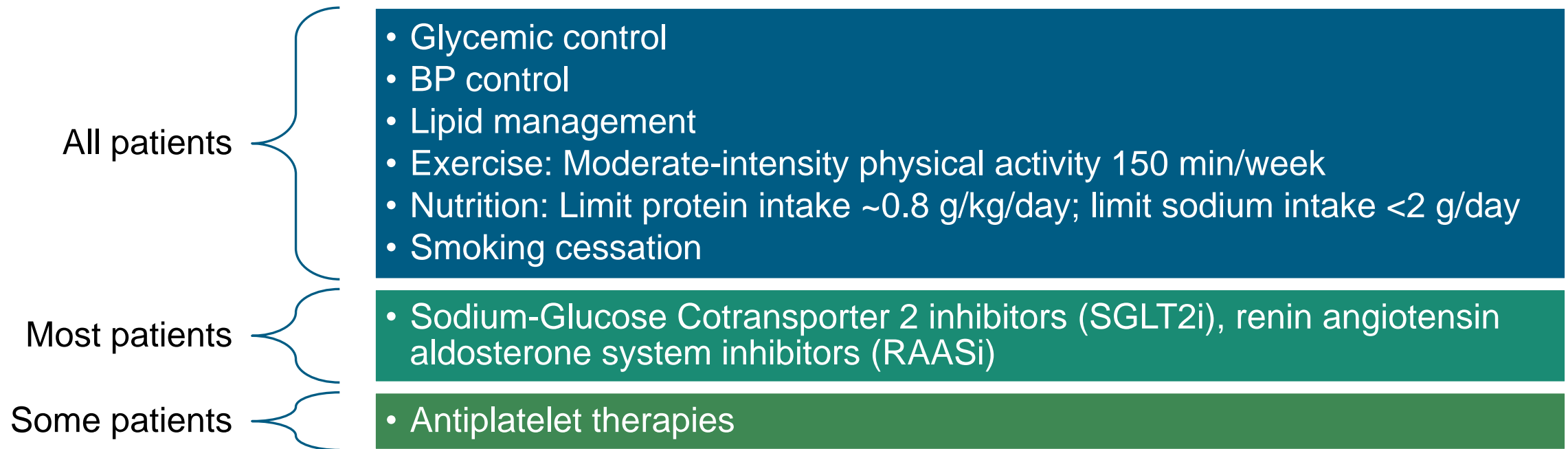
## Modifiable

- Smoking
- Overweight or Obesity
- Hyperglycemia
- Hypertension
- Dyslipidemia
- Nephrotoxic agents

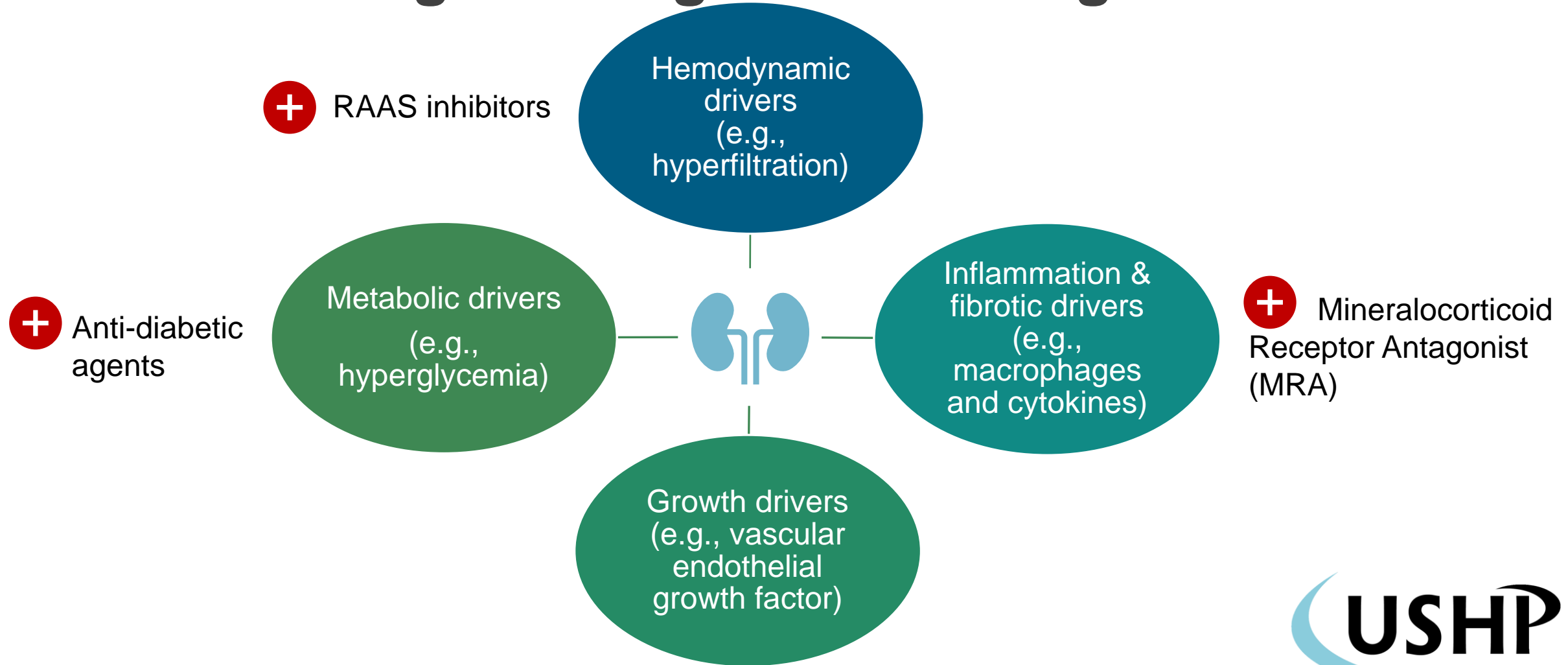


# KDIGO Recommendations

Practice Point 1.1.1: Patients with DM and CKD should be treated with a comprehensive strategy to reduce risks of kidney disease progression and cardiovascular disease



