



Advancing Kidney Health

Through Optimal Medication Management

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CKD Treatment

Addressing Kidney and Cardiometabolic Outcomes Part 2: SGLT-2 Inhibitors



What We're Going to Cover

- Why do SGLT-2is matter?
- The answer
- Case Scenario: SGLT-2i
- Key takeaways



Case Scenario: MR



- 68-year-old White female
- PMH = T2DM, HTN, dyslipidemia, CKD



Image is stock photo from Microsoft PowerPoint

Current Medications

- linagliptin 5 mg PO daily
- lisinopril 10 mg PO daily
- chlorthalidone 12.5 mg PO daily
- atorvastatin 40 mg PO daily
- ezetimibe 10 mg PO daily

Labs & Physical Findings

- HbA1c = 6.9%
- BP = 118/70 mmHg
- eGFR (non-indexed)* = 22 mL/min
- eGFR (indexed)* = 17 mL/min/1.73m²
- UACR = 190 mg/g
- BMI 32 kg/m²



*CKD-EPI_{Cr} 2021 non-race based eGFR

Why Do SGLT-2 Inhibitors Matter?

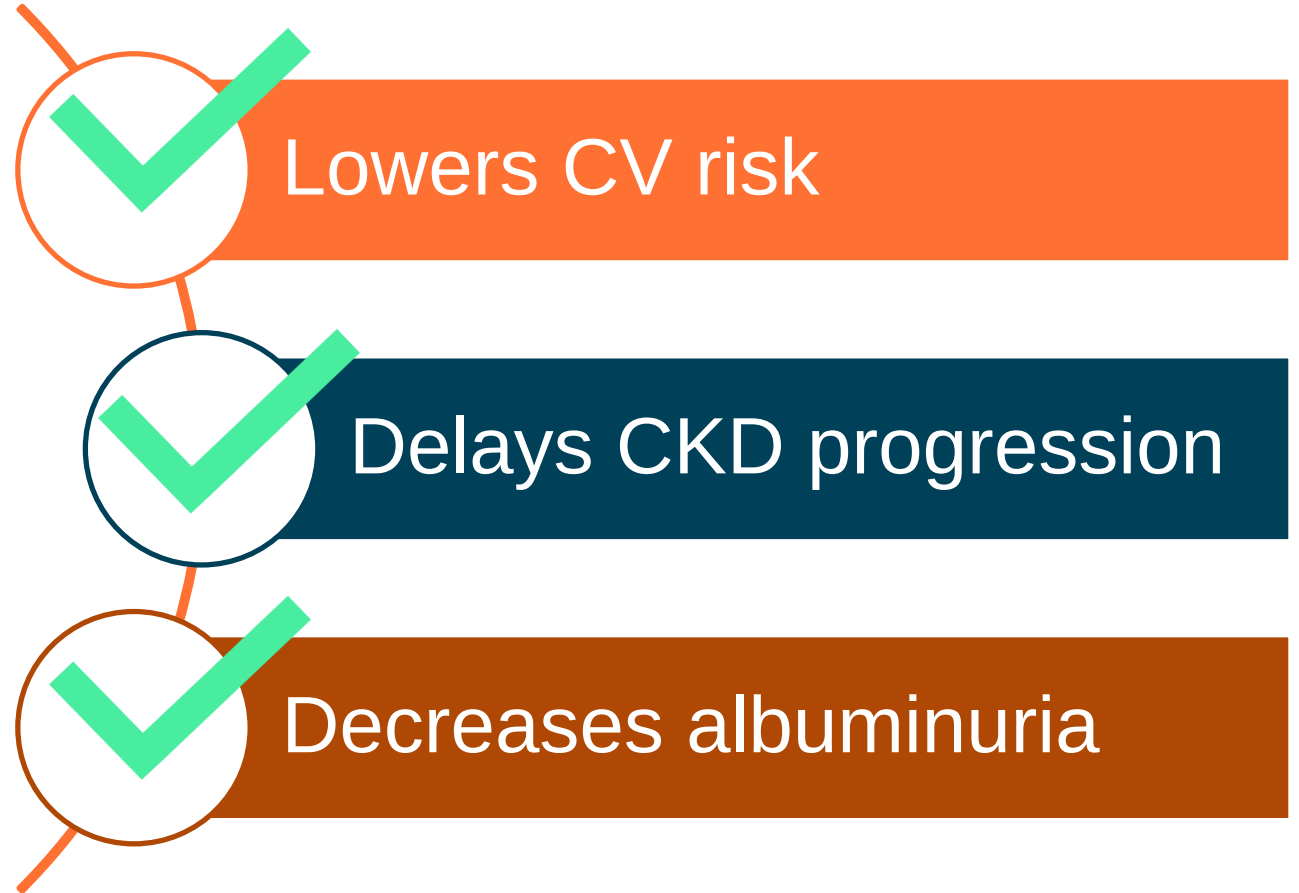
- Limited drugs specifically to delay or prevent CKD progression
- SGLT-2 is initially approved for DM!
 - Diabetes is leading cause of CKD, ESKD
- DM trials showed CV, kidney benefits



The Solution

SGLT-2 inhibitors
are cornerstone
of optimal
medication
management in
kidney disease

*Irrespective of
glycemic control,
diabetes status!*



What is the “?” symbol?



- On slides with the orange question mark, select the “I” button for more information.
- When you are done reviewing the material, press the “X” to return to the video.
- You may need to press the “PLAY” key to resume watching the module.



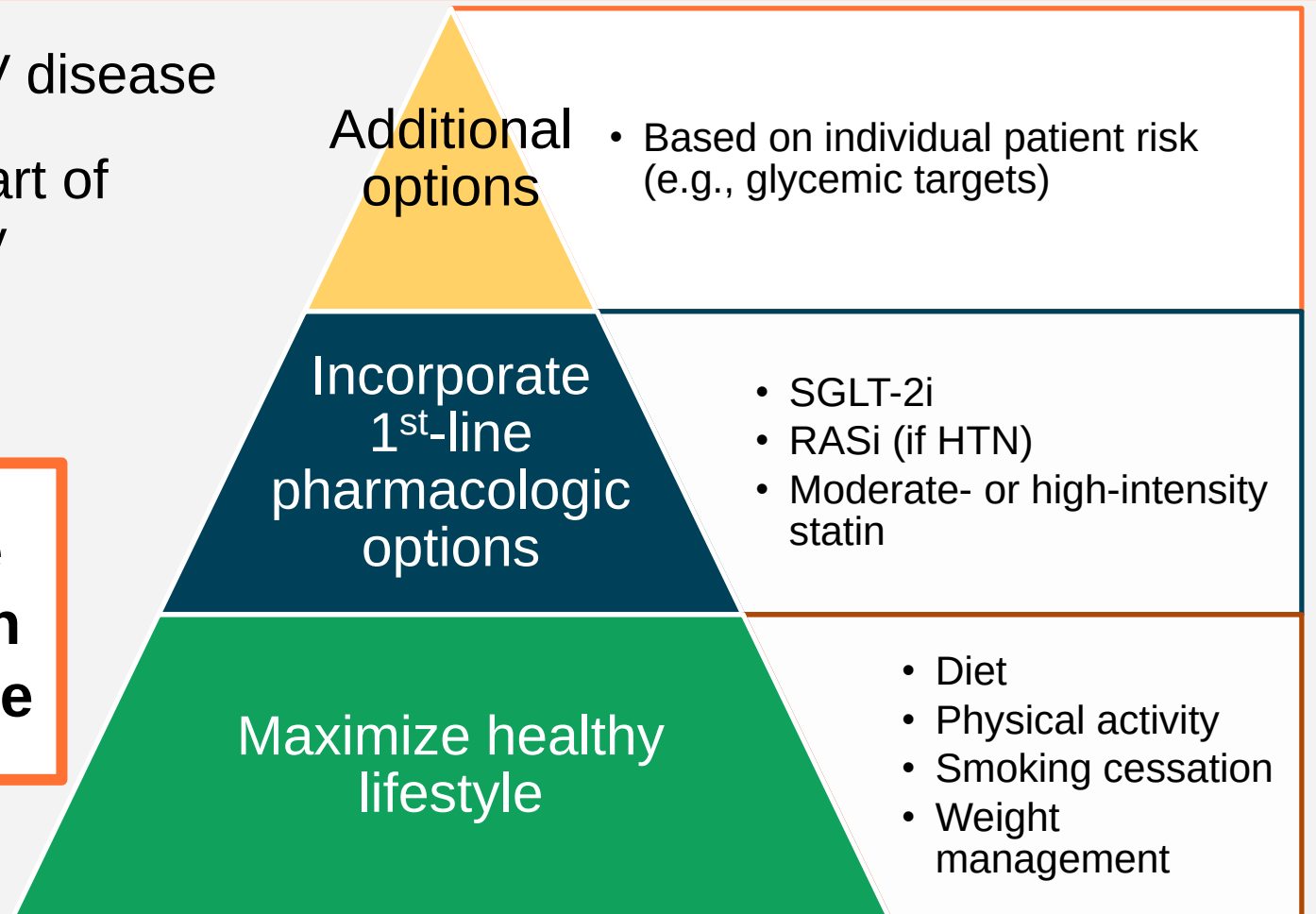
What Do the Guidelines Say?



