

# SGLT-2 inhibitors may raise risk for diabetic ketoacidosis

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(HealthDay)—In patients with type 2 diabetes, sodium-glucose

cotransporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors are associated with an increased risk for diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), according to a study published online July 28 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Antonios Douros, M.D., Ph.D., from McGill University in Montreal, and colleagues matched 208,757 new users of SGLT-2 inhibitors with 208,757 recipients of dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors to compare the risk for DKA in patients with type 2 diabetes. Data were obtained from seven Canadian provinces and the United Kingdom.

The researchers found that during 370,454 person-years of follow-up, 521 patients were diagnosed with DKA (incidence rate, 1.40 per 1,000 person-years). The risk for DKA was increased in association with SGLT-2 inhibitors versus DPP-4 inhibitors (incidence rate, 2.03 versus 0.75; hazard ratio, 2.85). Molecule-specific hazard ratios were 1.86, 2.52, and 3.58 for dapagliflozin, empagliflozin, and canagliflozin, respectively. The association was not modified by age or sex; prior insulin receipt seemed to reduce the risk.

"Because the beneficial effects of SGLT-2 inhibitors in the prevention of cardiovascular and renal disease will probably increase their uptake in the following years, physicians should be aware of DKA as a potential adverse effect," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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