# Pharmacologic Management Strategies



# **Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i)**





# SGLT2i US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Approval Dates



# Guidelines

KDIGO  
DKD 2020

Recommend treating patients with T2DM, CKD, and an eGFR  $\geq 30$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> with an SGLT2i

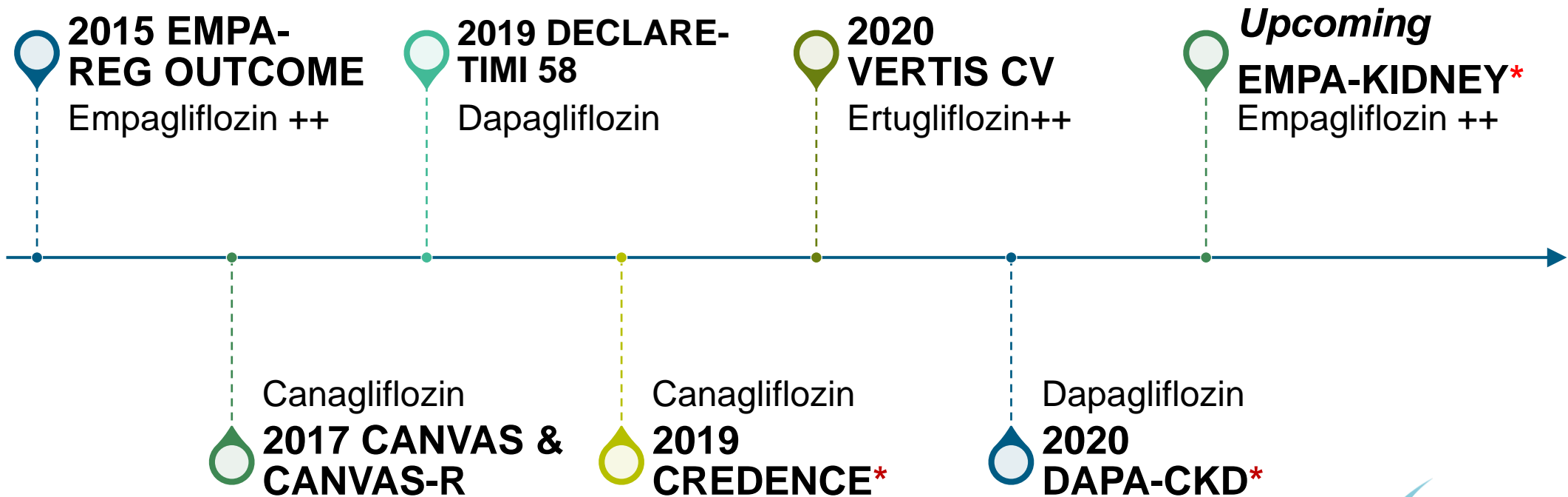
ADA 2022

For patients with **T2DM, DKD**, and an eGFR  $\geq 25$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> **AND** UACR  $\geq 300$  mg/g, an SGLT2i is recommended to  $\downarrow$  **CKD progression and CV events**

In patients with **T2DM, CKD**, and eGFR  $\geq 25$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> **OR** UACR  $\geq 300$  mg/g, consider an SGLT2i for **CV risk**  $\downarrow$



# Primary Literature



\*Designed with primary renal outcomes  
++ Off label use in CKD



# EMPA-REG OUTCOME

## Empagliflozin and Progression of Kidney Disease in Type 2 Diabetes

Christoph Wanner, M.D., Silvio E. Inzucchi, M.D., John M. Lachin, Sc.D., David Fitchett, M.D., Maximilian von Eynatten, M.D., Michaela Mattheus, Dipl. Biomath., Odd Erik Johansen, M.D., Ph.D., Hans J. Woerle, M.D., Uli C. Broedl, M.D., and Bernard Zinman, M.D., for the EMPA-REG OUTCOME Investigators\*

### Renal outcomes

- Progression to macroalbuminuria
- Doubling of serum creatinine with an eGFR  $\leq$  45 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
- Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT)
- Renal death

### Baseline Characteristics

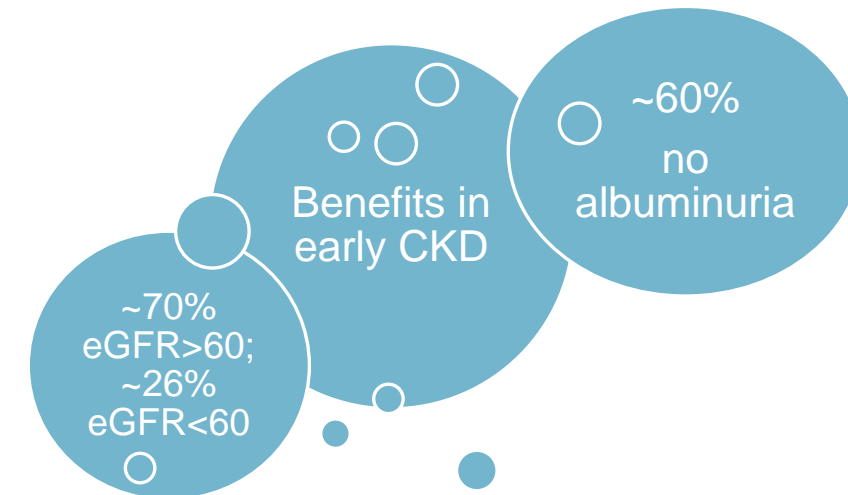
- 99% established CVD
- **17.8% eGFR 45-59 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>; 7.7% eGFR 30-44 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>**
- **28.7% microalbuminuria; 11% macroalbuminuria**

