

Emerging Treatments in Diabetic Kidney Disease (DKD)

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The Drivers of Diabetic nephropathy



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The pathogenesis of diabetic nephropathy

- These pathogenetic factors produce lesions in various kidney compartments:
- 1. Glomeruli
- 2. Tubuli
- 3. Interstitium
- 4. Vasculature



Pathological Classification of Diabetic Nephropathy

Class I	GBM thickening on electron microscopy; minimal, non-specific, or no changes on light microscopy	Patients may have such thickening but have no increase in urine albumin excretion rate or impairment of glomerular filtration rate observed within 2–8 years after the onset of
Class II	 Increase in mesangial matrix 	diabetes
Class IIa	•Mesangial expansion ≤25%	kidnev enlargement : kidnevs are often 11 cm
Class IIb	 Mesangial expansion >25% 	or larger on kidney ultrasound. Urine albumin excretion is often increased in these patients.
Class III	 Nodular <u>glomerulosclerosis</u>: Kimmelstiel-Wilson lesion 	An increase in mesangial matrix is followed by mesangial sclerosis.
Class IV	 Advanced <u>glomerulosclerosis;</u> >50% glomeruli sclerotic 	sclerosis in >50% of the glomeruli Loss of kidney function at the time of biopsy



Proinflammatory and Profibrotic Factors

- Inflammation and fibrosis are important causes of diabetic nephropathy
- Macrophages are activated to the proinflammatory (M1) phenotype by reactive oxygen species (ROS), angiotensin II, and the activation of <u>mineralocorticoid receptors (MRs)</u>.
- Mineralocorticoid receptors (MRs) activation, particularly in the myeloid cells, may be important in mediating inflammation and **fibrosis** in CKD and after AKI in individuals with type 2 diabetes.



Global burden of disease^{1,2}





CKD progression and CV risk^{3–6}

- Compared with T2D alone, comorbid CKD increases CV mortality
- CVD is a leading cause of death in patients with any stage of CKD
- CV mortality risk increases with <u>eGFR</u> <u>decline</u> and <u>increased albuminuria</u>



Unmet needs^{7–9}



Recent treatment options in the field have led to a decline in diabetes-related CV complications



However, there remains unaddressed residual risk of CKD progression and CV events

*Aged 20-79 years

1. International Diabetes Federation. *IDF Diabetes Atlas*, 9th edn. 2019. https://diabetesatlas.org/en/ [accessed 28 July 2021]; 2. Wu B, *et al. BMJ Open Diabetes Res Care* 2016;4:e000154; 3. Afkarian M, *et al. J Am Soc Nephrol* 2013;24:302–308; 4. Gansevoort RT, *et al. Lancet* 2013;382:339–352; 5. Astor BC, *et al. Am J Epidemiol* 2008;167:1226–1234; 6. Sarnak MJ, *et al. J Am Coll Cardiol* 2019;74:1823–1838; 7. Brenner BM, *et al. N Engl J Med* 2001;345:861–869; 8. Lewis EJ, *et al. N Engl J Med* 2001;345:851–860; 9. Perkovic V, *et al. N Engl J Med* 2019;380:2295–2306; 10. Giorgino F, *et al. Cardiovasc Diabetol* 2020;18:196



*Adjusted for age, sex, race or ethnic origin, smoking, SBP, antihypertensive drugs, diabetes, total and HDL cholesterol concentrations, and albuminuria (UACR or dipstick) or eGFR, as appropriate; #figure adapted from Matsushita K, *et al.* 2015

CKD, chronic kidney disease; CV, cardiovascular; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HR, hazard ratio; SBP, systolic blood pressure; T2D, type 2 diabetes; UACR, urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio 1. Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes. *Kidney Int* 2013;3:1–150; 2. Matsushita K, *et al. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol* 2015;3:514–525

RFSTR

Despite RAS blockade, patients with CKD and T2D are at high risk of CKD progression

RENAAL: Losartan vs placebo¹



IDNT: Irbesartan vs amlodipine vs placebo²



Primary composite endpoint: Doubling of SCr, kidney failure,[#] or death

*Kidney failure defined as need for long-term dialysis or kidney transplantation
 #Kidney failure defined as initiation of dialysis, kidney transplantation or a SCr ≥6.0 mg/dl (530 µM/l)

Despite SGLT-2i treatment being recommended for patients with CKD and diabetes,¹ further treatment options are needed

CREDENCE: Canagliflozin (+ RASi) vs placebo²

DAPA-CKD: Dapagliflozin (+ RASi) vs placebo (T2D subgroup)^{3,4}



CREDENCE and DAPA-CKD have shown that SGLT-2is offer kidney protection and lower the risk of CV events; however, in these studies, CKD progression or kidney failure still occurred in ~7% of patients and CV events in ~5–8% of patients after a median follow-up of ~2.5 years^{2,3}

creatinine

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1. Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Diabetes Work Group. Kidney Int. 2020;98:S1–S115; 2. Perkovic V, et al. N Engl J Med. 2019;380:2295–2306;

