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Innovations in Pharmacotherapy of Diabetes: A Review of Latest Reports

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ABSTRACT

Introduction and purpose

Diabetes mellitus represents one of the most pressing global health challenges of the 21st

century. As a chronic, lifelong condition, it affects millions worldwide and contributes

significantly to morbidity and mortality by damaging vital organs like the eyes, kidneys, nerves,

heart, and blood vessels. The two main types are type 1, an autoimmune condition leading to

no insulin production, and type 2, which is more common and caused by insulin resistance and

inadequate insulin levels. The global rise in diabetes, especially Type 2 is largely fueled by

3

increasing urbanization, changes in eating habits, physical inactivity, and an aging population. Diabetes impacts more than just blood sugar levels, leading to numerous complications that reduce quality of life and place a heavy strain on healthcare systems. Although treatment options have advanced and outcomes have improved, challenges such as unequal access to care, poor treatment adherence, and limited patient education continue to hinder effective management of the disease. The review aims to explore the latest studies, innovations, and emerging possibilities in diabetes treatment.

Material and methods

The review was based on research of articles published from 2019 to 2025 on the PubMed database using the following keywords: diabetes, diabetes mellitus, T1D, T2D, HbA1c, SGLT2 Inhibitors, GLP-1 Receptor Agonists, DPP-4 Inhibitors, Thiazolidinediones, Teplizumab, Stem cell. The analysis draws upon recent clinical trial findings, updated guidelines from major diabetes organizations, and expert opinions to offer a detailed overview of the current landscape and future directions in this critical field of medical research and clinical practice.

Results

SGLT2 inhibitors effectively manage blood sugar in type 2 diabetes, offering additional benefits like weight loss, improved heart function, and kidney protection. They also show promise in treating NAFLD/NASH. GLP-1 receptor agonists, like semaglutide, liraglutide, and tirzepatide, improve blood sugar control and offer benefits such as reducing cardiovascular risk, mortality, and kidney disease progression. Semaglutide could prevent over 1 million premature deaths, mainly from cardiovascular causes. Tirzepatide shows the greatest reductions in HbA1c and weight. DPP-4 inhibitors reduce risks of heart failure, heart attacks, and strokes, with sitagliptin and vildagliptin showing the most consistent benefits. However, saxagliptin may increase heart failure risk. Pioglitazone has shown benefits in managing PCOS symptoms, improving metabolic outcomes and triglyceride levels, while rosiglitazone has a smaller effect on hormone levels. Pioglitazone also offers a higher pregnancy rate in IVF treatments for women with PCOS compared to metformin. A combination of SGLT2 inhibitors and pioglitazone shows promise for MASH management in diabetic patients. In prostate cancer research, pioglitazone reduced cancer cell growth but didn't induce cell death, requiring further study. Teplizumab is the first FDA-approved disease-modifying immunotherapy for type 1 diabetes. It works by modifying T cells to protect pancreatic β -cells from autoimmune attack.

Teplizumab significantly improved C-peptide levels, indicating better insulin production improved and also insulin secretion during tests.

Conclusions

Recent literature highlights significant advancements in the pharmacotherapy of diabetes mellitus, encompassing both type 1 and type 2 disease. Key innovations include updates to clinical practice guidelines emphasizing personalized and proactive management strategies, the emergence of highly effective dual glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) and glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists, and the expanding role of sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitors for cardio-renal protection. Furthermore, research continues to explore the potential of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) in type 1 diabetes, alongside breakthroughs in immunotherapies like Teplizumab for delaying disease onset and the rapidly evolving field of stem cell therapy and islet cell transplantation aiming for a functional cure. These innovations collectively hold the potential to improve glycemic control, reduce the incidence of complications, and enhance the quality of life for individuals living with diabetes. Research into novel drug targets and therapeutic strategies, such as those aimed at addressing insulin resistance directly or modulating the gut microbiome, also holds great potential for future breakthroughs in diabetes care.

