

# Use of Dapagliflozin as the Drug in the Management of Type 2 Diabetes in India

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective and aim:** Uncontrolled diabetic patients were increasing day by day despite availability of multiple oral antidiabetic drugs. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the efficacy of dapagliflozin 10 mg on Indian subjects who were uncontrolled despite on multiple ( $\geq 4$ ) oral antidiabetic drugs.

**Methods:** Patients treated with Dapagliflozin 10 mg as an add-on drug, on those patients who were poorly controlled despite optimum doses of more of equal to four OADs, metformin, sulfonylureas, pioglitazone, hydroxychloroquine, DPP4 inhibitor and alpha-glycosidase inhibitors were included in this analysis. Total 245 patients with  $\geq 3$  regular follow-ups visiting a Diabetes Specialty Clinic were considered for this retrospective analysis.

**Results:** The mean Fasting Blood Glucose (FPG) was  $168.4 \pm 19.8$  mg/dl and mean Post Prandial Glucose (PPG) was  $238.3 \pm 28.6$  mg/dl. The mean baseline HbA1c was  $8.4 \pm 1.2$  %. The mean duration required to control diabetes with dapagliflozin 10 mg was 7.9 weeks. 83.5% of the total cases responded to treatment with a DPP4i ( $P < 0.05$ ). The response in age group  $< 55$  years was 90.3%, whereas in  $\geq 55$  years group, it was 83.3%. Those with BMI  $< 23.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> had significantly higher response (94.6%) as compared to 82.3% in patients with BMI  $\geq 23.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>. At the end of the monitoring period, there was significant reduction in mean FPG by  $-31.4 \pm 18.3$  mg/dL ( $P=0.001$ ), mean PPG by  $-64.8 \pm 21.3$  mg/dL ( $P=0.001$ ), mean HbA1c by  $-1.3 \pm 0.8$  ( $P=0.001$ ), weight by  $-1.2$  kg ( $P=0.001$ ), mean SBP by  $-3.6$  mmHg ( $p=0.01$ ) and mean DBP by  $-2.0$  mmHg ( $p=0.01$ ). Common adverse events included hypoglycemia, pollakiuria, and thirst. But none required a medical assistance.

**Conclusion:** Dapagliflozin is effective in achieving the desired glycemic control. Early initiation of dapagliflozin is recommended for tighter glycemic control.

**Keywords:** T2DM; Glycemic control; Dapagliflozin

## INTRODUCTION

Diabetes, an exemplary of a chronic disease, has reached epidemic proportions not only in India but also worldwide. It is estimated that the global burden of Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM) is expected to increase to 592 million by 2033 [1]. There were over 72.9 million cases of diabetes in India in 2017 [2]. Among the Southeast Asian region India is considered to have the greatest number of people affected with diabetes which is as much as 74 million within the age group of 18–99 years 9.8% age-adjusted comparative prevalence and in the age group of 20–79 years 50.7% premature

mortality [3]. In a population-based cross-sectional study done by Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) where sample was taken across 15 Indian states, the overall prevalence of diabetes was 7.3% [4]. There is evidence of an epidemiological transition; with diabetes prevalence being higher in low socioeconomic groups of urban areas in more economically developed states. There is sufficient evidence of an “Asian phenotype” in diabetes [5]. Asians have a 2–4 times higher risk of T2DM than white Europeans, independent of weight, and develop diabetes 5–10 years earlier than them [6].

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For diabetes as a novel therapeutic strategy Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors are using by clinicians worldwide. By specifically inhibiting the activity of SGLT-2, renal glucose reabsorption in the proximal convoluted tubule can reduce by SGLT-2 inhibitors, leading to increased urinary glucose excretion [7-9]. There were several studies which confirm the efficacy of dapagliflozin as mono therapy or as add on in reducing HbA1c, FPG, and body weight [10-15].

At present, there are many clinical studies and meta-analysis on dapagliflozin whether in mono therapy or in combined with metformin, DPP4i, sulfonylureas, thiazolidinedione, and other hypoglycemic agents for the treatment of T2DM, but there are few data on dapagliflozin as 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> add on to type 2 diabetes patients who were initially uncontrolled on any 3 oral drug combination. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the efficacy of dapagliflozin 10 mg on Indian subjects who were uncontrolled despite on multiple ( $\geq 4$ ) oral antidiabetic drugs.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This was a retrospective observational trial conducted at private diabetic clinic at Patna, India. A predesigned study pro forma was used to retrieve the clinical data from electronically stored patient's profile. Patients treated with Dapagliflozin 10 mg as an add-on drug, on those patients who were poorly controlled despite optimum doses of more of equal to four OADs, metformin, sulfonylurea, pioglitazone, hydroxychloroquine, DPP-4 inhibitor and alpha-glucosidase inhibitors were included in this analysis. Any patents who had documented micro or macro vascular complications, any previous renal and retina abnormalities, with thyroid dysfunction, pregnant and lactating women were excluded from this study. Total 245 patients with  $\geq 3$  regular follow-ups visiting a Diabetes Specialty Clinic were considered for this retrospective analysis. The study was conducted in

