

First-line metformin use for DM up; sulfonylurea use down

November 19 2017



(HealthDay)—Among patients with type 2 diabetes initiating

antidiabetes drugs (ADDs), first-line use of metformin has increased since 2005, while sulfonylureas have remained the most popular second-line agent, according to a study published online Nov. 6 in *Diabetes Care*.

Olga Montvida, from Queensland University of Technology in Australia, and colleagues used data from the U.S. Centricity Electronic Medical Records to identify 1,023,340 patients with type 2 [diabetes](#) (aged 18 to 80 years) who initiated any ADD and 357,482 patients who initiated second-line ADD after first-line [metformin](#).

The researchers found that between 2005 and 2016, first-line use of metformin increased from 60 to 77 percent, while first-line use of sulfonylureas decreased from 20 percent to 8 percent. Over a mean 3.4 years of follow-up, post-metformin, 48 percent initiated a second ADD at a mean HbA1c of 8.4 percent. Although sulfonylurea usage as a second-line treatment decreased (60 to 46 percent), it remained the most popular second ADD choice, while use increased for insulin (7 to 17 percent) and dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors (0.4 to 21 percent).

"Most [patients](#) initiate second-line therapy at elevated HbA1c levels, with highly heterogeneous clinical characteristics across ADD classes," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: First-line metformin use for DM up; sulfonylurea use down (2017, November 19) retrieved 19 April 2024 from

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