Keywords: diabetes, diabetes mellitus, T1D, T2D, HbA1c, SGLT2 Inhibitors, GLP-1 Receptor Agonists, DPP-4 Inhibitors, Thiazolidinediones, Teplizumab, Stem cells

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes is a group of metabolic disorders primarily defined by high blood sugar levels (hyperglycemia). Hyperglycemia in diabetes results from defects in insulin secretion, in action, or both. Over time, this chronic high blood sugar level can cause secondary damage and severely impair various organs, particularly the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart, and blood vessels. Based on reports from the International Diabetes Federation, approximately 589 million people representing 11.1% of the adult population were living with diabetes in 2024 with projections to rise to 853 million by 2050. (2)

The core problem in diabetes is that insulin doesn't work effectively in the body's tissues, disrupting the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. The vast majority of diabetes cases fall into one of two distinct groups: diabetes type 1 and diabetes type 2. Type 1 diabetes

is caused by a complete lack of insulin due to autoimmune destruction of pancreatic cells and often appears in childhood or adolescence. Type 2 diabetes is far more common (80-90% of cases) and results from a combination of insulin resistance and insufficient insulin production to compensate. This type usually develops in adults, and its prevalence has increased significantly worldwide. Other types of diabetes such as maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY) can be caused by single gene mutation or environmental factors. (3)

Table 1. Criteria for detection of diabetes and intermediate hyperglycaemia

Diagnostic	WHO criteria	ADA criteria				
criterion						
Diabetes						
Fasting	≥7.0 mmol/L (126	≥7.0 mmol/L (126				
plasma	mg/dL)	mg/dL)				
glucose						
(FPG)						
2 h plasma	≥11.1 mmol/L (200	≥11.1 mmol/L (200				
glucose	mg/dL)	mg/dL)				
during OGGT						
HbA1c	$\geq 6.5\%$ (48)	$\geq 6.5\%$ (48)				
	mmol/mol)	mmol/mol)				
Impaired fasting glucose (IFG)						
Fasting	6.1–6.9 mmol/L	5.6–6.9 mmol/L				
plasma	(110–125 mg/dL)	(100–125 mg/dL)				
glucose						
(FPG)						
Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT)						
2 h plasma	7.8–11.0 mmol/L	7.8–11.0 mmol/L				
glucose	(140–199 mg/dL)	(140–199 mg/dL)				
during OGGT						
HbA1c	1	5.7%-6.4%				

The ability to control Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and prevent or delay its associated complications relies heavily on receiving an early diagnosis and appropriate treatment and support. The complexity of managing this disease necessitates continuous advancements in pharmacotherapy to achieve optimal patient outcomes and mitigate the risk of long-term complications, including cardiovascular disease, nephropathy, retinopathy, and neuropathy.

For example end-stage renal disease (ESRD), a condition necessitating hemodialysis, is most commonly caused by Type 2 diabetes mellitus when considering single diseases. Furthermore,

It's reported that diabetic nephropathy is present in approximately 40% of patients who need renal replacement therapy. (4)

The aim of this review is to provide a detailed overview of pharmacotherapy and the latest innovations in diabetes treatment and also impact extended benefits for the whole organism. The review is based on the latest articles from the PubMed database in the years 2019-2025. The analysis draws upon recent clinical trial findings, updated guidelines from major diabetes organizations, and expert opinions to offer a detailed overview of the current landscape and future directions in this critical field of medical research and clinical practice.

Keywords like diabetes, diabetes mellitus, T1D, T2D, HbA1c, SGLT2 Inhibitors, GLP-1 Receptor Agonists, DPP-4 Inhibitors, Thiazolidinediones, Teplizumab, Stem cells were used in the investigation.

TREATMENT OF DIABETES

Table 2. Comparison of the innovations in pharmacology treatment methods in diabetes

Therapy	Mechanism of action	Efficiency	Adverse events	Referen ces
SGLT2 Inhibitors	Inhibits the SGLT2 protein, which is responsible for the reabsorption of glucose from the tubular lumen	blood glucose levels, reduce major cardiovascular risks,	mycotic	(5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
GLP-1 Receptor Agonists	Incretin hormone, stimulate insulin secretion after an oral glucose load via the incretin effect	,	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea	(13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)
DPP-4 Inhibitors	Ubiquitous enzyme, increasing insulin secretion and decreasing glucagon secretion		Low incidence of adverse events but the most frequent: upper respiratory tract infections, nasopharyngitis,	(19, 20, 21)

