

Metformin may cut mortality risk in post-pancreatitis diabetes

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(HealthDay)—Metformin use may promote a survival benefit in

individuals with post-pancreatitis diabetes mellitus (PPDM), but not pancreatic cancer-related diabetes (PCRD), according to a study published online June 21 in *Diabetes Care*.

Jaelim Cho, M.D., M.P.H., from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, and colleagues used nationwide pharmaceutical dispensing data (from 2006 to 2015) linked to [hospital discharge data](#) to identify 1,862 individuals with PCRD or PPDM.

The researchers found that in individuals with PCRD, ever users of [metformin](#) (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 0.54) and ever users of insulin (aHR, 0.46) had significantly lower risks of mortality versus patients never using antidiabetic medications. However, these associations were weakened with the use of a 6-month lag. In individuals with PPDM, compared with never users of antidiabetic medications, ever users of metformin had a significantly lower risk of mortality (aHR, 0.51; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.36 to 0.70), whereas ever users of insulin did not have a significantly changed risk of mortality (aHR, 0.75; 95 percent CI, 0.49 to 1.14). Even with a 6-month lag, the association between metformin use and mortality risk remained significant.

"Reverse causality may play a role in the association between insulin use and [mortality](#) in PCRD," write the authors.

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