- CKD = high risk of CV disease
- Glycemic control is part of management strategy



**SGLT-2 inhibitors are
1st-line drug therapy in
diabetic kidney disease**



What Do the Guidelines Say?

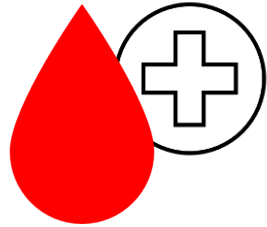


- SGLT-2 inhibitors should be used to prevent heart failure hospitalizations in T2DM + established CVD (or high CV risk)
- Irrespective of diabetes, SGLT-2 inhibitors are GDMT for:
 - HFpEF
 - HFmrEF
 - HFrEF

**SGLT-2 inhibitors are
backbone of therapy for
management and
prevention of heart failure**



Let's Bring It Together



Diabetes



Heart Failure



SGLT-2 inhibitors are cornerstone
of optimal medication
management in **kidney disease**...

- WITH or WITHOUT diabetes
- WITH or WITHOUT heart failure

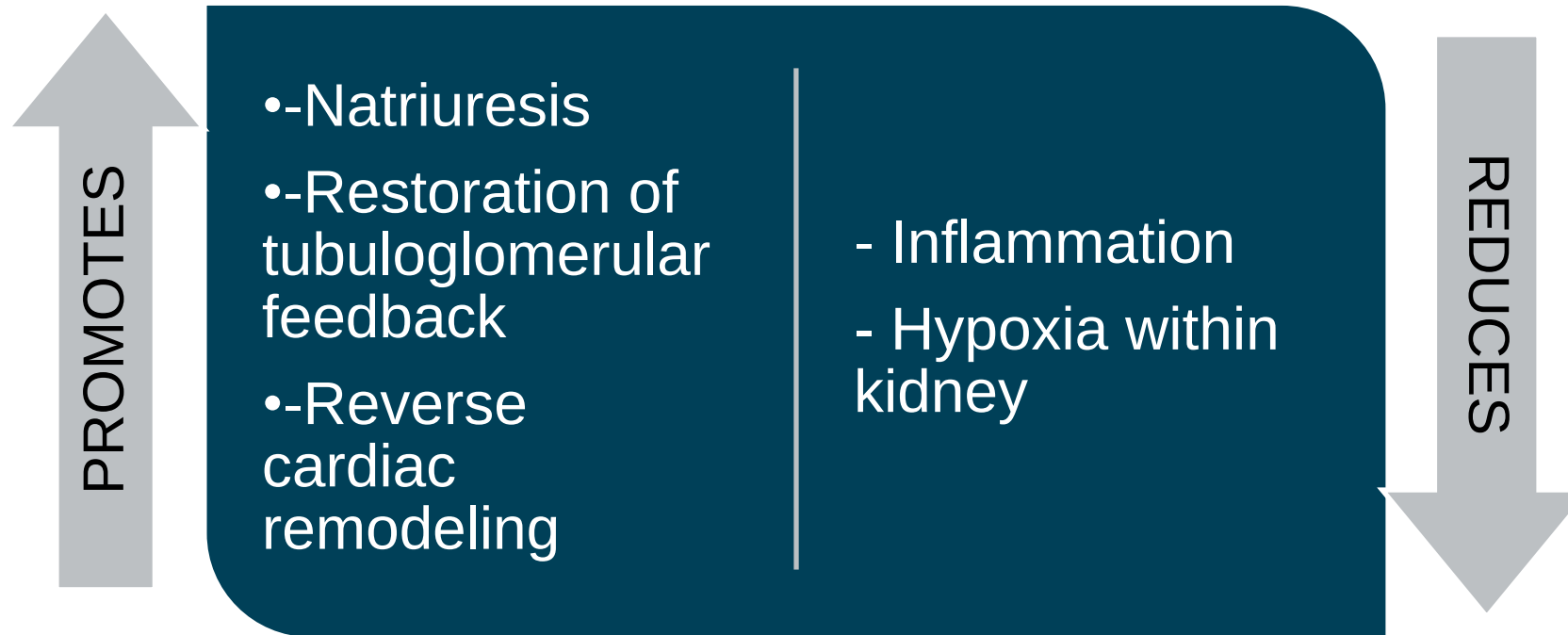


Assuming no other notable findings, which of the following individuals is NOT a candidate for an SGLT-2 inhibitor?

Option		Feedback / Rationale
A.	63-year-old male with CKD and diabetes (A1c is above goal).	Incorrect. SGLT-2 inhibitors <u>are</u> recommended in diabetes.
B.	79-year-old male with CKD and HFpEF.	Incorrect. SGLT-2 inhibitors <u>are</u> recommended in heart failure.
C.	48-year-old female with CKD.	Incorrect. SGLT-2 inhibitors <u>are</u> recommended in CKD, <u>regardless</u> of concomitant diabetes and/or heart failure.
D.	All of the above are candidates for an SGLT-2 inhibitor.	<u>Correct!</u> SGLT-2 inhibitors <u>are</u> recommended in people living with diabetes and heart failure as well as those living with CKD.

How Do SGLT-2 Inhibitors Help the Heart & Kidneys?

CV, renal benefits appear independent of glycemic control!