3. Heerspink HJL, et al. N Engl J Med. 2020;383:1436–1446; 4. Wheeler DC, et al. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2021;9:22-31

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An Introduction to Finerenone

Mechanism of Action



CKD in T2D progression, associated with increased CV risk, is driven by the combined effects of metabolic, haemodynamic, inflammatory and fibrotic factors



Alicic RZ, et al. Clin J Am Soc Nephrol 2017;12:2032–2045; 2. Mora-Fernández C, et al. J Physiol 2014;18:3997; 3. Bauersachs J, et al. Hypertension 2015;65:257–263;
 American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2022;45:S175–184; 5. American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2022;45:S144–174; 6. Kidokoro K, et al. Circulation 2019:140;303–315; 7. Zelniker TA & Braunwald E. J Am Coll Cardiol 2018;72:1845–1855; 8. Heerspink HJ, et al. Circulation 2016;134:752–772; 9. Zelniker TA & Braunwald E. J Am Coll Cardiol 2018;72:1845–1855; 8. Heerspink HJ, et al. Circulation 2016;134:752–772; 9. Zelniker TA & Braunwald E. J Am Coll Cardiol 2018;72:1845–1855; 8. Heerspink HJ, et al. Circulation 2016;134:752–772; 9. Zelniker TA & Braunwald E. J Am Coll Cardiol 2022;45:S125–S143; 11. Alicic RZ, et al. Adv Chronic Kidney Dis 2018;25:181–191

MR overactivation causes kidney and cardiovascular damage through inflammation and fibrosis



1. Buonafine M, et al. Am J Hypertension 2018;31:1165–1174; 2. Kolkhof P, et al. Handb Exp Pharmacol 2017;243:271–305; 3. Bauersachs J, et al. Hypertension 2015;65:257–263; 4. Gomez-Sanchez E & Gomez-Sanchez CE. Compr Physiol 2014;4:965–994; 5. Brown NJ. Nat Rev Nephrol 2013;9:459–469; 6. Biwer LA, et al. Am J Hypertension 2019;32:123–134; 7. Barrera-Chimal J, et al. Kidney Int 2019;96:302–319; 8. van de Heijden CDCC, et al. Cardiovasc Res 2018;114:944–953

MR overactivation, which contributes to inflammation and fibrosis, is a potential treatment target to slow CKD progression



Alicic RZ, *et al. Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* 2017;12:2032–2045; 2. Mora-Fernández C, *et al. J Physiol* 2014;18:3997; 3. Bauersachs J, *et al. Hypertension* 2015;65:257–263;
 Buonafine M, *et al. Am J Hypertension* 2018;31:1165–1174; 5. Brown NJ. *Nat Rev Nephrol* 2013;9:459–469; 6. Biwer LA, *et al. Am J Hypertension* 2019;32:123–134;
 Barrera-Chimal J, *et al. Kidney Int* 2019;96:302–319; 8. Kolkhof P, *et al. Handb Exp Pharmacol* 2017;243:271–305; 9. Alicic RZ, *et al. Adv Chronic Kidney Dis* 2018;25:1941–191

Differences in chemical structure may explain the properties of finerenone versus steroidal MRAs





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As a result, finerenone and steroidal MRAs have distinct gene expression patterns,^{3–5} preclinical properties and clinical effects^{6–9}





Amazit L, *et al. J Biol Chem* 2015;290:21876–21889; 2. Bärfacker L, *et al. ChemMedChem* 2012;7:1385–1403; 3. Grune J, *et al. Hypertension* 2018;71:599–608;
 Kolkhof P, *et al. J Cardiovasc Pharmacol* 2014;64:69–78; 5. Kolkhof P, *et al. Curr Opin Nephrol Hypertens* 2015;24:417–424; 6. Bakris GL, *et al. N Engl J Med* 2020;383:2219–2229;
 Pitt B, *et al. Eur Heart J* 2013;34:2453–2463; 8. Pitt B, *et al. N Engl J Med* 1999;341:709–717; 9. Agarwal R, *et al. Lancet* 2019;394:1540–1550

Differential MR binding of steroidal MRAs vs finerenone results in distinct effects on gene expression (1)