### Results

- 38% relative risk reduction (RRR) in progression of macroalbuminuria
- 44% RRR in doubling of serum creatinine with an eGFR  $\leq$  45 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
- 55% RRR in renal replacement therapy
- 3 renal related deaths in empagliflozin group and 0 in placebo

### Additional Trials

- EMPA-KIDNEY Study (expected completion December 2022)
- Empagliflozin vs Placebo, composite primary renal outcome, in non-diabetes related moderate-severe CKD



Wanner C, Inzucchi SE, Lachin JM, et al. Empagliflozin and Progression of Kidney Disease in Type 2 Diabetes. *N Engl J Med.* Jul 28 2016;375(4):323-34. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1515920  
 Zinman B, Wanner C, Lachin JM, et al. Empagliflozin, Cardiovascular Outcomes, and Mortality in Type 2 Diabetes. *N Engl J Med.* Nov 26 2015;373(22):2117-28. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1504720.

# Empagliflozin FDA Indications

## Current FDA approved indications

- Adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with T2DM
- ↓ the risk of CV death in adults with T2DM and established CVD
- ↓ the risk of CV death plus hospitalization for heart failure (HHF) in adults with heart failure reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF)

Currently **NOT** FDA approved for prevention of CKD progression



# CREDESCENCE Trial

## Primary renal composite outcome

- End stage renal disease (ESRD)
- Doubling of creatinine level
- Renal death
- CV death

## Baseline characteristics

- ~ 50% established CVD
- ~ **59% of participants had eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>**
- ~**100% of participants had UACR >300 mg/g**

## Results

- NNT=22 for primary renal composite outcome
- Primary renal outcome drivers
  - 40% ↓ in doubling of Scr
  - 32% ↓ in development of ESRD

## Additional Trials

- CANVAS-Cardiovascular Outcome Trial (CVOT)
- CANVAS-R

The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

JUNE 13, 2019

VOL. 380 NO. 24

## Canagliflozin and Renal Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes and Nephropathy

V. Perkovic, M.J. Jardine, B. Neal, S. Bompoint, H.J.L. Heerspink, D.M. Charytan, R. Edwards, R. Agarwal, G. Bakris, S. Bull, C.P. Cannon, G. Capuano, P.-L. Chu, D. de Zeeuw, T. Greene, A. Levin, C. Pollock, D.C. Wheeler, Y. Yavin, H. Zhang, B. Zinman, G. Meininger, B.M. Brenner, and K.W. Mahaffey, for the CREDESCENCE Trial Investigators\*

30%

↓ relative risk reduction in the primary renal composite outcome

USHP

# Canagliflozin FDA Indications

## Current FDA approved indications

- As an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with T2DM
- ↓ the risk of major adverse CV events in adults with T2DM and established CVD
- ↓ **the risk of ESRD, doubling of serum creatinine, CV death, and hospitalization for heart failure (HHF) in adults with T2DM and diabetic nephropathy with albuminuria**



# DAPA-CKD Trial

## Primary renal composite outcome

- ESRD
- Sustained decline in eGFR by 50% or more
- Renal death
- CV death

## Baseline characteristics

- ~ 37% established CVD
- ~ **90% eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>**
- ~ **50% of participants had UACR>1000 mg/g**

## Results

- NNT=19 for primary renal composite outcome
- 44% relative risk reduction in renal-specific composite

## Additional Trials

- DECLARE-TIMI Trial-CVOT

## Dapagliflozin in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease

Hiddo J.L. Heerspink, Ph.D., Bergur V. Stefánsson, M.D., Ricardo Correa-Rotter, M.D., Glenn M. Chertow, M.D., Tom Greene, Ph.D., Fan-Fan Hou, M.D., Johannes F.E. Mann, M.D., John J.V. McMurray, M.D., Magnus Lindberg, M.Sc., Peter Rossing, M.D., C. David Sjöström, M.D., Roberto D. Toto, M.D., Anna-Maria Langkilde, M.D., and David C. Wheeler, M.D., for the DAPA-CKD Trial Committees and Investigators\*

# 39%

↓ relative risk reduction in primary renal composite outcome with or w/o T2DM





# Dapagliflozin FDA Indications

## Current FDA approved indications

- Adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with T2DM
- ↓ the risk of HHF in adults with T2DM and either established CVD or multiple CV risk factors
- ↓ the risk of CV death and HHF in adults with HFrEF (NYHA class II-IV)
- ↓ **the risk of sustained eGFR decline, ESRD, CV death, and HHF in adults with **CKD** at risk of progression**



# VERTIS CV Trial

## Exploratory renal composite endpoint

- Sustained eGFR 40% reduction
- Renal replacement therapy (RRT)
- Renal death

## Baseline characteristics

- ~100% established ASCVD
- ~ **22% eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>**
- ~ **31% UACR 30-299 mg/g; ~ 9.4% UACR ≥ 300 mg/g**