At-A-Glance: SGLT-2i Clinical Trials

2015: EMPA-REG
OUTCOME*

2019: DECLARE TIMI-58*
CREDENCE*

2022: EMPA-KIDNEY

2017: CANVAS*

2020: DAPA-CKD
VERTIS-CV

*all enrolled subjects had diabetes

Selected SGLT-2 T2DM Trials: Summary

	EMPA-REG OUTCOME	CANVAS	DECLARE TIMI-58
Drug	empagliflozin	canagliflozin	dapagliflozin
T2DM; CVD	100%; 99%	100%; ~65%	100%; ~40%
Primary (1°) Outcome	<u>3-pt MACE: 0.86 (0.74-0.99)</u> • CVD 0.62 (0.49-0.77) • MI 0.87 (0.70-1.09) • Stroke 1.24 (0.92-1.67)	<u>3-pt MACE: 0.86 (0.75-0.97)</u> • CVD 0.87 (0.72-1.06) • MI 0.85 (0.69-1.05) • Stroke 0.90 (0.71-1.15)	<u>3-pt MACE: 0.93 (0.84-1.03)</u> • CVD 0.98 (0.82-1.17) • MI 0.89 (0.77-1.01) • Stroke 1.01 (0.84-1.21)
Secondary (2°) Renal*	<u>2°: 0.50 (0.32-0.77)</u>	<u>2°: 0.60 (0.47-0.77)</u> <u>Albuminuria: 0.73 (0.67-0.79)</u>	<u>2°: 0.53 (0.43-0.66)</u>
Conclusion	Empagliflozin, canagliflozin, and dapagliflozin have additional CV and nephroprotective benefits in individuals with Type 2 diabetes mellitus.		

MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; CVD, CV death; MI, myocardial infarction

*renal outcomes varied by trial

Zinman et al. NEJM. 2015; 373:2117-2128.
 Anker et al. NEJM. 2021; 385:1451-1461.
 Wanner et al. NEJM. 2016; 375:323-334.
 Wiviott et al. NEJM. 2019; 380:347-357.

Selected SGLT-2 Inhibitor Cardiovascular Outcome Trials

	EMPEROR-R	EMPEROR-P	CANVAS	VERTIS-CV	DAPA-HF
Drug	empagliflozin	empagliflozin	canagliflozin	ertugliflozin	dapagliflozin
T2DM; CVD	50%; 100%	49%; 100%	100%; ~65%	100%; 23%	42%; 100%
eGFR for Inclusion	≥ 20	≥ 20	≥ 30	≥ 30	≥ 30
Mean eGFR	61.8	61	76	76	66
eGFR < 60	48%	50%	20%	22%	7.4%
1° Outcome	<u>CVD or HFH: 0.75 (0.65-0.86)</u> • CVD 0.92 (0.75-1.12) • HHF 0.69 (0.59-0.81)	<u>CVD or HFH: 0.79 (0.69-0.90)</u> • CVD 0.91 (0.76-1.09) • HHF 0.71 (0.60-0.83)	<u>3-pt MACE: 0.86 (0.75-0.97)</u> • CVD 0.87 (0.72-1.06) • MI 0.85 (0.69-1.05) • Stroke 0.90 (0.71-1.15)	<u>3-pt MACE: 0.97 (0.85-1.11)</u>	<u>4-pt MACE: 0.74 (0.65-0.85)</u> • CVD 0.82 (0.69-0.98) • HHF 0.70 (0.59-0.83) • UHFV 0.43 (0.20-0.90) • HHF or UHFV 0.70 (0.59-0.83)
2° Renal*	0.50 (0.32-0.77)	Not significant	0.60 (0.47-0.77)	Not significant	Not significant
T2DM Subgroup	0.75 (0.60-0.87) vs 0.78 (0.64-0.97)	0.79 (0.67-0.94) vs 0.78 (0.64-0.95)	N/A	N/A	0.75 (0.63-0.90) vs 0.73 (0.60-0.88)
FDA CV Indication?	YES	YES	YES – in T2DM only	NO	YES

Conclusion Empagliflozin, canagliflozin, and dapagliflozin have additional CV indications for use in select populations.

MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; CVD, CV death; HHF, hospitalization for HF; UHFV, urgent HF visit.

*renal outcomes varied by trial

Neal et al. NEJM. 2017; 377(7):644-657.
Packer et al. NEJM. 2020; 383:1413-1424.
Anker et al. NEJM. 2021; 385:1451-1461.
Cannon et al. NEJM. 2020; 383:1425-1435.
McMurray et al. NEJM. 2019;381:1995-2008

Baseline Kidney Function in SGLT-2i Trials

Prognosis of CKD by GFR and Albuminuria Categories

				Albuminuria categories		
				Description and range		
				A1	A2	A3
				Normal to mildly increased <30 mg/g <3 mg/mmol	Moderately increased 30-299 mg/g 3-29 mg/mmol	Severely increased ≥300 mg/g ≥30 mg/mmol
GFR categories (ml/min/1.73 m ²) Description and range	G1	Normal or high	≥90	Green	Yellow	Orange
	G2	Mildly decreased	60-90	Green★	Yellow	Orange
	G3a	Mildly to moderately decreased	45-59	Yellow	Orange	Red★
	G3b	Moderately to severely decreased	30-44	Yellow	Red	Red★
	G4	Severely decreased	15-29	Red	Red	Red
	G5	Kidney failure	<15	Red	Red	Red

Green: low risk (if no other markers of kidney disease, no CKD); Yellow: moderately increased risk; Orange: high risk; Red, very high risk.
KDIGO 2012

- Earlier trials included *only* those living with diabetes
 - Albuminuria at baseline varied
- In kidney outcomes trials, some included those *without* diabetes
 - Baseline albuminuria varied

Blue = EMPA-REG OUTCOME; CANVAS; DECLARE TIMI-58; VERTIS CV
Green = CREDENCE
Purple = DAPA-CKD
Dashed line = EMPA-KIDNEY
★ Stars represent average study participant

