

Risk for rheumatoid arthritis reduced for patients with T2DM

February 23 2021



(HealthDay)—Patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) have a

reduced risk for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), which may be due to statin use, according to a study published online Feb. 16 in *Rheumatology*.

Dawit T. Zemedikun, Ph.D., from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, and colleagues conducted a retrospective cohort study to compare RA risk and explore the role of glycemic control in RA risk. A total of 224,551 newly diagnosed patients with T2DM were matched to 449,101 patients without T2DM and were followed to assess RA risk.

The researchers found that the incidence rate for RA was 8.1 and 10.6 per 10,000 person-years in the exposed and unexposed groups, respectively, during the study period (adjusted hazard ratio, 0.73; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.67 to 0.79). The adjusted hazard ratio was 0.89 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.69 to 1.14) in patients who had not used statins in their lifetime. When quantifying the effects of glycemic control, antidiabetic drugs, and statins, no significant associations were seen for glycemic control, metformin use, and dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors with RA development. However, among those with T2DM, a protective effect was seen for statins with progression of RA (adjusted hazard ratio, 0.76; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.66 to 0.88), with evidence of a duration-response relationship.

"The results suggest that statin use may be associated with [reduced risk](#) of RA, a finding that needs further investigation in a trial setting," the authors write.

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Citation: Risk for rheumatoid arthritis reduced for patients with T2DM (2021, February 23)

retrieved 25 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-02-rheumatoid-arthritis-patients-t2dm.html>

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