## Results

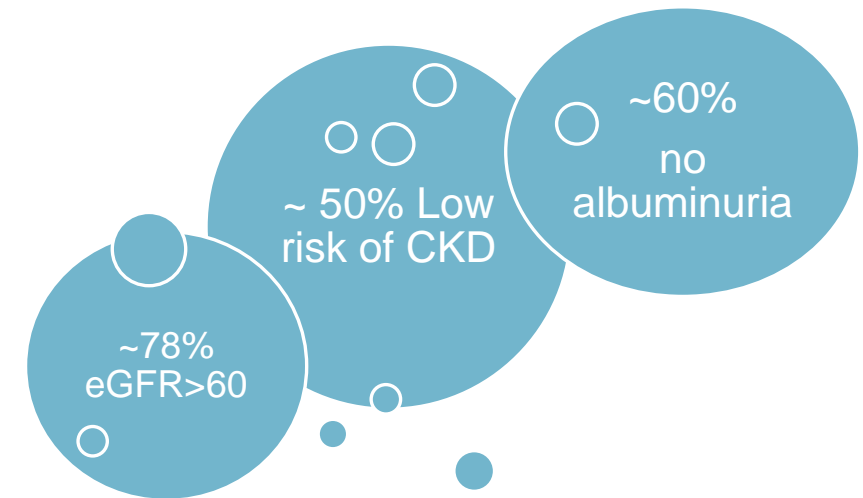
- 34% RRR exploratory renal composite endpoint



## Effects of ertugliflozin on kidney composite outcomes, renal function and albuminuria in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus: an analysis from the randomised VERTIS CV trial

David Z. I. Cherney<sup>1</sup> · Bernard Charbonnel<sup>2</sup> · Francesco Cosentino<sup>3</sup> · Samuel Dagogo-Jack<sup>4</sup> · Darren K. McGuire<sup>5,6</sup> · Richard Pratley<sup>7</sup> · Weichung J. Shih<sup>8,9</sup> · Robert Frederick<sup>10</sup> · Mario Maldonado<sup>11</sup> · Annpey Pong<sup>12</sup> · Christopher P. Cannon<sup>13</sup> · on behalf of the VERTIS CV Investigators

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# Ertugliflozin FDA Indication

## Current FDA approved indications

- Adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with T2DM

Currently **NOT** FDA approved for prevention of CKD progression



# Meta-analysis

## Composite Kidney Outcome

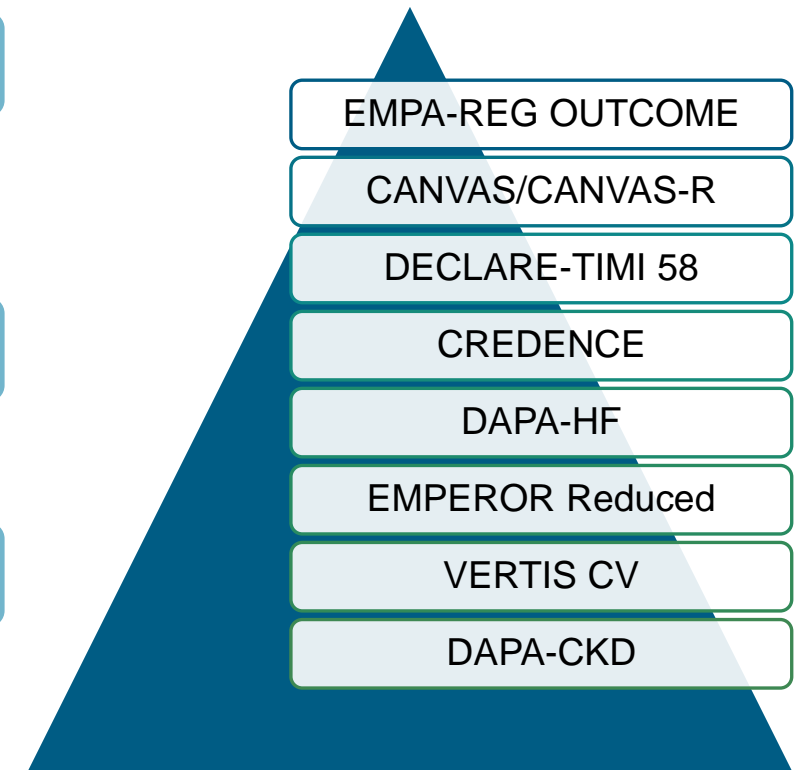
- ESRD
- Doubling serum creatine
- Kidney related mortality

## Primary Analysis

- Composite kidney outcome regardless of T2DM, HF, or CKD
- 38% risk reduction

## Sub-analysis

- Composite kidney outcome w/CKD (eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>)
  - 32% risk reduction
- **Composite kidney outcome in patients w/T2DM**
  - **48% risk reduction**



## Summary of SGLT2i Kidney Outcomes

SGLT2i	Trials	Kidney-related eligibility criteria	Primary Outcomes		Kidney Outcomes	
			Primary Outcome	Effect on primary outcome	Effect on albuminuria containing composite outcome	Effect on GFR Loss
Empagliflozin N=7,020	EMPA-REG OUTCOME	eGFR $\geq 30$ ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↓	↓↓	↓↓
Canagliflozin N= 10,142	CANVAS Trials	eGFR $\geq 30$ ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↓	↓↓	↓↓
N=4,401	CREDESCENCE	UACR 300-5000 mg/g eGFR 30-90 ml//min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	Progression of CKD	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓
Dapagliflozin N=17,160	DECLARE- TIMI	CrCl $\geq 60$ ml/min 45% eGFR 60-90 ml//min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE & composite of HHF or CV death	↔/↓	↓	↓↓
N=4,304	DAPA-CKD	UACR 200-5000 mg/g GFR 25-75 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	Progression of CKD	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓
Ertugliflozin N =8,246	VERTIS CV	eGFR $\geq 30$ ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↔	↔	↓↓