Selected SGLT-2i CKD Trials: CREDENCE

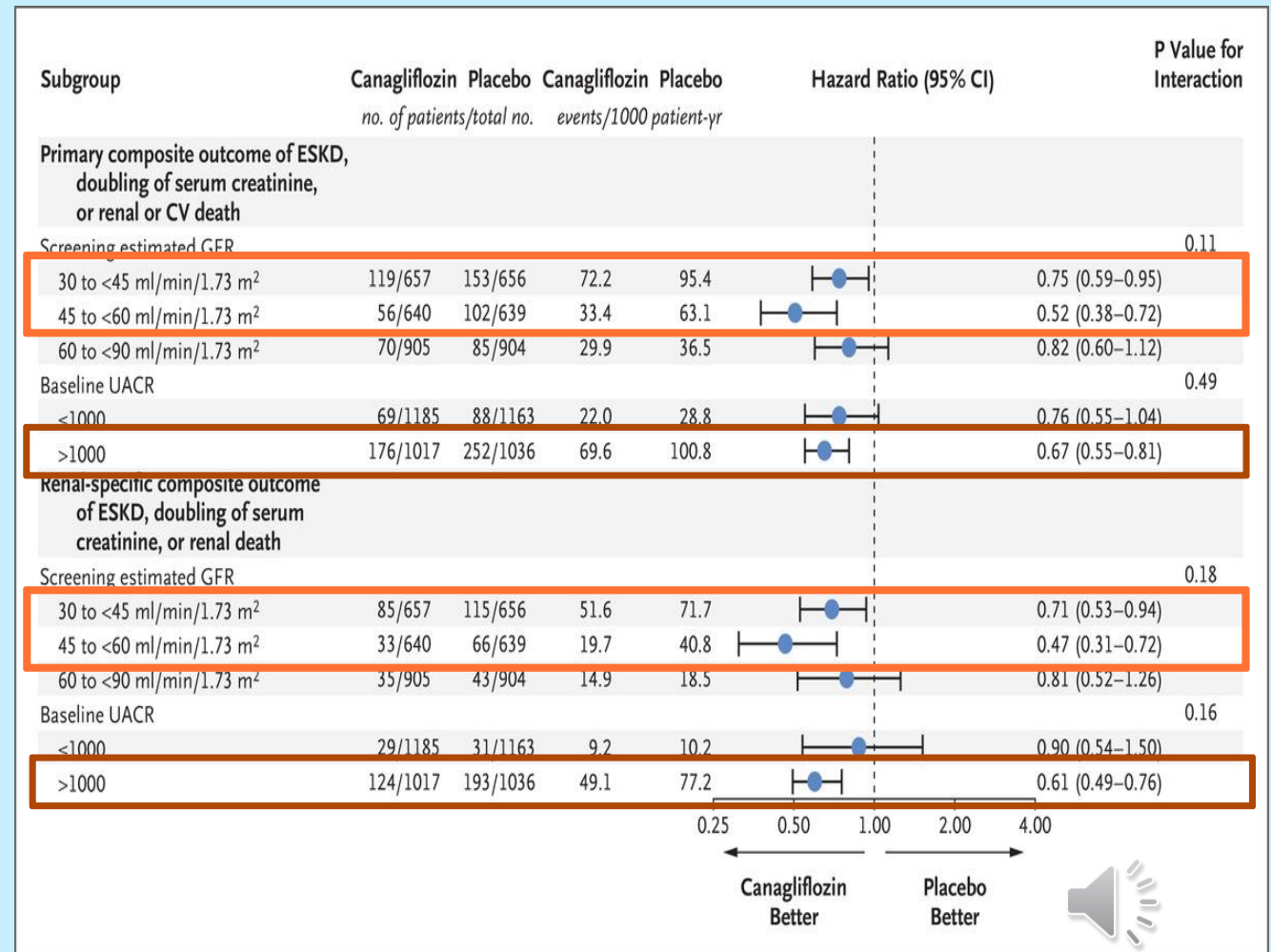
Drug	canagliflozin
T2DM; CVD	100%; 50%
eGFR for Inclusion	30-90 (+UACR > 300 mg/g)
Mean eGFR	56 mL/min/1.73m ² (Note: 26% eGFR < 60)
1° Outcome	<u>4-pt composite: 0.70 (0.59-0.82)</u> • 2x SCr 0.60 (0.48-0.76) • ESKD 0.68 (0.54-0.86) • Renal death NS • CV death 0.78 (0.61-1.00)
Renal Outcome	0.66 (0.53-0.82)
Conclusion	Canagliflozin improves kidney outcomes in T2DM + UACR > 300 mg/g

NNT = 22



CREDENCE Sub-Group Analysis

- Primary outcome significant:
 - eGFR < 60 mL/min/1.73m²
 - Baseline UACR > 1000 mg/g
- Renal-specific outcome similar



Selected SGLT-2i CKD Trials: DAPA-CKD

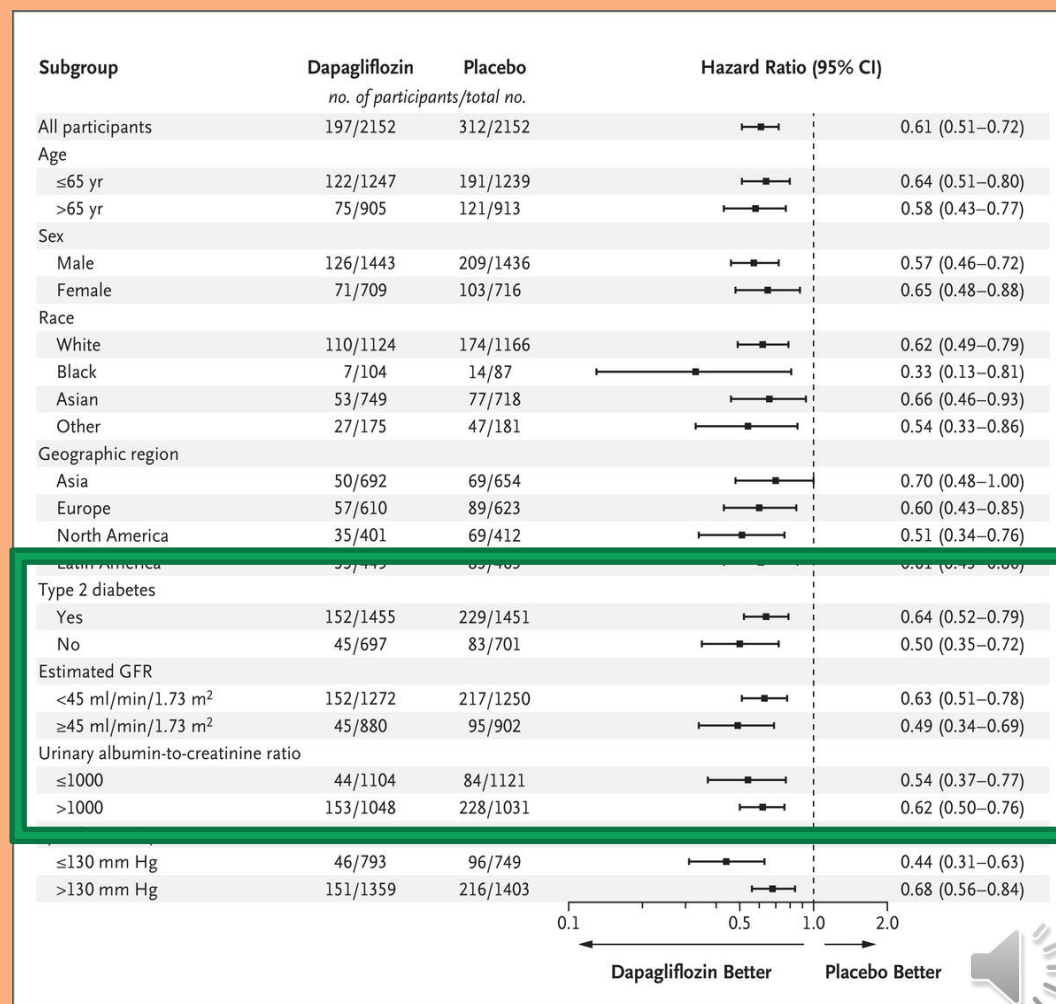
Drug	dapagliflozin
T2DM; CVD	67%; 37%
eGFR for Inclusion	25-75 (+ UACR $\geq$ 200 mg/g)
Mean eGFR	43 (Note: 14.5% eGFR < 30)
1° Outcome	<u>4-pt composite: 0.61 (0.51-0.72)</u> • $\downarrow$ eGFR $\geq$ 50% 0.53 (0.42-0.67) • ESKD 0.64 (0.50-0.82) • Renal death NS • CV death 0.81 (0.58-1.12)
Renal Outcome	0.56 (0.45-0.68)
Conclusion	Dapagliflozin improves kidney outcomes in those with CKD at risk of progression, regardless of diabetes.