2014;64:69–78; 4. Sica DA. *Heart Fail Rev* 2005;10:23–29; 5. Amazit L, *et al. J Biol Chem* 2015;290:21876–21889; 6. Kolkhof P, *et al. Curr Opin Nephrol Hypertens* 2015;24:417–424; 7. Pitt B, *et al. Eur Heart J* 2013;34:2453–2463; 8. Bakris GL, *et al. JAMA* 2015;314:884–894; 9. Filippatos G, *et al. Eur Heart J* 2016;37:2105–2114; 10. kolkhof P, *et al. Handb Exp Pharmacol.* 2017;243:271-305

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*Hyperkalaemia was moderately increased in Phase 2 studies of inerenone

FIDELITY: A prespecified meta-analysis of FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD data



FIDELIO-DKD; Effect of Finerenone on Chronic Kidney Disease Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes

FIGARO-DKD: Cardiovascular Events with Finerenone in Kidney Disease and Type 2 Diabetes

FIDELITY is a large prespecified <u>individual patient-data meta-analysis</u> of the FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD phase III trials^{1–3} including CV- and kidney-specific composite outcomes across the spectrum of CKD stages



*Please refer to the slide notes section for footnotes

18 1. Bakris GL, et al. Am J Nephrol 2019;50:333–344; 2. Ruilope LM, et al. Am J Nephrol 2019;50:345–356; 3. Filippatos G, et al. ESC 2021; abstract 7161

Eligible patients in the FIDELITY prespecified meta-analysis included those with CKD and T2D, treated with an optimised dose of ACEi/ARB^{1,2}

Key inclusion criteria

eGFR: 25–90 ml/min/1.73 m² + UACR: 30–<300 mg/g (3.39–33.9 mg/mmol) [#] or eGFR: ≥25 ml/min/1.73 m² + UACR: ≥300 mg/g (33.9 mg/mmol)

Aged ≥18 years with T2D

On maximum tolerated dose of ACEi or ARB for ≥4 weeks

Serum [K⁺] ≤4.8 mmol/l at run-in and screening visit



Key exclusion criteria

HFrEF with NYHA Class II–IV

Uncontrolled arterial hypertension#

HbA1c >12%

Non-diabetic kidney disease, including clinically relevant renal artery stenosis

Stroke, transient ICA, ACS or HHF[‡]

UACR >5000 mg/g

*Patients with moderately elevated albuminuria were required to also have diabetic retinopathy in FIDELIO-DKD as part of the study inclusion criteria¹, this was not specified in the eligibility criteria in FIGARO-DKD, but patients in FIGARO-DKD had diabetic retinopathy at baseline²; #mean sitting SBP \geq 170 mmHg or mean sitting DBP \geq 110 mmHg at the run-in visit, or mean sitting SBP \geq 160 mmHg or mean sitting DBP \geq 100 mmHg at the screening visit^{1,2}; [‡]in the last 30 days prior to the screening visit^{1,2}

19 1. Ruilope LM, et al. Am J Nephrol 2019;50:345–356; 2. Bakris GL, et al. N Engl J Med 2020;383:2219–2229

Kidney composite outcome*: Summary

- In patients with CKD stage 1–4 with moderate-to-severely elevated albuminuria and T2D treated with optimised RAS therapy:

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- Finerenone significantly reduced the risk of kidney composite outcome* by 23% (equivalent to an HR of 0.77) vs placebo
 - With consistent effects on the components of the kidney composite outcome
 - Absolute risk reduction = 1.7% at 3 years
- Kidney benefits of finerenone were clinically relevant
 - NNT to prevent one kidney outcome event over 3 years = 60

*Time to kidney failure, sustained ≥57% decrease in eGFR from baseline, or renal death Filippatos G, *et al. ESC* 2021; abstract 7161



CV composite outcome: Summary

 In patients with CKD stage 1–4 with moderate-to-severely elevated albuminuria and T2D treated with optimised RAS therapy :

- Finerenone significantly reduced the risk of CV morbidity and mortality by 14% (equivalent to an HR of 0.86) vs placebo
 - With consistent effects irrespective of region, baseline CKD severity, blood pressure, HbA1c and serum [K⁺]
 - Absolute risk reduction = 2.2% at 3 years
- CV benefits of finerenone were clinically relevant
 - NNT to prevent one CV outcome event over 3 years = 46





Many patients with T2D and CKD are already on an SGLT2i. Can finerenone be used in combination with an SGLT2i?