			headaches, urinary tract infections and arthralgia	
Thiazolidined iones	Regulate gene expression by binding to peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-gamma (PPAR-gamma)	Help with glycemic control and insulin resistance; positive effect in PCOS-improvement metabolic markers	Edema and congestive heart failure, weight gain, increased risk of fractures and bladder cancer hepatotoxicity, increased ovulation	(22, 23, 24)
Teplizumab	Anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody	Significantly delay in T1D, lower OGTT glucose values, higher C-peptide levels, improve beta cell function and total and early insulin secretion	Lymphopenia, rash, leukopenia, headache	(30,31,3 2, 33)
Stem cell therapy - Lantidra	Multipotent stromal cells capable of self-renewal and differentiation into multiple cell lineages.	Impact on producing and secreting insulin	Nausea, anemia, fatigue, abdominal pain, diarrhea	(34, 35, 36)

SGLT2 Inhibitors

Sodium-Glucose Transport Protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors also known as flozines prevent glucose reabsorption in the proximal convoluted tubules of the kidneys, leading to its elimination from the body through the urine (glycosuria) and reduction blood glucose. (5)

As part of a treatment plan including diet and exercise, canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin, and ertugliflozin are FDA-approved for improving blood sugar levels in adult patients with type 2 diabetes. (5)

Medications like Empagliflozin, a highly selective SGLT2 inhibitor, reduce blood glucose levels by increasing the amount of glucose expelled in the urine. This mechanism is insulin-independent, offering the benefit of a lower risk of hypoglycemia. The osmotic diuretic effect associated with these drugs may also help patients lose weight. Normally, the kidneys reabsorb around 180g of glucose daily in the proximal tubules, but Empagliflozin can promote excretion of this about 80g. Research confirms that Empagliflozin successfully lowers fasting and after-

meal blood sugar and supports weight loss in diabetic patients, whether used as monotherapy or combined with other treatments. Its method of lowering blood sugar is distinct from that employed by traditional antidiabetic drugs (6).

Research that was investigating the impact of SGLT2 inhibitor - empagliflozin on glycemic markers and osteoporosis in patients with type 2 diabetes shows results after six months of treatment. Both groups showed improvements for glycemic parameters: fasting blood glucose (FBG), 2-hour postprandial blood glucose (2 h PG), glycosylated hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) and bone markers: bone mineral density (BMD), serum phosphorus, serum calcium but the group that received empagliflozin achieved significantly greater reductions in glycemic parameters and significantly greater increases in bone markers compared to the control group (P < 0.05 for all comparative changes). Following 12 months, only a small percentage of patients in the intervention group experienced a fracture (2%, 1 out of 50), a rate considerably lower and statistically significant compared to the 16.33% observed in the control group (8 out of 49 patients) (P = 0.036) (6).

In a study by Albulushi et al., meta-analyses were carried out based on randomized controlled trials and observational studies to determine the effects of SGLT2 inhibitors on heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) in patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D). The study showed that, SGLT2 inhibitors significantly enhanced Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction (LVEF) with a 95% confidence interval (CI) of 2.0 to 4.4, p < 0.001; $I^2 = 25\%$, reduced myocardial fibrosis with 95% CI -4.2 to -2.8, p < 0.001 and improved functional capacity with 95% CI 35 to 65, p < 0.001. There were also positive impact on reductions in HbA1c 95% CI -1.3 to -0.7, p < 0.001, body weight 95% CI -2.6 to -1.4, p < 0.001 and lowering SBP 95% CI -6.0 to -3.6, p < 0.001 (7). In the analysis of efficacy and safety of tirzepatide, liraglutide, canagliflozin, ertugliflozin, empagliflozin, dapagliflozin, and henagliflozin compared with placebo we can see that canagliflozin 300 mg resulted in the greatest decrease in systolic blood pressure, with a mean difference of -5.96 mmHg (95% CI: -7.96 to -3.96 mmHg). What is more, canagliflozin 300 mg was also effective in weight reduction (78.4%) and HBA1c ([95%] CI], -1.00% [-1.18, -0.82]) (18). Another study was investigating the impact between SGLT2 Inhibitors and cardiovascular outcomes Type 2 diabetes patients. The analysis showed significant advantages in reducing major cardiovascular risks by SGLT2 inhibitors. They substantially reduced the risk of cardiovascular death (RR = 0.59; 95% CI, 0.53–0.65), death from any cause (RR = 0.64; 95% CI, 0.60-0.68), and myocardial infarction (MI) (RR = 0.81; 95% CI, 0.76–0.87). SGLT2 inhibitors also significantly lowered the risk of hospitalization for heart failure (HHF) by 23% (RR = 0.77; 95% CI, 0.74–0.80). Furthermore, the study demonstrated similar results about the effect of SGLT2i on the cardiovascular system among patients with both heart failure and diabetes (8).