NNT = 19



DAPA-CKD Sub-Group Analysis

- Primary outcome significant across subgroups
 - Diabetes status
 - Baseline eGFR
 - Baseline albuminuria



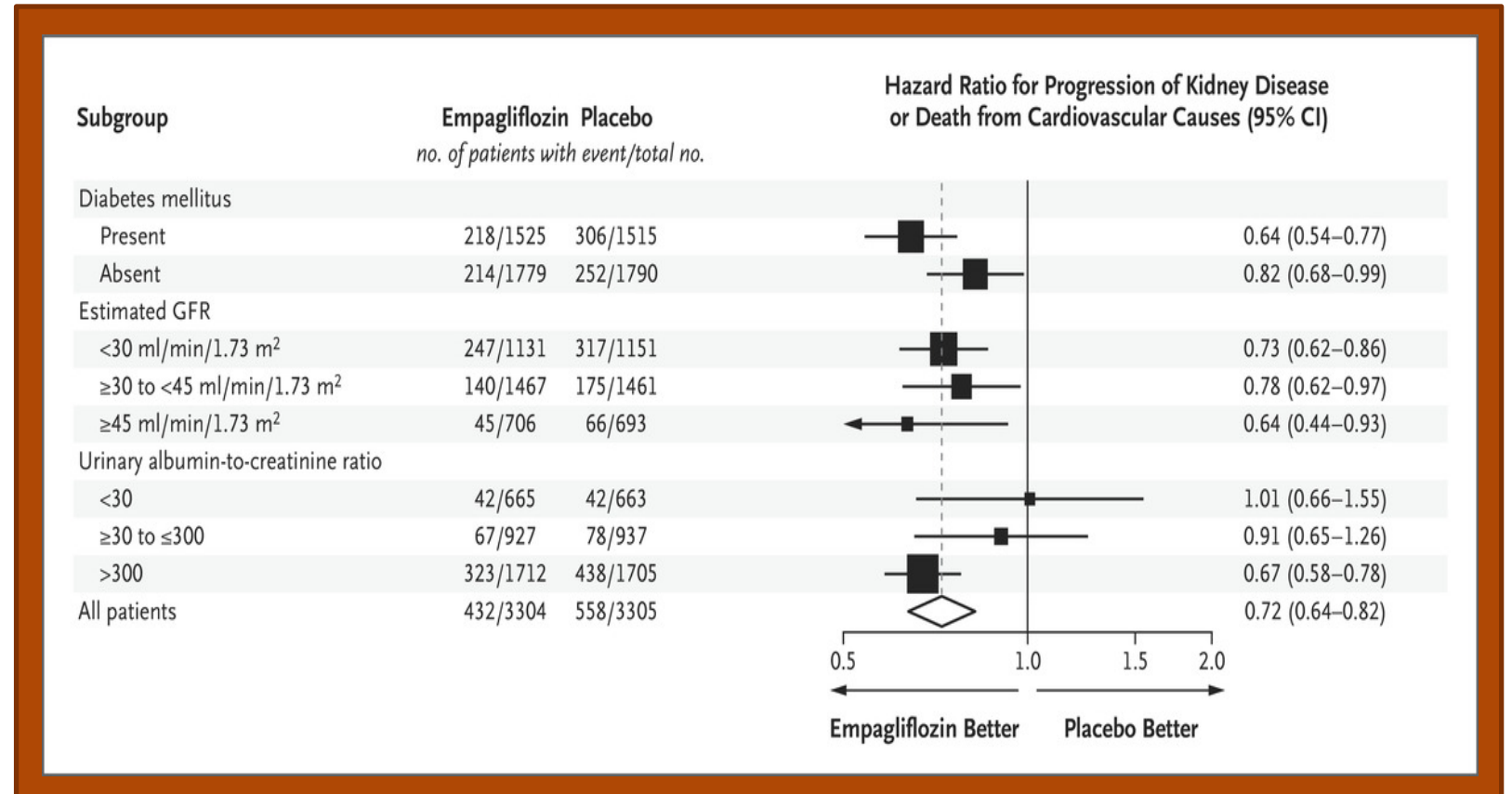
Selected SGLT-2i CKD Trials: EMPA-KIDNEY

Drug	empagliflozin
T2DM; CVD	46%; 26%
eGFR for Inclusion	20-44 <i>or</i> 45-89 (+UACR $\geq$ 200 mg/g)
Mean eGFR	37 (Note: 34.5% eGFR < 30)
1° Outcome	<u>5-pt composite: 0.72 (0.64-0.82)</u> • $\downarrow$ eGFR $\geq$ 40% 0.70 0.61-0.81 • Sustained eGFR < 10 (0.69 0.54-0.87) • ESKD 0.67 (0.52-0.85) • Renal death 0.90 (0.22-3.66) • CVD 0.81 (0.60-1.19)
Renal Outcome	0.71 (0.62-0.81)
Conclusion	Empagliflozin reduces the risk of CKD progression in those with CKD.



EMPA-KIDNEY Sub-Group Analysis

- Benefit persists across subgroups
 - Diabetes status
 - Baseline eGFR
- Benefit greater in higher baseline UACR



Selected SGLT-2 CKD Trials: Summary



- Canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin reduce risk of composite kidney endpoint in those with CKD
 - With or without diabetes
 - With or without heart failure
- Endpoints driven by reduction in progression of kidney disease
 - Mortality outcomes not significant



Which of the following SGLT-2 inhibitors has demonstrated kidney benefits in CKD?

Option		Feedback / Rationale
A.	Dapagliflozin	<u>Correct!</u> Dapagliflozin is one of the SGLT-2 inhibitors with demonstrated cardiovascular and kidney protective benefits in CKD.
B.	Ertugliflozin	Incorrect. Ertugliflozin does NOT have evidence demonstrating cardiovascular or kidney protective benefits in CKD.
C.	Sotagliflozin	Incorrect. Sotagliflozin does NOT have evidence demonstrating cardiovascular or kidney protective benefits in CKD.
D.	All of the above have demonstrated kidney benefits in CKD.	Incorrect. Of the choices above, only dapagliflozin is correct. The two other SGLT-2 inhibitors with demonstrated cardiovascular and kidney benefits are: canagliflozin and empagliflozin.