accordance with the design and specific provisions of this protocol, in accordance with the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki, and that are consistent with Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and the applicable regulatory requirements. The primary endpoint of the current study was the change in glycemic profile including HbA1c from baseline to week 24 with addition of dapagliflozin 10 mg. Secondary endpoints of the current study includes changes in Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG), Post Prandial Plasma Glucose (PPG) and weight from baseline. Safety assessment was measured with confirmed hypoglycemia event (plasma glucose  $\leq 70$  mg/dl and requiring assistance) and incidence of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). SPSS software was used to analyze the clinical data. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze statistical variables (i.e. frequencies were used for categorical variables and mean, standard deviation was used for continuous variables). A P value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

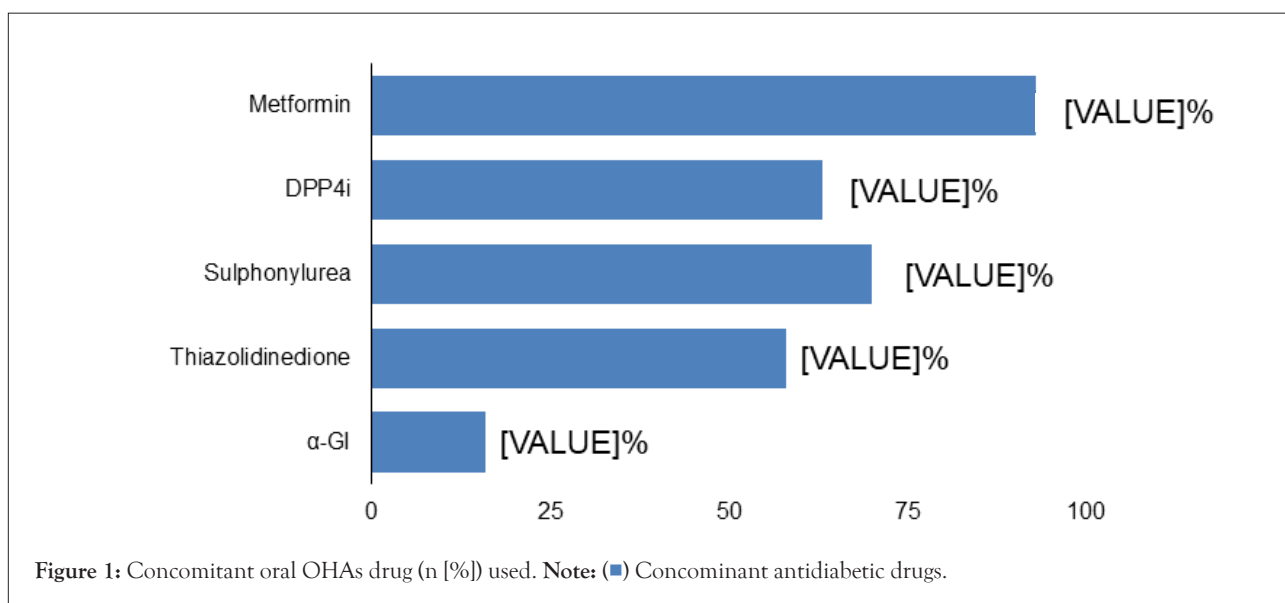
Table 1 demonstrated the demographic clinical details of 245 participants. The mean Fasting Blood Glucose (FPG) was  $168.4 \pm 19.8$  mg/dl and mean Post Prandial Glucose (PPG) was  $238.3 \pm 28.6$  mg/dl. The mean baseline HbA1c was  $8.4 \pm 1.2\%$ .

Concomitant antidiabetic drugs which were used were illustrated in Figure 1. Apart of metformin (93%), DPP4i (63%) and sulfonylurea (70%) were the commonest oral OHAs used followed by thiazolidinedione (58%) and  $\alpha$ -GI (16%).

At the end of the monitoring period, there was significant reduction in mean FPG by  $-31.4 \pm 18.3$  mg/dL ( $P=0.001$ ), mean PPG by  $-64.8 \pm 21.3$  mg/dL ( $P=0.001$ ), mean HbA1c by  $-1.3 \pm 0.8$  ( $P=0.001$ ), weight by  $-1.2$  kg ( $P=0.001$ ), mean SBP by  $-3.6$  mmHg ( $P=0.01$ ) and mean DBP by  $-2.0$  mmHg ( $P=0.01$ ) (Table 2).