The retrospective cohort study followed for a median of 1657 days analized kidney parameters of diabetes patients with lack of insulin that were treated with SGLT2 inhibitors. Results showed that compared to the control group, SGLT2 inhibitors significantly reduced the risk of both a 50% decline in eGFR to below 60 (HR 0.79, P < 0.001; 6.1% vs. 7.5%) and progression to eGFR <15 (HR 0.71, P = 0.015; 1.5% vs. 2.0%). What is more SGLT2i significantly reduced the rate of doubling serum creatinine (5.3% vs. 6.6%; HR 0.76, p < 0.001). Also notably, more SGLT2i users transitioned from micro- or macroalbuminuria to normoalbuminuria (51.0% vs. 44.2%; HR 0.83, p < 0.0001), including specifically from micro- to normoalbuminuria (59.2% vs. 41.8%; HR 0.74, p < 0.0001). Progression from micro- to macroalbuminuria was also less frequent with SGLT2i (23.1% vs. 28.7%; p < 0.0001) (9).

In two studies: by Chehrehgosha et. al., and by Monem et. al., they support the efficacy of SGLT2 inhibitors—dapagliflozin and empagliflozin—as effective alternatives to pioglitazone in the treatment of NAFLD/NASH, especially in patients with T2DM. These agents offer comparable or superior improvements in liver histology and fibrosis, and notably greater benefits in weight reduction, visceral fat loss, and quality of life. While histological outcomes were similar, SGLT2 inhibitors provided more favorable metabolic and anthropometric outcomes, particularly in non-diabetic and diabetic subgroups respectively. No serious safety concerns were reported in either study (27,28).

Research shows that SGLT2 inhibitors can note drug-related complications like genital mycotic infections and urinary tract infections, increased urination, hypoglycemia when used with sulfonylureas or insulin (5,11,12). However the main concern with SGLT2 inhibitor therapy is a significantly increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) particularly in patients with type 1 diabetes, despite the drugs offering other benefits like reduction in HbA1c and daily insulin dose, improved glucose control and weight loss. This risk limits their use in that patient population (9, 10, 11).

SGLT2 inhibitors definitely have demonstrated an expanding role in diabetes management that extends beyond glycemic control (6,7,8,9). However, there are some limitations in investigation, like research based on a small population (6). One of the studies was focused on short/medium-term effects, while the long-term impacts are not fully explained. Future research

should address this by conducting more high-quality, longer-term RCTs (7). In the other one there are variable duration of follow-up trials, and the fact that most studies are retrospective designs although high-quality (8).

GLP-1 Receptor Agonists

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP1) agonists are incretin hormones that stimulate glucosedependent insulin secretion which is insufficient in diabetes.

Recent clinical guidelines from the American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommend GLP-1 receptor agonists not only for glucose control but also for their benefits in reducing mortality, cardiovascular risk and slowing the progression of kidney disease. In a modelling study based on the SELECT trial of patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in the United States, projections suggest that administering semaglutide 2.4 mg to all eligible individuals could avert approximately 1,231,295 premature deaths, reflecting a 16% reduction in relative risk. Notably, an estimated 674,823 of these prevented deaths would be attributable to cardiovascular causes (15). In another, the retrospective cohort study of 27 279 participants with type 2 diabetes and advanced-stage chronic or end-stage kidney disease was observed that GLP-1 receptor agonists were linked to lower overall and infection-related death rates compared to DPP-4 inhibitors ([HR], 0.79; 95% CI, 0.63-0.98) (17). The results of Lin et al. cohort study of patients with advanced diabetic kidney disease with an eGFR < 30 mL/min per 1.73 m2 shows that GLP-1RAs were associated with fewer kidney events compared with DPP-4i (38.2% vs. 44.2%; HR 0.72, 95% CI 0.56–0.93), however cardiovascular event rates were similar between both groups (HR 0.88, 95% CI 0.68–1.13) (16). In a meta-analysis about GLP-1 receptor agonists used in patients with diabetes type 2, was found to reduce major cardiovascular events (MACE) by 14% (HR 0.86; 95% CI 0.80–0.93; p<0.0001), with consistent benefits across all subgroups analyzed. They also lowered all-cause mortality by 12%, hospitalizations for heart failure by 11%, and kidney-related outcomes by 21%, with no increased risk of serious side effects like hypoglycemia, retinopathy, or pancreatic issues (14).

