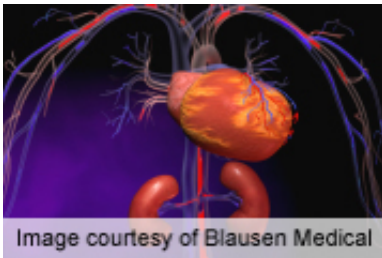


# Sulfonylureas up cardio events versus metformin

November 7 2012

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Use of sulfonylureas for initial treatment of diabetes is associated with increased cardiovascular events and death compared with metformin, according to a study published in the Nov. 6 issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

(HealthDay)—Use of sulfonylureas for initial treatment of diabetes is associated with increased cardiovascular events and death compared with metformin, according to a study published in the Nov. 6 issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Christianne L. Roumie, M.D., M.P.H., from the Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in Nashville, and colleagues conducted a [retrospective cohort study](#) to compare outcomes for 253,690 veterans who initiated metformin (155,025) or sulfonylurea (98,665) therapy for diabetes. The composite outcome consisted of hospitalization for [acute myocardial infarction](#) or stroke, or death, adjusting for baseline demographic and medical characteristics.

The researchers found that crude rates for the composite outcome were 18.2 per 1,000 person-years in sulfonylurea users and 10.4 per 1,000 person-years in metformin users (adjusted incidence rate difference, 2.2 more cardiovascular events with sulfonylureas per 1,000 person-years; adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 1.21). For both glyburide (aHR, 1.26) and glipizide (aHR, 1.15) results were consistent in subgroup analyses and in [propensity score](#)-matched cohort and sensitivity analyses.

"These observations support the use of metformin for first-line diabetes therapy and strengthen the evidence about the cardiovascular advantages of metformin compared with sulfonylureas," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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