

Diabetes drug shown not to increase heart failure risk

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People with the most common form of diabetes can take the new drug Alogliptin without concern for an increased risk of heart failure or cardiovascular disease, according to research by a UConn cardiologist

just published in the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

Dr. William White, professor of medicine and chief of the Calhoun Cardiology Center Division of Hypertension and Clinical Pharmacology at UConn Health, analyzed data from a global clinical trial called EXAMINE. Regulatory agencies require a comprehensive evaluation of the cardiovascular safety profile of new diabetic therapies.

"This new analysis shows that Alogliptin was safe in patients with Type 2 diabetes who we considered at high cardiovascular risk because they had had an [acute coronary syndrome](#) before entering the trial," says White.

Even in patients who had a history of heart failure – 28 percent of participants – there was no increase in hospitalization.

The information is significant because of the prevalence of [heart disease](#) morbidity and mortality in patients with Type 2 diabetes. According to the World Health Organization, heart disease is responsible for between 50 percent and 80 percent of deaths among diabetics.

Also, the findings contradict a previous clinical trial of another diabetes medication in the same drug class that showed a modest increase in [heart failure](#) risk, leading to a closer scrutiny of Alogliptin – an orally administered anti-diabetic drug in the DPP-4 inhibitor class – in the medical community.

EXAMINE is an acronym for "Examination of Cardiovascular Outcomes: Alogliptin vs. Standard of Care in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Acute Coronary Syndrome." The study included nearly 5,400 diabetics in 49 countries, all of whom were within 90 days of hospitalization for either a heart attack or chest pain related to [coronary heart disease](#). The trial was funded by Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda, which makes Alogliptin.

More information: "Heart failure and mortality outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes taking alogliptin versus placebo in EXAMINE: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind trial." DOI:

[dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)62225-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)62225-X)

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