

SGLT2 (Sodium Glucose Cotransporter-2) Inhibitors

This handout is about medicines called SGLT2 (sodium glucose cotransporter-2) inhibitors. Ask about why this type of medicine has been prescribed for you.

Reasons to Use SGLT2 Inhibitors

These medicines can be used for different reasons. SGLT2 inhibitors were first developed to treat diabetes. They can be helpful for other health problems too.



Diabetes: SGLT2 inhibitors lower blood sugar by helping the body to get rid of sugar through the urine. They also protect your kidneys and heart.



Heart failure: SGLT2 inhibitors lower blood pressure and protect your heart. They can lower the risk of dying from heart disease or needing hospital care for heart failure.



Kidney disease: SGLT2 inhibitors protect the kidneys and can slow down kidney damage.

Names of SGLT2 Inhibitors

Examples include:

- Farxiga[®] (dapagliflozin)
- Jardiance[®] (empagliflozin)
- Invokana[®] (canagliflozin)
- Steglatro[®] (ertugliflozin)

How to Take

These medicines are taken by mouth, once a day in the morning, with or without food.

Side Effects

There can be side effects with SGLT2 inhibitors. Let your doctor or nurse know if you have any of these problems.

- **Dehydration and/or low blood pressure:** You may urinate more. If you don't have enough fluids, you can become dehydrated. This can also cause low blood pressure. Signs and symptoms might include:
 - Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
 - Not urinating very often
 - Feeling cold and clammy

Ask if you need to weigh yourself or check your blood pressure at home.

- **Urinary tract infections or genital infections:** Because extra sugar is leaving your body through your urine, there may be more chance of infections. Signs and symptoms might include:
 - Pain or burning
 - Frequent urination
 - Foul-smelling urine
 - Itching
 - Pain with intercourse
 - Red, swollen skin
- **Low blood sugar:** This can happen if you take other medicines that lower blood sugar. Signs and symptoms might include:
 - Shaky, sweaty
 - Hungry
 - Weak/tired
 - Irritable or anxious

- **Euglycemic ketoacidosis:** This means that the body starts making acids called ketones, but the blood sugar stays in a normal or near-normal range. Signs and symptoms might include:
 - Stomach upset or pain
 - Weak/tired
 - Very thirsty
 - Urinating often
 - Fruity-smelling breath
 - Trouble breathing

Call your doctor with any of these symptoms. You may need more tests. This condition is most common when you are sick, not eating, or using low-carbohydrate or “keto” diets.

Do not take your SGLT2 inhibitor on these days. Ask about stopping your SGLT2 inhibitor 3-4 days before a procedure or surgery.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 5/2023 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#8281