

SGLT-2 INHIBITORS

Benefits:

SGLT-2 inhibitors (Invokana, Farxiga, and Jardiance) are an anti-hyperglycemic oral medication that blocks glucose reabsorption in the kidneys, redirecting excess glucose from the blood stream to being removed through the urine. Due to this action, patients notice better glucose control, as well as some initial weight loss from excess calories being excreted through the urine. This medication is currently being prescribed for type 2 diabetes only.

Side Effects and Toleration:

The most common side effects of SGLT-2 inhibitors is a urinary tract infection in females and a genital fungus infection in males. Increased thirst and nausea are also reported side effects. There have also been reports of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) from increased ketone production. DKA is more commonly seen in type 1 diabetes versus type 2 diabetes. However, the recent cases reported of DKA were for type 2 diabetes. Within the reports of these cases, blood glucose levels were only slightly increased compared to the typical cases of DKA. Triggers indicated for the causes of DKA were increased illness, decreased fluid and food intake, and decreased insulin doses. Ask your healthcare provider about any concerns.

Dosing and Duration of Action:

Dosing comes in 100 mg and 300 mg tablets (Invokana), 5 mg and 10 mg tablets (Farxiga), and 10 mg and 25 mg tablets (Jardiance). Lowest dose available is recommended for anyone with kidney disease (GFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m²) and not recommended for severe kidney disease or patients on dialysis (GFR <45 mL/min/1.73 m²).

Combinations:

SGLT-2 may be prescribed alone or can also be prescribed as a combined medication if needed. SGLT-2 is currently combined as an all-in-one tablet with metformin, metformin extended release, and a DPP-4 inhibitor.

*NOTE: this medication is not considered safe in pregnancy and safety has not been established for type 1 diabetes.