SGLT-2i use at baseline

877 (6.7%) patients on an SGLT-2i



Reduction in UACR (%) with finerenone vs placebo



Full analysis set. Mixed model with factors for treatment group, region, eGFR category at screening, type of albuminuria at screening, CV disease history; time, treatment*time, log-transformed baseline value nested within type of albuminuria at screening, and log-transformed baseline value*time as covariates G_{mean}, geometric mean

23 Rossing P, et al. ASN 2021; Abstract SA-OR22



Finerenone showed modest effects on SBP and no sexual side effects. Hyperkalemia was increased but clinical impact was low in this study

Modest effect on systolic blood pressure

No sexual side-effects



Safety and vital signs: Summary

In a patient population with advanced CKD in T2D, treated with a maximally tolerated dose of ACEi/ARB:

With the exception of temporary withdrawal of study drug, K⁺ management was at the investigator's discretion

ACEi, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; AE, adverse event; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; CKD, chronic kidney disease; HbA1c, glycated haemoglobin Bakris GL, *et al.* 2020, N Engl J Med. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2025845

Overall summary

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The FIDELITY pre-specified meta-analysis of the FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD studies comprises the largest cardiorenal outcome analysis of patients with CKD and T2D to date

Clinical practice guidelines

Current recommendations by scientific societies on treatment with finerenone

ADA Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes 2022^{1,2}

In patients with CKD who are at increased risk for CV events, CKD progression or are unable to use an SGLT-2i, finerenone is recommended to reduce CKD progression and CV events. [Evidence level: A]

In patients with **CKD** and **T2D** treated with maximum tolerated doses of ACEi/ARB, **finerenone** should be considered to **improve CV outcomes** and **reduce risk of CKD progression**. **[Evidence level: A]**

KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Diabetes Management in CKD³

We suggest a nonsteroidal MRA with proven kidney or CV benefit for patients with T2D, an eGFR ≥25 ml/min/1.73 m², normal serum [K⁺] and albuminuria despite maximum tolerated dose of RASi [Grade 2A]

ADA and KDIGO consensus report 2022⁴

A nonsteroidal MRA with proven kidney and CV benefit is recommended for patients with T2D, eGFR ≥25 ml/min/1.73 m², normal serum [K⁺] and albuminuria (≥30 mg/g) despite maximum tolerated dose of RASi [Level 2A]

1. American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2022;45(Suppl 1):S175–S184; 2. American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2022;45(Suppl 1):S144–S174;

30 3. Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO). *Kidney Int* 2022;102:S1–S128; 4. de Boer IH, et al. Diabetes Care 2022; doi: 10.2337/dci22-0027

Prior to initiation of treatment, serum [K⁺] and eGFR must be measured

20 n

10 mg

20 mg

Od

OC

od

*Initiation of finerenone may be considered with additional serum potassium monitoring within the first 4 weeks based on clinical judgement and serum potassium levels. Initiation of treatment is not recommended in patients with serum potassium > 5.0 mmol/L

In patients with eGFR < 15 mL/min/1.73m2, discontinue KERENDIA treatment as clinical experience is limited. KERENDIA Product Monograph October 14th, 2022

https://www.bayer.com/sites/default/files/kerendia-pm-en.pdf

In an exploratory analysis, the acute effect of finerenone is a drop in eGFR but the long-term effect is a slowing of eGFR decline*

*Mixed model analysis of eGFR over time. Full analysis set; #LS mean change in eGFR slope from baseline to month 4; ‡LS mean change in eGFR slope from month 4 to the permanent discontinuation or end-of-study visit

CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; LS, least-squares

32 Bakris GL, et al. 2020, N Engl J Med. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2025845

How do you monitor and adjust the dose for finerenone?

RESTR

*Based on patient characteristics and serum [K+]; #If eGFR has decreased by more than 30% compared to previous measurement, maintain 10 mg dose KERENDIA Product Monograph October 14th, 2022

33 <u>https://www.bayer.com/sites/default/files/kerendia-pm-en.pdf</u>

General strategies to reduce the risk of hyperkalemia

34 CKD, chronic kidney disease; HF, heart failure; K+, potassium; RAASi, renin-angiotensin aldosterone system inhibitor. Adapted from: Weinstein J, Girard LP, Lepage S, et al. CMAJ. 2021 Dec 6;193(48):E1836-E1841.

Other important adverse events to consider^{1,2}

Very common (≥10%)Hyperkalaemia

Hypotension

Reductions in GFR

Following a mild decrease in SBP (3 mmHg) and DBP (1–2 mmHg) after 1 month, it remained stable thereafter

Common (≥1% to <10%)

- Hypotension
- eGFR decreased
- Hyponatraemia

The initial decrease in eGFR with fineren

• The initial decrease in eGFR with finerenone attenuated over time, and was reversible with continuous treatment

In summary

As an adjunct to standard treatment, Finerenone can help reduce residual renal and CV risks in patients with:

Type 2 diabetes

A serum $K+ \le 4.8 \text{ mmol/L or}$ 4.8 to 5.0 mmol/L (with closer monitoring)

Chronic kidney disease (stages 2 to 4 : eGFR < 90 mL/ min/1.73 m2 to \ge 25 mL/min/1.73 m²)

Treatment with maximum dose of ACEI or ARB ± SGLT2i

Discussion and Q&A

Thanks