Semaglutide, Liraglutide and Tirzepatide (dual GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists) are FDA-approved for obesity treatment or for overweight patients with related health conditions. A total of 28 randomized controlled trials comprising 8,499 participants were included in the analysis of efficacy and safety of tirzepatide, liraglutide, canagliflozin, ertugliflozin, empagliflozin, dapagliflozin, and henagliflozin compared with placebo. The greatest reduction in HbA1c was observed with tirzepatide 15 mg ([95% CI], -2.24% [-2.52%, -1.96%]) followed by tirzepatide 10 mg (MD [95% CI], -1.99% [-2.29%, -1.69%]), tirzepatide 5 mg ([95% CI],

-1.82% [-2.11%, -1.53%]), and liraglutide 1.2 mg ([95% CI], -1.23% [-1.41%, -1.05%]). The weight reduction was also the most effective with tirzepatide 15mg ([95% CI], -8.74 kg [-9.83 kg, -7.66 kg]), followed by tirzepatide 10 mg ([95% CI], -7.13 kg [-8.40 kg, -5.86 kg]), tirzepatide 5 mg (MD [95% CI], -5.38 kg [-6.65, -4.11] kg). However, liraglutide 1.8mg showed the highest probability of causing adverse events (OR [95% CI], 2.57 [1.78, 3.70]). but with no significant differences in all treatment groups (18).

GLP-1 receptor agonists commonly cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, which may lead to dehydration and, in some cases, acute kidney injury. Other side effects include dizziness, headaches, mild rapid heartbeat, and digestive discomfort. They also heighten satiety, so eating while full can trigger temporary nausea—best managed by slowly adjusting the dose. Injection-site irritation is frequent, especially with long-acting versions. Mild hypoglycemia may occur, but serious cases are uncommon. Overall, the treatment is well-tolerated, with only about 10% of users discontinuing due to side effects (13).

DPP- 4 inhibitors

DPP-4 inhibitors - oral diabetic drugs, called gliptins, are ubiquitous enzymes that inhibit degradation of incretin hormones - primarily GLP-1 and GIP, which help regulate blood glucose levels by increasing insulin release from pancreatic beta cells and decreasing glucagon secretion from pancreatic alpha cells (19).

A large meta-analysis of 27 studies with over 1.5 million participants found that, in type 2 diabetes patients taking metformin, adding a DPP-4 inhibitor significantly lowers the risk of major cardiovascular events and all-cause mortality compared to adding a sulfonylurea. This suggests DPP-4 inhibitors may offer superior cardiovascular protection and better long-term outcomes (20).

Another large-scale cohort study found that DPP-4 inhibitors are associated with significantly lower risks of major cardiovascular events, heart failure, heart attacks, and strokes compared to sulfonylureas. Sitagliptin (0.89 [0.85-0.94]) and vildagliptin ([0.77 [0.60-0.99]) offered the most consistent cardiovascular benefits, however saxagliptin may increase heart failure risk. These findings suggest a favorable cardioprotective profile for most DPP-4 inhibitors (21).

Thiazolidinediones

Thiazolidinediones (TZDs), such as rosiglitazone and pioglitazone, are insulin-sensitizing drugs used to manage type 2 diabetes. They improve blood sugar control without causing hypoglycemia and are safe for patients with kidney disease. TZDs work by activating PPAR-

gamma receptors, leading to enhanced glucose uptake, reduced liver glucose production, and increased adiponectin. (22).