Pros & Cons of SGLT-2 Inhibitors



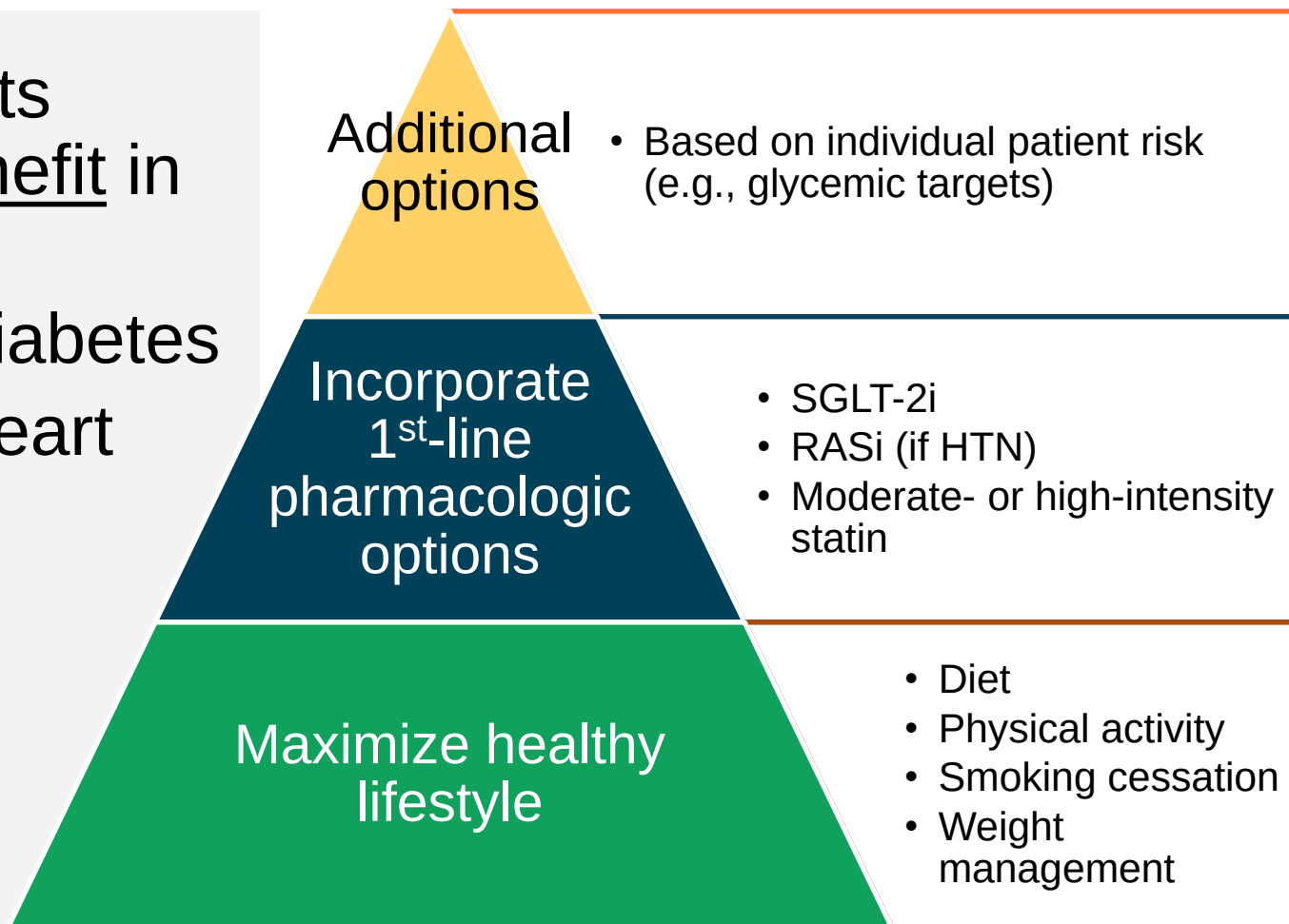
- Beneficial CV, kidney effects
- Low hypoglycemia risk
- Weight loss
- Oral agent
- No need for dose escalation

- High cost
- Intermediate glycemic lowering efficacy
- Diminishing glycemic lowering at lower eGFRs
- Potential volume depletion, genitourinary infection
- Euglycemic DKA



Where's the place for SGLT-2 Inhibitors in CKD?

- Clinical evidence supports SGLT-2i with proven benefit in CKD:
 - WITH or WITHOUT diabetes
 - WITH or WITHOUT heart failure
- In conjunction with other evidence-based treatments



Dosing in CKD

eGFR
30-44*

- Canagliflozin 100 mg PO daily
- Dapagliflozin 10 mg PO daily
- Empagliflozin 10 mg PO daily
- **NO** ertugliflozin at eGFR < 45

eGFR
15-29*

- **DO NOT START** canagliflozin
- *If eGFR < 25, **DO NOT START** dapagliflozin*
- *If eGFR < 20, **DO NOT START** empagliflozin*

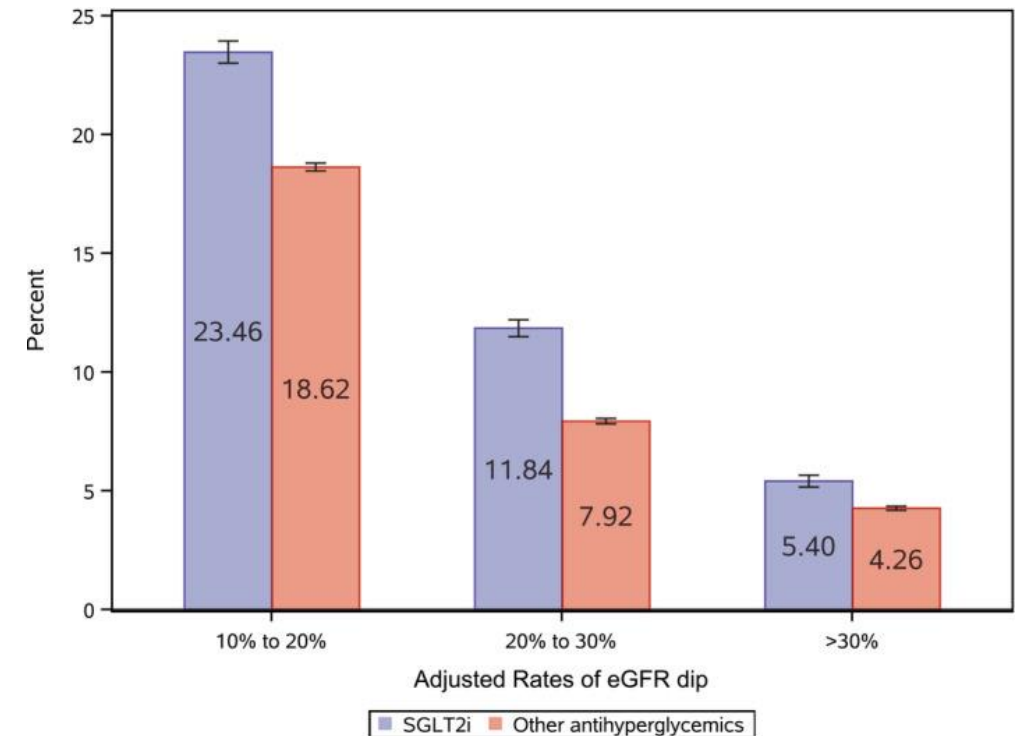
* mL/min/1.73m²

- No need to escalate/titrate doses
- Current eGFR cutoffs for initiation
 - Continue until dialysis!
 - Expect initial “dip” in eGFR



What do you mean by “initial dip”?

- **Initial eGFR decline is expected**
(~3-5 mL/min/1.73m²)
 - eGFR decline > 30% is rare
- Partial eGFR recovery after 12 weeks
- CV, kidney benefits persist *regardless* of degree of eGFR dip
- SGLT-2i attenuates rate of eGFR decline over time
 - Alone, eGFR dip may **NOT** warrant SGLT-2 inhibitor discontinuation!



Meraz-Munoz AY et al. *Kidney360*. 2021;2(6):1042-1047.

Xie Y, et al. *J Am Heart Assoc*. 2021;10(11):e020237.

Heerspink HJL and Cherney DZI. *CJASN*. 2021;16(8):1278-1280.



Clinical Considerations

I'm worried about...	Consider...
↓ eGFR, ↑ sCr	• An initial, small change <u>is</u> expected! • Ensuring appropriate lab monitoring, medication counseling • Assess volume status
Dehydration due to illness	• Empower your patients • Facilitate medication education • “Sick day” protocols
Concomitant antidiabetic drugs	• Low hypoglycemia risk • Consider decreasing insulin doses by ~10-20% • Consider tapering off or stopping insulin secretagogues • Discuss hypoglycemia management, recognition of signs & symptoms
Concomitant diuretics	• Do NOT start if hypovolemic, hypotensive • May need to reduce dose or stop if euvolemic/normotensive

Meraz-Munoz AY, Weinstein J, Wald R. *Kidney360*. 2021;2(6):1042-1047.