↔ no significant difference

↓ significant reduction in risk, with hazard ratio (HR) estimate  $>0.7$  and 95% confidence interval (CI) not overlapping

↓↓ significant reduction in risk, with HR estimate  $\leq 0.7$  and 95% CI not overlapping



# How do SGLT2 inhibitors work?

## Glycemic efficacy in eGFR >60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

- SGLT-2i ↓ glucose in the proximal tubule, efficacy wanes as eGFR ↓
- Osmotic diuresis, natriuresis, and intraglomerular pressure reduction ↓ eGFR during first weeks of treatment, and ↑ towards baseline and stabilization after ~4 weeks
- ↓ in eGFR not seen in eGFR <40 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>, yet renal/CV benefits are seen

## Renal and CV benefits (proposed)

- BP ↓ independent of blood glucose and eGFR (BP ↓ seen in eGFR 25-80 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)
- ↓ in body weight (i.e. visceral fat)
- ↓ in albuminuria, serum uric acid, inflammation, etc.



# SGLT2i Side Effect Monitoring

Genital mycotic infections and urinary tract infections

- Assess preexisting factors: History of vaginal yeast infections, UTIs, Uncontrolled hyperglycemia, older adults, prior history, uncircumcised males

Ketoacidosis

- Hold SGLT2i in prolonged fasting, critical illness or upcoming surgery to minimize risk

Hypotension/syncope/dehydration

- Reduce dose of concomitant diuretic medications

Acute kidney injury

- Assess preexisting factors: hypovolemia, chronic kidney insufficiency, heart failure, diuretics/RAASi/NSAIDs

Bone fractures (canagliflozin only)

- Assess fracture history

↑ LDL cholesterol

- Monitor labs

Fournier's gangrene

- Monitor pain, tenderness, redness, or swelling in genital area



# CKD SGLT2i Dosing Recommendations

eGFR (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	Empagliflozin	Canagliflozin	Dapagliflozin	Ertugliflozin
>60	10 mg daily	100 mg daily	10 mg daily	15 mg
45-60				Use not recommended
30-45	Initiation not recommended	Initiation not recommended Continue in UACR>300 mg/g	Initiation not recommended (<25ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	Use not recommended
<30	Contraindicated (CI)			
On Dialysis	CI	CI	CI	CI



Canagliflozin [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals; 2019.  
 Dapagliflozin [package insert] dp. Washington, DE: AztraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; 2014  
 Ertugliflozin [package insert] ep. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co., INC.,; 2014  
 Empagliflozin [package insert] ep. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals; 2014



# Key Take Aways for SGLT2i

## CKD WITH ALBUMINURIA

## CKD WITHOUT ALBUMINURIA

SGLT2i w/primary evidence of ↓ CKD progression

Canagliflozin  
Dapagliflozin

SGLT2i w/evidence of ↓ CKD progression in CVOTs

Empagliflozin (off-label)

GLP-1 RA w/CVD labeled indication if SGLT2i not tolerated or CI

?

SGLT2i w/CVD labeled indication

Empagliflozin  
Canagliflozin

GLP-1 RA w/CVD labeled indication

?



# Glucagon-like peptide receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs)



# GLP1-RA FDA Approval Dates

Exenatide  
(Byetta®)  
2005

Liraglutide  
(Victoza®)  
2010

Exenatide ER  
(Bydureon®)  
2012

Dulaglutide  
(Trulicity®)  
2014

Lixisenatide  
(Adlyxin®)  
2016

Semaglutide  
(Ozempic®)  
2017

Semaglutide  
(Rybelsus®)  
2019

# Guidelines

KDIGO  
2020

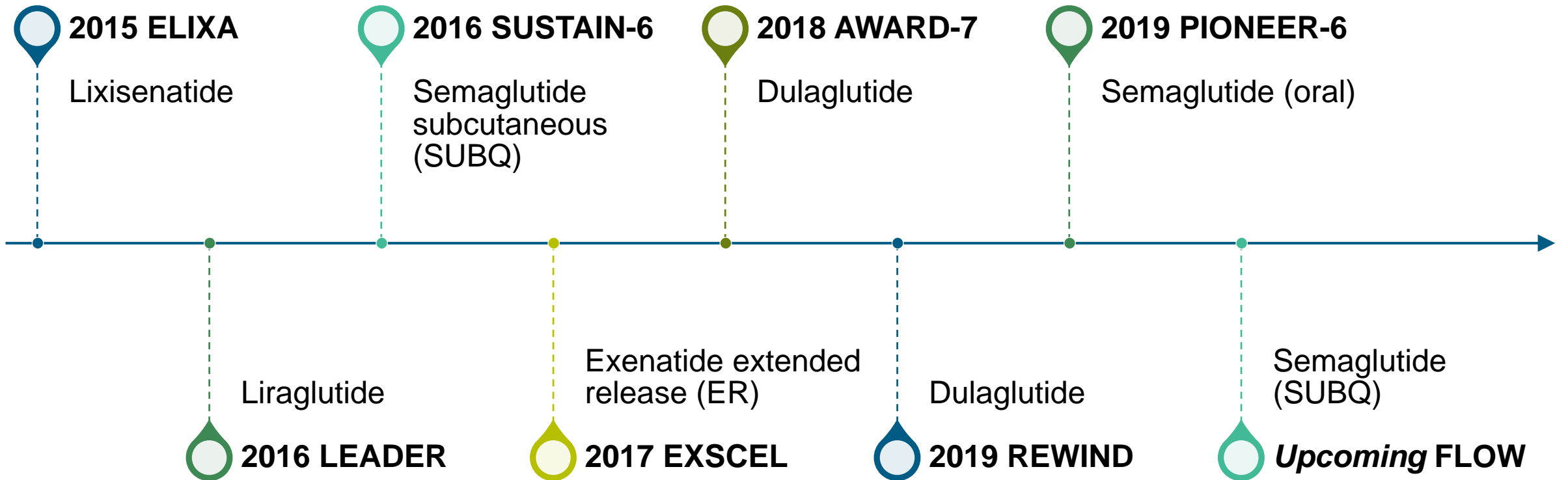
- In patients with T2DM and CKD who have not achieved glycemic targets despite use of metformin and SGLT2i, or who are unable to use those medications, we **recommend a long-acting GLP-1 RA**

ADA  
2022

- GLP-1 RAs are suggested for CV risk ↓ if such risk is a predominant problem, as they ↓ risks of CVD events and **appear to possibly slow CKD progression**



# Primary Literature



## Review of GLP-1 Kidney Outcomes

GLP-1 RA	Trials	Kidney-related eligibility criteria	Primary Outcomes		Kidney Outcomes	
			Primary Outcome	Effect on primary outcome	Effect on albuminuria containing composite outcome	Effect on GFR Loss
Lixisenatide	ELIXA	eGFR $\geq$ 30 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↔	↓	↔
Liraglutide	LEADER	eGFR $\geq$ 15 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↓	↓	↔
Semaglutide (SUBQ)	SUSTAIN-6	Dialysis patients excluded	MACE	↓	↓↓	N/A
Semaglutide (oral)	PIONEER-6	eGFR $\geq$ 30 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↔	N/A	N/A
Exenatide ER	EXSCEL	eGFR $\geq$ 30 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↔	↔	↔
Dulaglutide	REWIND	eGFR $\geq$ 15 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	MACE	↓	↓	↓

↔ no significant difference

↓ significant reduction in risk, with hazard ratio (HR) estimate  $>0.7$  and 95% confidence interval (CI) not overlapping

↓↓ significant reduction in risk, with HR estimate  $\leq 0.7$  and 95% CI not overlapping



## Summary of GLP-1 Kidney Outcomes

Trial	LEADER	SUSTAIN-6	REWIND	EXSCEL	AWARD-7
Drug	Liraglutide	Semaglutide (SUBQ)	Dulaglutide	Exenatide ER	Dulaglutide vs insulin
N	9340	3297	9901	14,752	577
Criteria	≥30 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	n/a	≥15 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	≥30 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup>	n/a
eGFR<60	20.7%	28.5%	22.2%	22.9%	100% G3a-G4
UACR	n/a	n/a	7.9% severe	3.5% severe	44% severe
F/u time	3.8 yr	2.1 yr	5.4 yr	3.2 yr	52 wk
CV Outcomes	CV death, Nonfatal MI, Nonfatal stroke	CV death, Nonfatal MI, Nonfatal stroke	CV death, Nonfatal MI, Nonfatal Stroke	CV death, Nonfatal MI Nonfatal stroke	n/a
Results	13% RRR	26% RRR	12% RRR	9% RRR	n/a
Kidney Outcomes	Severe UACR Doubling of Scr ESRD Renal death	Severe UACR Doubling Scr CrCl <45 RRT	Severe UACR 30% eGFR decline RRT	1) 40% eGFR decline, RRT, renal death 2) 40% eGFR decline, RRT, renal death, severe albuminuria	1) eGFR 2) UACR
Results	22% RRR	36% RRR	15% RRR	1) 13% RRR ‘ 2) 15% RRR	1) Less decline 2) No difference



Trujillo JM, Nuffer W, Smith BA. GLP-1 receptor agonists: An updated review of head-to-head clinical studies. Therapeutic advances in endocrinology and metabolism. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7953228/>. Published March 9, 2021. Accessed February 10, 2022.

Executive summary of the 2020 KDIGO diabetes management in chronic kidney disease. <https://kdigo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/KDIGO-Diabetes-in-CKD-GL-Exec-Summary.pdf>. Accessed February 7, 2022

# Primary Literature

## Renal benefits remain uncertain

- CV outcome trials and metanalysis suggest a renal protective effect of GLP-1RA
- eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> ranged from 17-28% in most trials
- Findings driven by macroalbuminuria ↓ and lack of statistical power for other outcomes

## Ongoing Trials

- FLOW Semaglutide (SUBQ) trial (Anticipated completion 2024)
  - Purpose: Semaglutide vs Placebo, primary renal outcomes, in T2DM and w/o T2DM
- EMPA-SEMA (Status unknown-anticipated completion was 2019)
  - Synergistic with SGLT2i to optimize renal outcomes?
  - Purpose: Empagliflozin alone vs combination w/semaglutide (SUBQ), change in albuminuria, in T2DM and albuminuria





# How do GLP-1 RA Work?

## Glycemic efficacy

- Stimulate glucose-dependent insulin secretion
- Inhibit glucagon secretion
- Reduce gastric emptying
- Reduce appetite
- Promote satiety

## Proposed CV and renal benefits

- Natriuretic and diuretic properties
- ↓ in systolic BP
- ↓ oxidative stress
- ↓ weight
- Improves lipid profiles

## Dose adjustments

- Dulaglutide
  - eGFR >15 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
- Exenatide ER
  - CrCl >30 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
- All others: No dose adjustments
- Limited evidence in severe CKD



# Key Take Aways for GLP-1 RA

## CKD + ALBUMINURIA

SGLT2i w/primary evidence of ↓ CKD progression

Canagliflozin  
Dapagliflozin

SGLT2i w/evidence of ↓ CKD progression in CVOTs

Empagliflozin (off-label)

GLP-1 RA with CVD labeled indication if SGLT2i not tolerated or CI

Dulaglutide  
Liraglutide  
Semaglutide

## CKD WITHOUT ALBUMINURIA

SGLT2i w/CVD labeled indication

Empagliflozin  
Canagliflozin

GLP-1 RA w/CVD labeled indication

Dulaglutide  
Liraglutide  
Semaglutide



# Mineralocorticoid Receptor Antagonists (MRA)



# MRA FDA Approval Dates

Spironolactone  
(Aldactone®)

2001

Eplerenone  
(Inspra®)

2002

Finerenone  
(Kerendia®)

2021



# What is finerenone?

Highly selective non-steroidal mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) antagonist

- Higher selectivity and higher affinity to MR compared to spironolactone and eplerenone (steroidal MRAs)
- Equal tendency to heart and kidney compared to steroidal MRAs

Mechanism of action

- By inhibiting activation of the MR receptor, finerenone inhibits pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic factors that halt progression of renal tissue damage

Eplerenone and Spironolactone have limited use in CKD associated w/T2DM

- Hyperkalemia, gynecomastia, etc.



# Guidelines

KDIGO  
2020

- Guideline published prior to FDA approval of Finerenone

ADA 2022

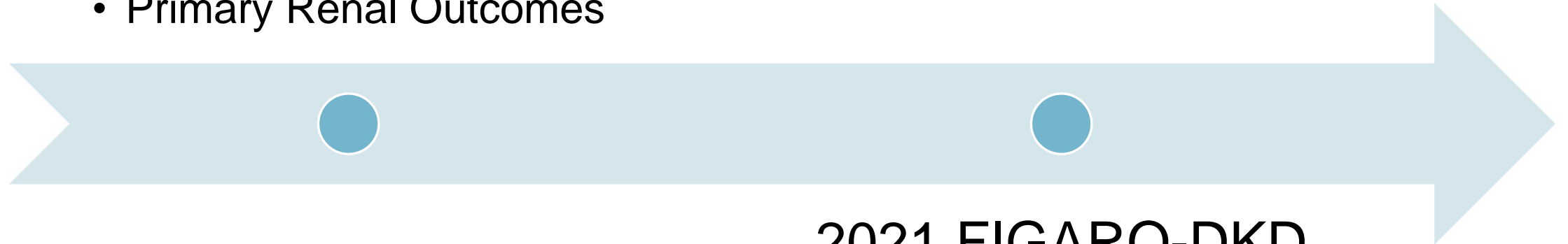
- In patients with CKD who are at ↑ risk for CV events or CKD progression or are unable to use an SGLT2i, **a nonsteroidal MRA (finerenone) is recommended to reduce CKD progression and CV events**



# Primary Literature

## 2020 FIDELIO-DKD

- Finerenone vs Placebo
- Primary Renal Outcomes



## 2021 FIGARO-DKD

- Finerenone vs Placebo
- CVOT



# FIDELIO-DKD

## Effect of Finerenone on Chronic Kidney Disease Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes

George L. Bakris, M.D., Rajiv Agarwal, M.D., Stefan D. Anker, M.D., Ph.D., Bertram Pitt, M.D., Luis M. Ruilope, M.D., Peter Rossing, M.D., Peter Kolkhof, Ph.D., Christina Nowack, M.D., Patrick Schloemer, Ph.D., Amer Joseph, M.B., B.S., and Gerasimos Filippatos, M.D., for the FIDELIO-DKD Investigators\*

### Primary renal composite outcome

- ESRD
- Sustained eGFR decrease of at least 40% (primary driver)
- Renal death

### Baseline Characteristics (n = ~5,700)

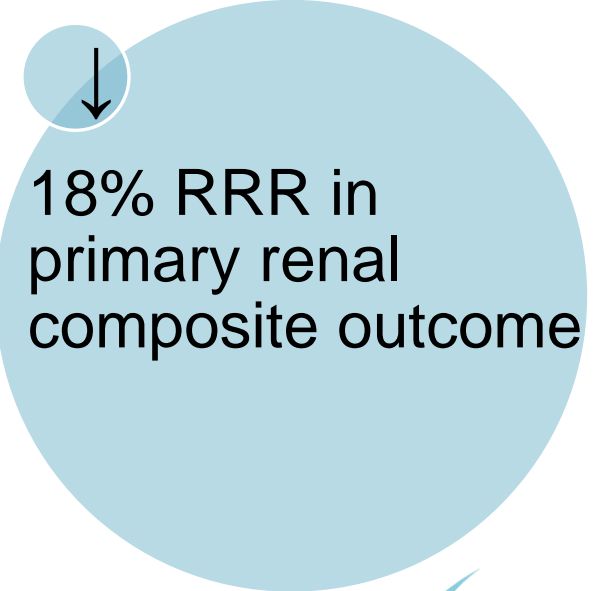
- ~ 99.9% on ACEi/ARB; ~ 7% on SGLT2i
- ~ **52.5% eGFR 25-45 ml/min/1.73m**
- ~ **87.5% UACR >300 mg/g**

### Results

- Median duration, 2.6 years
- A 31% greater reduction in UACR from baseline to month 4 was sustained throughout the study
- Hyperkalemia incidence 18.3% vs 9%
- Hyperkalemia leading to discontinuation 2.3% vs 0.9%

### Additional Trials

- FIGARO-DKD: Positive cardiovascular outcomes
- Upcoming: Finerenone and Empagliflozin vs Finerenone only in CKD + T2DM



18% RRR in primary renal composite outcome





# Finerenone Dose Adjustments



eGFR  $\geq 60$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

**20 mg once daily**

eGFR  $\geq 25$  to  $< 60$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

**10 mg once daily**

eGFR  $< 25$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

**Not recommended**



# Potassium Monitoring

**K+** If K+ is >5 mEq/L, do NOT start  
 Check K+ 4 weeks after starting or sooner if K+ 4.8-5.0 mEq/L  
 Monitor throughout treatment and adjust the dose as needed

**eGFR** If eGFR ↓ >30%, maintain 10 mg dose

		Current finerenone dose	
		10 mg daily	20 mg daily
Current Serum Potassium (mEq/L)	≤ 4.8	Increase 20 mg	Maintain
	> 4.8 – 5.5	Maintain	Maintain
	> 5.5	HOLD Restart ≤ 5.0 mEq/L	HOLD Restart ≤ 5.0 mEq/L



# Key Take Aways on Finerenone

## When to use Finerenone

- Option for CKD and T2DM patients who cannot tolerate RAASi/SGLT-2i or as an add on in patients with increased risk of CKD progression or CVD

## Monitor Potassium (K+)

- Do not start if K+ is >5 mEq/L
- Adherence to monitoring labs is important, including patients on RAASi and diuretics

## Prognosis of CKD

				Persistent albuminuria categories (mg/g)		
				A1	A2	A3
				Normal to Mildly Increased	Moderately Increased	Severely Increased
				< 30	30-300	>300
GFR categories (ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	G1	Normal or high	≥ 90			
	G2	Mildly decreased	60-89			
	G3a	Mildly to moderately decreased	45-59			
	G3b	Moderately to severely decreased	30-44			
	G4	Severely decreased	15-29			
	G5	Kidney Failure	<15			



# Co-Pay Cards

Government insurance beneficiaries are not eligible

Product	Per Month	Max coverage
Canagliflozin (Invokana®)	\$0	No limit first month; \$200/month; \$3,000/year
Dapagliflozin (Farxiga®)	\$0	\$175/month; \$150/month without insurance
Empagliflozin (Jardiance®)	\$10	\$175/month
Ertugliflozin (Steglatro ®)	\$0	\$583/month
Dulaglutide (Trulicity®)	\$25	\$150/month; \$1,800/year
Exenatide ER (Bydureon®)	\$0	\$300/month
Liraglutide (Victoza ®)	Discontinued	
Semaglutide (Ozempic®)	\$25	\$150/month
Finerenone (Kerendia®)	\$10	\$3,000/year



Current as of 02/2022

# Patient Assistance Programs (PAP)

Invokana®	Johnson & Johnson Patient Assistance Foundation
Farxiga®	AstraZeneca Prescription Savings Program
Jardiance®	Boehringer Ingelheim Cares PAP
Steglatro®	Merck Patient Assistance Program, Inc.
Trulicity®	Lilly Cares Foundation PAP
Victoza®	Novo Nordisk PAP
Rybelsus®	Novo Nordisk PAP
Kerendia®	Bayer US Patient Assistance Foundation

Requires paperwork from the patient and the provider

Patient must meet financial criteria to qualify

The medications are free

Medicare Part D patients are eligible



# When to Refer to Nephrologist

## Indications to refer to nephrologist

- Clinical findings inconsistent with typical diabetic nephropathy
- Massive proteinuria
- Hematuria, casts, and/or active urinary sediment
- AKI or rapidly declining eGFR
- Anemia of CKD
- Complex comorbidities (e.g., hyperparathyroidism or bone disease)
- Advanced CKD (i.e., eGFR <30 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

## Prognosis of CKD

				Persistent albuminuria categories (mg/g)		
				A1	A2	A3
				Normal to Mildly Increased	Moderately Increased	Severely Increased
				< 30	30-300	>300
GFR categories (ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	G1	Normal or high	≥ 90		Treat	Refer
	G2	Mildly decreased	60-89		Treat	Refer
	G3a	Mildly to moderately decreased	45-59	Treat	Treat	Refer
	G3b	Moderately to severely decreased	30-44	Treat	Treat	Refer
	G4	Severely decreased	15-29	Refer	Refer	Refer
	G5	Kidney Failure	<15	Refer	Refer	Refer



# Conclusion

## CKD carries a heavy burden economically and in quality of life

- 5% of Medicare patients have CKD associated with T2DM, yet expenditures account for 11%
- CKD associated with diabetes is the leading cause of ESRD
- Coordinated, multidisciplinary care with attention to appropriate, timely screening and preventative management is crucial to reducing morbidity and mortality

## SGLT<sub>i</sub>

- Data suggests a class effect on ↓ of CKD progression, in addition to CV benefits

## GLP1-RA

- Data limited in severe CKD prevention compared to CVD benefits, use in significant CVD

## Finerenone

- Monotherapy effects are unknown, use as alternative or add on therapy in high-risk CKD and CVD patients