**Table 1:** Principal clinical parameters for study participants at baseline.

Characteristics	N=245
Age (Years)	$53.4 \pm 11.2$
Male (N%)	160 (65%)
Weight (Kg)	$81.2 \pm 16.3$
BMI (Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	$25.1 \pm 3.7$
Duration of Diabetes (Years)	$7.2 \pm 3.8$
SBP (mmHg)	$131.7 \pm 15.6$
DBP (mmHg)	$84.5 \pm 3.7$
FPG (mg/dl)	$168.4 \pm 19.8$
T-chol (mg/dL)	$204.5 \pm 22.8$
LDL-C (mg/dL)	$110.7 \pm 19.8$
HDL-C (mg/dL)	$54.3 \pm 2.6$
TG (mg/dL)	$130.6 \pm 50.8$



**Table 2:** Change in clinical parameters for study participants from baseline to 24 weeks.

Parameters	Baseline	After 24 Weeks	Δ Differences	P Value
Weight (Kg)	81.2 ± 16.3	80 ± 14.5	-1.2 ± 0.7	0.001
SBP (mmHg)	131.7 ± 15.6	128.1 ± 16.3	-3.6 ± 1.6	0.01
DBP (mmHg)	84.5 ± 3.7	82.5 ± 2.5	-2.0 ± 1.2	0.01
FPG (mg/dl)	168.4 ± 19.8	133.4 ± 14.7	-31.4 ± 18.3	0.001
PPG (mg/dl)	238.3 ± 28.6	173.5 ± 18.2	-64.8 ± 21.3	0.001
HbA1c (%)	8.4 ± 1.2	7.1 ± 1.1	-1.3 ± 0.8	0.001

The mean duration required to control diabetes with dapagliflozin 10 mg was 7.9 weeks. 83.5% of the total cases responded to treatment with a DPP4i ( $P < 0.05$ ). The response in age group  $< 55$  years was 90.3%, whereas in  $\geq 55$  years group, it was 83.3%. Those with BMI  $< 23.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> had significantly higher response (94.6%) as compared to 82.3% in patients with BMI  $\geq 23.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Common adverse events included hypoglycemia, pollakiuria, and thirst. But none required a medical assistance.

## DISCUSSION

There were numerous clinical trials were event after desperate use of several oral hypoglycemic drugs very few uncontrolled type 2 diabetes patients has achieved their glycemic control and weight gain and multiple hypoglycemic event were supposed to be the greatest concern [16,17]. With multiple subtypes including SGLT1 to SGLT6 the Sodium-Glucose Co-Transporter (SGLT) is a glucose transporter, which offers a strong efficacy to achieve target glycemic control and dapagliflozin is one of them which offers a reduction in blood glucose levels along with it also reduces renal glucose reabsorption, leading to urinary glucose excretion [18-21].

In current trial despite use of various OHAs when dapagliflozin 10 mg was added here was significant reduction in mean FPG by  $-31.4 \pm 18.3$  mg/dL ( $P = 0.001$ ), mean PPG by  $-64.8 \pm 21.3$  mg/dL ( $P = 0.001$ ), mean HbA1c by  $-1.3 \pm 0.8$  ( $P = 0.001$ ), weight by  $-1.2$  kg ( $P = 0.001$ ), mean SBP by  $-3.6$  mmHg ( $P = 0.01$ ) and mean DBP by  $-2.0$  mmHg ( $P = 0.01$ ). In line with current observation, several studies reported with dapagliflozin in combination with glimepiride, exenatide, metformin slow extended release, saxagliptin, sitagliptin and pioglitazone a significant reduction in HbA1c [22-28].

Due to the mechanism of dapagliflozin and its Pharmacodynamic (PD) properties along with subsequent PK, in clinical trials some adverse effects of dapagliflozin have been evaluated like hypoglycemia, Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) etc [29-31]. In current studies despite there was an initiation if such AE but it was managed and none required a medical assistance. In our current study we have demonstrated that age and BMI is a fact for the response rate to treatment with dapagliflozin. In current study, the response in age group  $< 55$  years was 90.3%, whereas in  $\geq 55$  years group, it was 83.3%. This finding was in line with the observation few older studies [32,33].

## CONCLUSION

Current retrospective has some limitations despite it indicated several significant findings about dapagliflozin. Lifestyle behaviors, diet and patient's adherence to medication regimen cannot be measured or followed and also the sample size was smaller. Despite of the limitations dapagliflozin undoubtedly established the superior efficacy of dapagliflozin to achieve target blood glucose level and provides an additional benefit to the reduction in body weight. A longitudinal follow-up studies with larger sample sizes should focus on future research. Dapagliflozin is effective in achieving the desired glycemic control. Early initiation of dapagliflozin is recommended for tighter glycemic control.

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