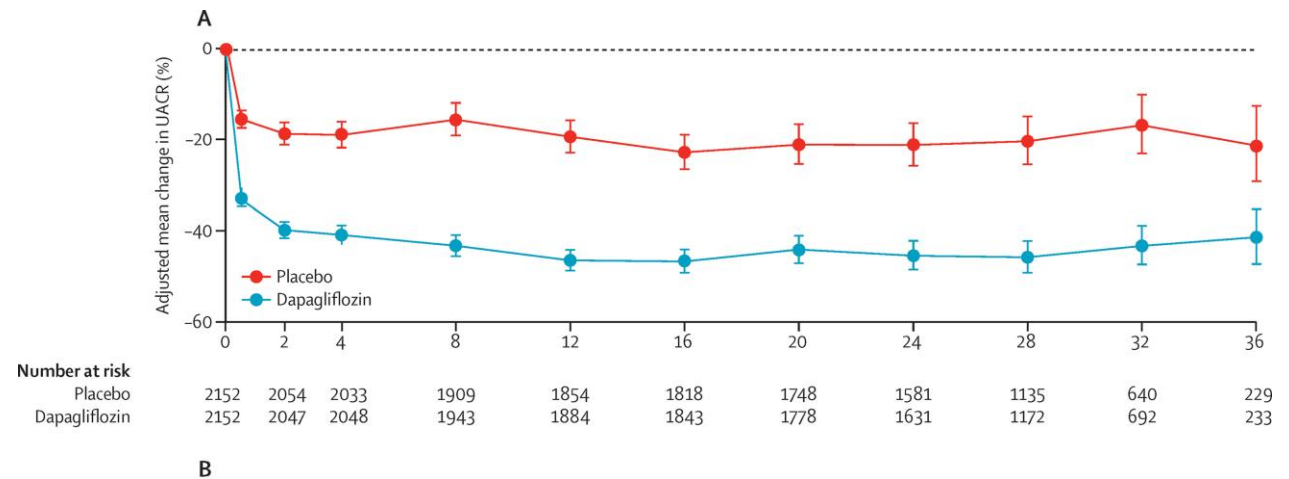
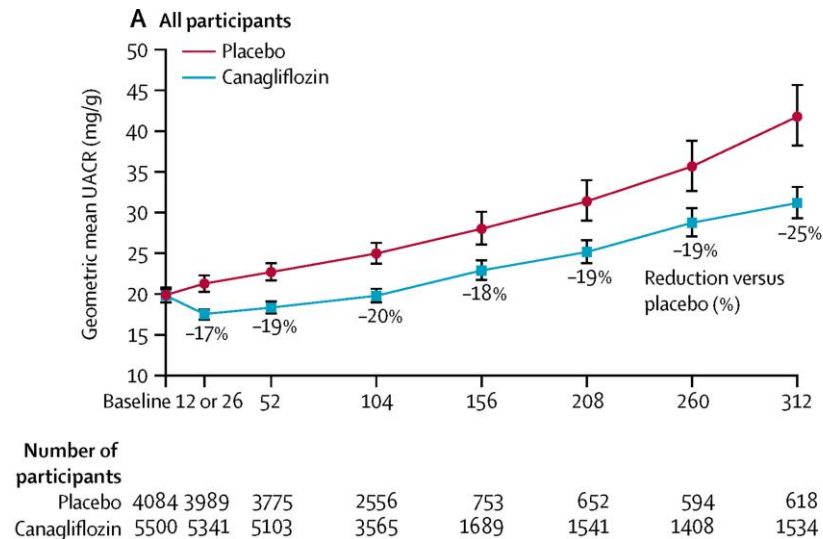
Lam D, Shaikh A. *Kidney360*. 2021;2(4):742-746.

Das SR et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2020;76(9):1117-1145.



Clinical Consideration: Albuminuria

- **SGLT-2 inhibitors improve albuminuria regardless of $\Delta HbA1c$**
 - Effect appears after weeks (dapagliflozin) to months (canagliflozin)
 - Reduction in albuminuria sustained
- Consider appropriate guidelines – may inform your decision to add other guideline-recommended agents (e.g., finerenone)



Perkovic V et al. *Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinol.* 2018;6(9):691-704.
 Jongs N et al. *Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinol.* 2021;9(11):755-766.



Case Scenario: MR



- 68-year-old White female
- PMH = T2DM, HTN, dyslipidemia, CKD



Image is stock photo from Microsoft PowerPoint

Current Medications

- linagliptin 5 mg PO daily
- lisinopril 10 mg PO daily
- chlorthalidone 25 mg PO daily
- atorvastatin 40 mg PO daily
- ezetimibe 10 mg PO daily

Labs & Physical Findings

- HbA1c = 6.9%
- BP = 118/70 mmHg
- eGFR (non-indexed)* = 22 mL/min
- eGFR (indexed)* = 17 mL/min/1.73m²
- UACR = 190 mg/g
- BMI 32 kg/m²

*CKD-EPI_{Cr} 2021 non-race based eGFR



MR is currently managed with linagliptin. Which of the following is the best evidence-based practice recommendation for her glucose-lowering therapy?

Option		Feedback / Rationale
A.	Metformin	Incorrect. Metformin should be avoided given her eGFR < 30 mL/min/1.73m ² .
B.	SGLT-2 inhibitor	<u>Correct!</u> SGLT-2 inhibitors are preferred in people with T2DM and CKD with an eGFR ≥ 20 mL/min/1.73m ² for their cardio- and nephroprotective benefits.
C.	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Incorrect. An evidence-based GLP-1 receptor agonist may be considered if needed to achieve individualized glycemic target despite use of 1 st -line treatments (i.e., SGLT-2i ± metformin).
D.	No changes since HbA1c is at goal.	Incorrect. ADA/KDIGO recommends use of SGLT-2 inhibitors as a 1 st -line agent regardless of need to achieve glycemic goals. Furthermore, cardiorenal benefits have been observed in clinical trials irrespective of diabetes status and baseline A1c, and the risk of hypoglycemia is low.

Based on current ADA/KDIGO recommendations, which of the following SGLT-2 inhibitors would you initiate for MR?

Option		Feedback / Rationale
A.	ertugliflozin 5 mg PO daily	Incorrect. Nephroprotective benefits have not been demonstrated with ertugliflozin, and it should not be initiated if eGFR < 45 mL/min/1.73m ² .
B.	dapagliflozin 10 mg PO daily	Incorrect. Dapagliflozin should not be initiated if eGFR < 25 mL/min/1.73m ² .
C.	canagliflozin 100 mg PO daily	Incorrect. Canagliflozin should not be initiated if eGFR < 30 mL/min/1.73m ² .
D.	empagliflozin 10 mg PO daily	<u>Correct!</u> In addition to the CV and kidney benefits observed with empagliflozin, it can be used since MR's current eGFR of 22 is greater than the cutoff for initiation of empagliflozin (i.e., ≥ 20 mL/min/1.73m ²).

MR is to begin empagliflozin 10 mg PO daily today. Which of the following may be a reasonable adjustment and follow-up plan for her current medications?

Option		Feedback / Rationale
A.	Decrease or discontinue chlorthalidone. Recheck BP, BMP in 2-4 weeks.	<u>Correct!</u> In normotensive/euvolemic patients, you may need to reduce or discontinue background diuretics and appropriate lab monitoring should be ordered.
B.	Discontinue lisinopril. Recheck BP, BMP in 2-4 weeks.	Incorrect. It is not necessary to discontinue RAS inhibitor therapy.
C.	Discontinue linagliptin. Recheck A1c in 3 months.	Incorrect. It is not necessary to modify all other antidiabetic drugs when initiating an SGLT-2 inhibitor. However, a reduction in insulin or insulin secretagogue doses (i.e., sulfonylureas, meglitinides) may be considered.
D.	Discontinue atorvastatin. Recheck FLP in 4-12 weeks.	Incorrect. It is not necessary to discontinue statin therapy.