In the research by Abdalla et. al., they evaluated the pioglitazone and rosiglitazone effects in managing PCOS symptoms. Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a hormonal disorder in women of reproductive age, often linked to insulin resistance and an increased risk of type 2 diabetes. Results show that pioglitazone significantly lowered triglyceride levels and fasting insulin, indicating improved metabolic outcomes. Rosiglitazone, when compared to metformin, showed a marginal reduction in luteinising hormone (LH) levels. While thiazolidinediones (rosiglitazone, pioglitazone) may improve some hormonal and metabolic markers in PCOS, they tend to increase body weight and BMI. In contrast, metformin appears more favorable for weight-related outcomes, making it a potentially better option for weight-sensitive patients with PCOS (23).

Another randomized clinical trial investigated the effects of pioglitazone versus metformin on IVF outcomes in 172 women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)-related infertility. Participants were divided into two equal groups: one received 15 mg of pioglitazone and the other 1000 mg of metformin, both taken twice daily for six weeks before starting IVF treatment. Key outcomes included the number of oocytes retrieved, embryos formed, and confirmed pregnancies. The study found no significant differences in the number of eggs or embryos between the two groups, indicating that both treatments were similarly effective in stimulating ovulation and embryo development. However, a significantly higher pregnancy rate was observed in the pioglitazone group (48.8%) compared to the metformin group (32.6%), suggesting that pioglitazone may have a beneficial effect on endometrial receptivity or embryo implantation. In conclusion, while both medications had comparable effects on ovulation and embryo development, pioglitazone appeared to offer a clear advantage in terms of achieving pregnancy, making it a potentially more effective option for improving IVF outcomes in women with PCOS (24).

Pioglitazone was identified as the most effective Western medicine for treating nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), based on a network meta-analysis of 37 clinical trials. It significantly improved liver histology by resolving NASH without worsening fibrosis, boosted HDL cholesterol, and reduced nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD activity scores. With a high SUCRA ranking of 91.4%, pioglitazone outperformed other medications in overall therapeutic benefit, making it a leading option for managing NASH, despite other drugs like Aldafermin offering superior liver enzyme improvements. (25)

Another study investigated the impact of combining SGLT2 inhibitors, pioglitazone, and GLP1 receptor agonists on MASH in patients with type 2 diabetes. In a real-world setting involving 888 patients followed for nearly 4 years, the combination of these drugs—especially SGLT2i with pioglitazone—was significantly associated with reduced FAST scores, indicating improvement in liver health. The findings suggest that dual therapy, particularly SGLT2i plus pioglitazone, may offer a promising strategy for managing MASH in diabetic patients.(26) In the study by Atas et. al., it is showed that pioglitazone, a PPARγ agonist, significantly reduced proliferation in both primary and metastatic prostate cancer (PCa) cells without inducing apoptosis. It decreased cell viability, metabolic activity, and DNA content in a dose-and time-dependent manner. However, additional detailed and long-term studies will be necessary to thoroughly understand the effects of these metabolic inhibitors on PCa development, progression, and patient survival (29).

Innovations in Type 1 Diabetes Pharmacotherapy: Immunotherapy - Teplizumab

Teplizumab, humanized Fc receptor non binding anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody represents a groundbreaking advancement as the first FDA-approved disease-modifying therapy for use in adults and children over eight years in type 1 diabetes. This immunotherapy drug works by modifying T cells and suppressing autoreactive immune responses that inappropriately target pancreatic β -cells mainly by boosting anti-inflammatory cytokines (IL-4, IL-10) which protect them from destruction (30).

The randomized, placebo controlled trial that enrolled 328 children and adolescents with recently diagnosed type 1 diabetes shows the impact of Teplizumab on endogenous insulin production indicated by C-peptide levels. At week 78, Teplizumab treatment resulted in C-peptide levels compared to placebo, representing a 59.3% difference favoring Teplizumab. Baseline C-peptide was 0.13 pmol/mL higher (P<0.001) than in placebo. Furthermore, at week 78, 94.9% of patients in the Teplizumab group maintained a peak C-peptide level of 0.2 pmol/mL or greater, a rate substantially higher than the 79.2% seen in the placebo group. The beneficial effect of Teplizumab on C-peptide was consistent across patient subgroups (31).

In a randomized controlled trial of participants with high-risk of developing diabetes and then in extended follow-up of that report we can see results about metabolic parameters and delay in progression to diabetes. Clinical trials have demonstrated that a single 14-day course of Teplizumab can effectively delay the progression to stage 3 (symptomatic) type 1 diabetes in individuals aged 8 years and older who are diagnosed with stage 2 (presymptomatic) disease

(33). 50% patients treated with teplizumab was diagnosed with diabetes type 1 and had a median time to diagnosis that disease of 59.6 months, significantly extending the time compared to the 27.1 months observed in the placebo group where 78% participants developed diabetes, respectively (HR=0.457, p=0.01) (33). What is more, Teplizumab treatment led to a significantly greater increase in insulin secretion during the test compared to placebo (p = 0.01, p = 0.0004). During the first hour of the OGTT (p = 0.007) as well as during the second hour (p = 0.03) insulin secretion was improved versus decline in the placebo group which indicated improvement in beta cell function (33).

Research shows that Teplizumab also notes drug-related complications in more than 10% of the treatment group like: lymphopenia (73%), rash (36%), leukopenia (21%) and headache (11%). Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) is reaction that reveals with fever, nausea, fatigue, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, elevated ALT, AST and bilirubin levels in early beginning of treatment (first five days) 5% of patients vs. 0,8% in the placebo group. Key safety protocols administering giving patients premedication and observing for signs of CRS. Also teplizumab therapy must be permanently stopped if the level of enzymes (ALT and AST) is five times higher than normal (32).

Innovations in Type 1 Diabetes Pharmacotherapy: Stem cell therapy

Lantidra has become the first FDA-approved cellular therapy for adults with type 1 diabetes who experience frequent, severe hypoglycemia and are unable to maintain target HbA1c levels despite intensive treatment. This innovative therapy uses pancreatic islet cells from deceased donors, delivered through a single infusion into the hepatic portal vein. Immunosuppressive medications are also necessary to maintain the survival and function of the transplanted islet cells. Once transplanted, the donor beta cells begin producing insulin, potentially reducing or even eliminating the patient's reliance on insulin injections. Approval was based on two nonrandomized, single-arm studies involving 30 patients with type 1 diabetes and hypoglycemia unawareness. Among them, 21 participants (70%) remained insulin-free for at least one year, 12 (40%) for one to five years, and 9 (30%) for over five years, highlighting Lantidra's potential to offer long-term insulin independence for a subset of patients. Lantidra's side effects varied by patient but commonly included nausea, fatigue, and abdominal issues. Serious complications, often related to the infusion process or required immunosuppressants, were frequent and sometimes led to loss of islet function and a return to insulin use because of

stopping immunosuppressive therapy. These risks must be balanced against potential benefits on a case-by-case basis (35, 36).

CONCLUSIONS

The latest data analysis from 2019-2025 have shown that targeted drugs like SGLT2 inhibitors, GLP-1 receptor agonists, DPP-4 inhibitors and Thiazolidinediones offer the most significant pharmacological benefits. Recent updates in diabetes pharmacotherapy emphasize the fastpaced progress in drug development, medical technologies, and clinical treatment strategies. Breakthroughs such as the emergence of powerful dual GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists and the growing use of SGLT2 inhibitors are reshaping the treatment landscape for type 2 diabetes, providing better blood sugar regulation along with notable cardiovascular and kidney health benefits. GLP-1 analogs are typically regarded as more effective in reducing blood glucose levels and enhancing glycemic control; however, they are also associated with a higher incidence of adverse effects, such as nausea, diarrhea, and other gastrointestinal symptoms. In contrast, DPP-4 inhibitors are considered to have a more favorable safety profile, though their glucose-lowering efficacy may be comparatively modest. Thiazolidinediones may also benefit conditions like polycystic ovarian syndrome and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. Potential additional effects include anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties, although further research is needed to confirm these benefits. For type 1 diabetes, the approval of Teplizumab marks a new era in disease modification, while progress in stem cell therapy and islet cell transplantation offers the potential for a functional cure. As a result, there is a growing need for more intensive research efforts today.

Disclosures

Author's contribution:

Conceptualization: KC, AŚ, IB; Methodology: PK, IB, JN, AS; Software: KC, AŚ, IB; Check: PK, JN, SL, AS; Formal analysis: KC, KSB, KK; Investigation: AŚ, IB, SL; Resources: JN, KSB, KC; Data curation: KC, JN, KSB, AS; Writing -rough preparation: KC; Writing -review and editing: PK, LM, KK; Visualization: KC, LM, KK; Supervision: LM, KSB; Project administration: SL, KC, AŚ

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