Case Scenario: MR – 2 weeks later



- 68-year-old White female
- PMH = T2DM, HTN, dyslipidemia, CKD



Current Medications

- linagliptin 5 mg PO daily
- empagliflozin 10 mg PO daily
- lisinopril 10 mg PO daily
- chlorthalidone 12.5 mg PO daily
- atorvastatin 40 mg PO daily
- ezetimibe 10 mg PO daily

Labs & Physical Findings

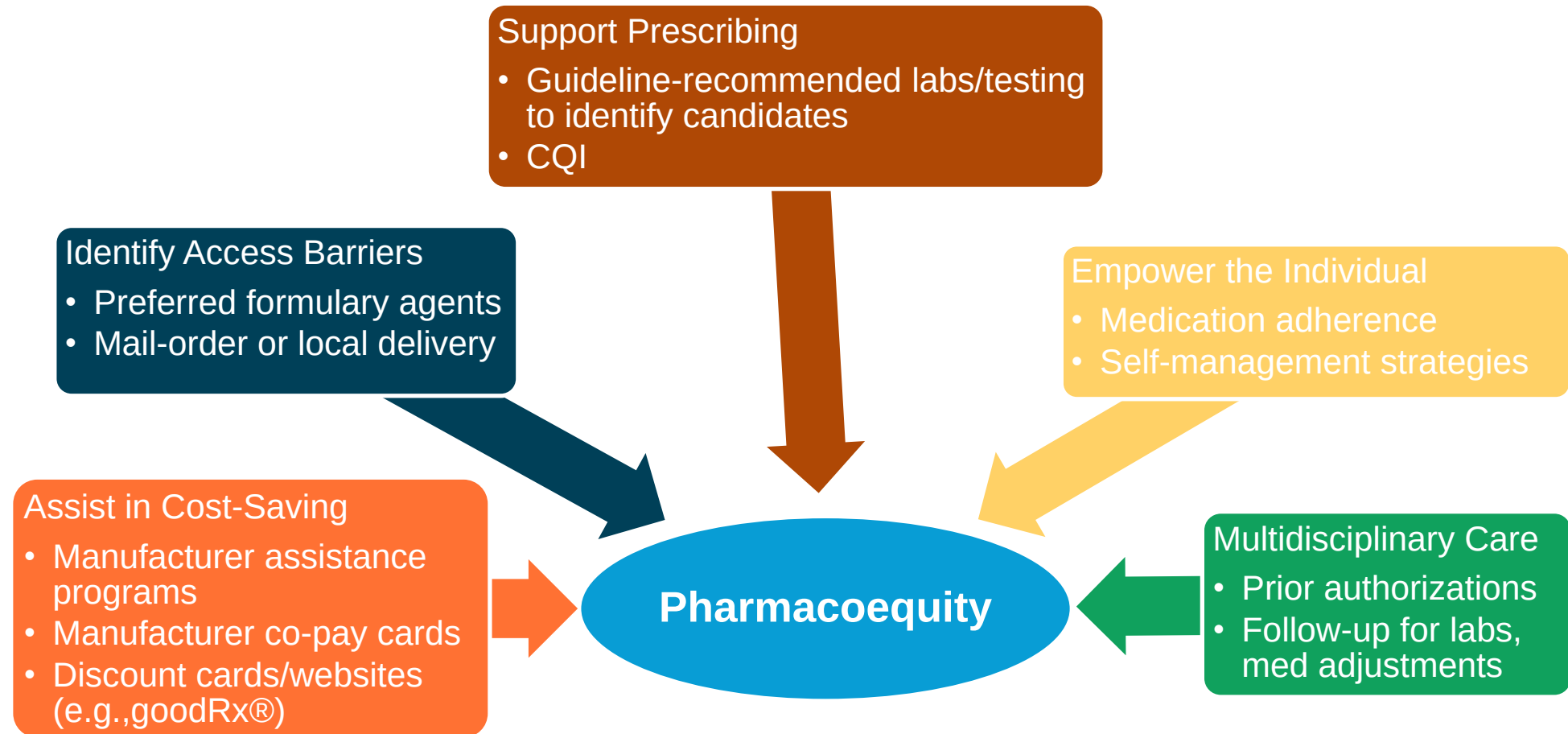
	Today	2 Weeks Ago
BP (mmHg)	124/76	118/70
eGFR (mL/min)*	19	22
BUN	36	32
sCr (mg/dL)	2.3	2.0
FBG (mg/dL)	128	115



Based on MR's labs and physical findings today, what changes would you make to her current medication regimen?

Option		Feedback / Rationale
A.	Increase empagliflozin from 10 mg to 25 mg PO daily.	Incorrect. It is not necessary to increase empagliflozin.
B.	Discontinue empagliflozin. Recheck BMP in 2-4 weeks.	Incorrect. The initial changes to sCr, eGFR are expected, and SGLT-2 inhibitors should be continued until dialysis.
C.	No changes to her medications at this time.	Correct! Nothing suggests that she is hypoglycemic or that she is not normotensive or euvolemic. Additionally, BMP is stable and reflects anticipated changes post-SGLT-2 inhibitor start. Thus, her SGLT-2 inhibitor and all other medications should be continued.
D.	Increase chlorthalidone from 12.5 to 25 mg PO daily.	Incorrect. It is not necessary to increase chlorthalidone.

Supporting SGLT-2 Inhibitor Pharmacoequity



Summary

SGLT-2 inhibitors improve cardiometabolic and kidney outcomes, regardless of diabetes or heart failure

SGLT-2 inhibitors are evidence-based 1st-line medications for CKD

Initial eGFR “dip” is expected with SGLT-2i start

SGLT-2 inhibitor selection, dosing, and education should be individualized and include appropriate follow-up





Advancing Kidney Health

Through Optimal Medication Management

Thank you!



Additional Helpful References

- United States Renal Data System. 2022 *USRDS Annual Data Report: Epidemiology of kidney disease in the United States*. National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, 2022.
- KDIGO Guidelines (<https://kdigo.org/guidelines/>).
- American Journal of Kidney Diseases blog (<https://ajkdblog.org/>)
- Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (<https://www.diabeteseducator.org/>)



Glossary of Terms



- **ADA** = American Diabetes Association
- **BMI** = body mass index
- **BP** = blood pressure
- **CKD** = chronic kidney disease
- **CV** = cardiovascular
- **CVD** = cardiovascular death
- **eGFR** = estimated glomerular filtration rate
- **ESKD** = end-stage kidney disease
- **GLP-1** = glucagon-like peptide-1
- **HbA1c** = hemoglobin A1c
- **HFmrEF** = heart failure with mildly reduced ejection fraction
- **HFpEF** = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction
- **HFrfEF** = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction
- **HHF** = hospitalization for heart failure
- **HTN** = hypertension
- **KDIGO** = Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes
- **MACE** = major adverse cardiovascular event
- **MI** = myocardial infarction
- **NS** = not significant
- **PMH** = past medical history
- **PO** = by mouth
- **sCr** = serum creatinine
- **SGLT-2i** = sodium glucose co-transporter type-2 inhibitor
- **T2DM** = Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- **UACR** = urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio

