



A REAL WORLD SAFETY STUDY ON DAPAGLIFOZIN, A PRELIMINARY ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IN A TERTIARY CARE SETTING

Dr.Padmaja Shetty K^{1*}, Dr.Pratibha Nadig², Dr. Prashanth Kumar M³, Ms. Tanya Tanaaz⁴, Ms. Shruthi Hari⁵, Ms. Ananya⁶

^{1*} Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Dr Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute of Medical Education and Research, Dayananda Sagar University, padmajaalva@gmail.com
Contact no- 9448862850

² Professor & HOD, Department Of Pharmacology, Dr Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute Of Medical Education and Research, Dayananda Sagar University, pratibha.nadig@gmail.com
Contact no- 9901961964

³ Professor & HOD, Department Of Physiology, Dr Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute Of Medical Education and Research, Dayananda Sagar University, drprashanthkumar@gmail.com
Contact no- 9448015663

⁴ Pharm D student, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayanada Sagar University

⁵ Pharm D student, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dayanada Sagar University

⁶ II MBBS Student, Dr Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute Of Medical Education and Research, Dayananda Sagar University

***Corresponding author:** Dr Padmaja Shetty K.

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Dr Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute Of Medical Education and Research, Dayananda Sagar University, E-mail: padmajaalva@gmail.com, padmajashetty.cdsimer@dsu.edu.in, Contact no- 9448862850

Abstract:

Background: Dapagliflozin, a popular SGLT 2 inhibitor is frequently used as a single or add on therapy in type 2 diabetes mellitus. With its efficacy established through extensive clinical trials, our study aims to collect preliminary safety data on dapagliflozin through active surveillance.

Material and Methods: The safety profile of dapagliflozin was evaluated in 100 patients aged > 18 years either on mono or add on dapagliflozin treatment for a duration of > 2 weeks. The safety data was collected on CRF after obtaining consent for a duration of 4 months from April 2022- July 2022 at a tertiary care hospital. The primary outcome was the proportion and frequency of AEs, causality and severity assessment of AEs. Secondary outcome delineated the association between sociodemographic and dapagliflozin characteristics with safety data.

Result: On analysis of safety data of 100 patients, mean age was 57.65 ± 12.23 years with male preponderance (57%) with average BMI – 27.75 ± 2.42 . About 39% adverse events were reported, of which the most common AEs were increased fatiguability (28.2%)(unexpected), hypoglycemia (17.9%), dapa specific adverse events such as genital tract infections (12.8%) and UTI (12.8%), gastro intestinal adverse events (~10-17%) and backpain- 9.09%. With 93% on add on therapy,

higher dose(10mg) and duration of administration (218.7 days) were significantly associated with adverse events.

Conclusion: Widespread clinical application of dapagliflozin among diabetics/nondiabetics have been associated with the need for vigilance on the safety data. The real life dapagliflozin safety data collected here contribute to the global incidence and watchlist.

Keywords: dapagliflozin, Adverse events, hypoglycemia, genital tract infections, UTI, Indian population

Introduction:

Sodium glucose transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors initially introduced as oral hypoglycemic agents were later also found to exhibit reduction in sympathetic activity, oxidative stress, cardioprotection, renoprotection, weight loss and lowering of blood pressure. Their unique insulin independent mechanism of action targeted the high capacity sodium glucose transporters located in the early portion of proximal convoluted tubules of the kidney leading to glycosuria. This property has been used in order to attain euglycemic control either alone or in combination regimen.^{1,2,3}

Of the several FDA approved SGLT2 inhibitors, dapagliflozin was the first in the class antidiabetic agents.^{4,5} Dapagliflozin is used either in monotherapy or in combination with other antidiabetic medications/insulin at any stage of type 2 diabetes mellitus.⁵ Dapagliflozin is used at a dose of 5mg to a maximum of 10mg/ day for adequate glycemic control. Several randomized controlled trials have shown noninferiority of dapagliflozin in comparison to other antidiabetic agents. The therapeutic role of dapagliflozin has been expanded to many other non diabetic conditions as well.⁶

Several randomized controlled trials have studied the efficacy and provided a comprehensive list of adverse events profile of dapagliflozin. Dapagliflozin in single/dual/ triple therapy has shown greater glycemic control with respect to HbA1c levels and weight reduction.⁷

The increasing popularity of SGLT2 inhibitors for various indications also draws our attention towards safety data. The most common adverse events reported are hypoglycemia, genital tract infections, urinary tract infections, backache, dryness of mouth, gastrointestinal adverse events such as nausea, vomiting, constipation.^{5,8,9}

Despite the safety and efficacy of dapagliflozin proved through RCTs, real world data/observational studies have shown varying incidence and severity of adverse events such as urinary tract infections, genital tract infections and more serious adverse events such as furnier's gangrene, ulcers/ non healing wounds.⁵ Hence this preliminary real world safety surveillance aims to determine the frequency, association and severity of dapagliflozin safety data among Indian diabetic population where its usage has risen substantially.

Materials and methods:

Review of outpatient and ward case sheet prescription by the clinical pharmacists, 130 patients on dapagliflozin were screened for the study, of which 18 patients did not agree to participate in the study and 12 patients did not meet the study criteria.

The study size of 100 diabetic patients met the study criteria of >18 years of age, both gender, on dapagliflozin for >2 weeks, either alone or in combination at a dose of 5mg or 10mg . Study was conducted from April 2022- July 2022 at a tertiary care setting after obtaining written informed consent. Type-2 diabetic patients who were on dapagliflozin for more than 2 weeks but had to discontinue treatment were also included in the study. Patients with contraindications to dapagliflozin such as hypersensitivity reactions, stopped dapagliflozin within 2 weeks, patients on dapagliflozin for conditions other than type 2 diabetes, pregnant women were excluded from the study.

For this active surveillance, the CRF for direct patient interviews was designed to include sociodemographic, clinical, medication related data and a set of 12 adverse drug reactions of

dapaglifozin as listed on FDA-PI, SmPC and other real time clinical studies. For telephonic interviews a set of 10 validated questionnaires comprising of the above 12 ADRs were included.

The study was designed and conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, Good Clinical Practice guidelines and was conducted after obtaining institutional ethics committee approval (CDSIMER/MR/0019/IEC/2021). The adverse events thus collected were assessed for frequency, severity, duration, causality, seriousness of reactions and association of risk factors with ADRs.

The primary outcomes included the proportion, frequency and types of AEs reported. Causality and severity assessment of adverse events(AE) and association of AE with sociodemographic, clinical and dapaglifozin characteristics were included as secondary outcomes.

WHO causality assessment score was used to measure the relationship between dapaglifozin and AEs as definite=3, probable=2, possible=1 and unlikely=0 while Hartwig’s severity score classified the severity of AEs as mild=1, moderate=2 and severe=3.

Statistical analysis: A preliminary sample size of 100 was calculated for this study derived from previous real time data. Descriptive and inferential statistical analysis has been carried out in the present study. Continuous measurements are presented as mean \pm SD and categorical measurements are presented in number/percentages (%).

A multivariate logistic regression was performed to assess the relation between adverse event and the explanatory variables: gender, age, address, employment status, BMI, education, socioeconomic status and comorbidities. Data were checked for multicollinearity with the Belsley-Kuh-Welsch technique. Heteroskedasticity and normality of residuals were assessed respectively by the Breusch-Pagan test and the Shapiro-Wilk test. A p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistical analysis was performed with Microsoft Excel and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27.

Result:

Patient demographic and clinical characteristics:

Patient demographics and clinical characteristics details are as shown in table 1. The study included patients aged 57.65 ± 12.23 years with male preponderance(57%). Clinical evaluation showed patients with BMI 27.75 ± 2.42 and systolic blood pressure was 128.27 ± 13.3 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure : 80.22 ± 9.9 mm Hg.

Table 1: Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics (n=100)

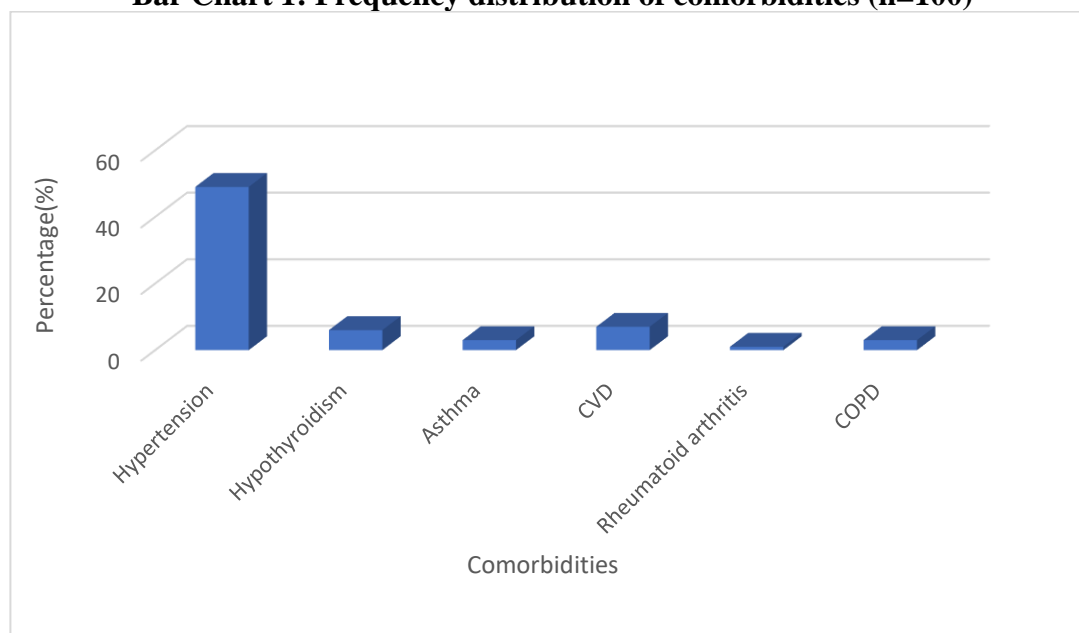
Sociodemographic & clinical characteristics	%
Age in Years	
• 18-30	5.0
• 31-45	16.0
• 46-65	56.0
• Above 65	23.0
Gender	
• Male	57.0
• Female	43.0
BMI	
• <25	77
• >25	23
Address	
• Rural	55.0
• Urban	45.0
Education	
• Educated	76
• Uneducated	24
Socioeconomic status	
• Upper middle	33.0

• Lower middle	37.0
• Upper lower	30.0
Employment status	
• Employed	45
• Unemployed	55
Blood pressure	
• <120/80 (Normal)	63.0
• 120-139/80-89 (Prehypertension)	23.0
• 140-159/90-99(Stage 1 HTN)	12.0
• >160/100 (Stage 2 HTN)	2.0
Presence of Comorbidities	55

At the time of enrolment in the study, laboratory examination showed FBS -150.5±49.12mg/dl, PPBS- 250.94±92.04 mg/dl with mean HbA1C as 9.56±2.29 % and serum creatinine levels-0.88 ±0.21mg/dl.

Among the study population with comorbidities (55%) (Bar Chart 1) the most common comorbidities observed were hypertension (49%), coronary heart disease (7%), asthma (3%), COPD (3%), rheumatoid arthritis (1%) and hypothyroidism (6%).

Bar Chart 1: Frequency distribution of comorbidities (n=100)



Dapagliflozin use and concomittant medications :

Considering the dapagliflozin related characteristics : 7% were taking dapa as single drug while 66% were on 10mg dose, 93% were add on therapy. Most of the patients (57%) included in this study have been on dapagliflozin for an average duration of 218.7 days (Table 2).

Table 2: Real Time Dapagliflozin utilisation characteristics(n=100)

Dapagliflozin characteristics	%
Dapa(single/ combi)	
• Single	7.0
• Adds on	93.0
Combination	
• No	2.0
• Single	6.0
• 2 drugs	29.0
• 3 drugs	61.0
• > 3	2.0

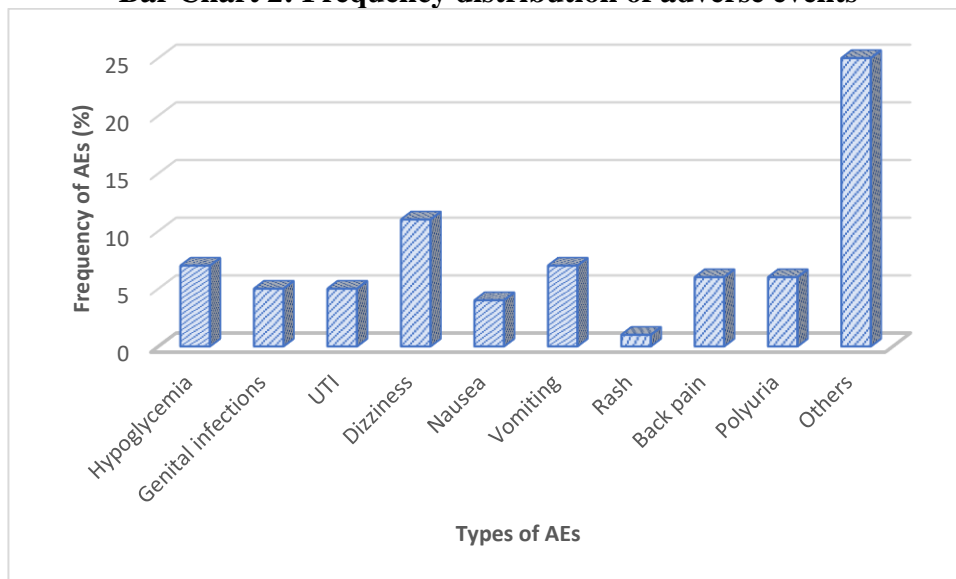
Dapa dose	
• 5mg	34.0
• 10mg	66.0
Duration	
• 1-6 months	57.0
• 7-12 months	21.0
• 1-2 yr	16.0
• 2-5 year	6.0
Personal history	
• No	89.0
• Smoking	4.0
• Alcohol	6.0
• Tobacco	1.0
Concomitant medications	
• No	44.0
• Yes	56.0

Around 56% of patients were on concomitant medications, of which 69.6% were on antihypertensive medications, 35.7% were on anticoagulants and antiplatelets drugs, 46.4% were on other medications such as statins, thyronorm, alprazolam, salbutamol, ambroxol, formoterol and budenoside, clopidogrel, thyronorm, antibiotic doxycycline, Vitamin B supplements, hematinics etc.

Adverse events(AE) profile among patients:

The frequency of AEs reported among patients is as shown in Bar Chart 2. 39% of patients on dapagliflozin presented with AEs. The most common AEs reported for dapagliflozin were fatiguability (28.2%) (unexpected), hypoglycemia (17.9%), dizziness(28.2%), polyuria (15.38%), backpain (9.09%), genital infections (12.8%), urinary tract infection (12.8%), nausea (10.2%), vomiting (17.9%), rash (2.56%), constipation (7.69%)(unexpected), dryness of mouth (5.12%), headache (2.56%)(unexpected), weight loss(2.56%), sleeplessness (2.56%)(unexpected), palpitations (2.56%)(unexpected), pain abdomen (5.12%), loss of appetite (2.56%)(unexpected), wound/ulcer (2.56%), chills (2.56%) and chest pain (2.56%)(unexpected).

Bar Chart 2: Frequency distribution of adverse events



Treatment was not changed for 29% of AEs reported, while in 12% cases, treatment with the suspected drug was withheld, but no treatment was given to manage AE. In 6% AEs, treatment with suspected drug was withheld/ discontinued and other treatment was given to manage AEs.

Causality assessment by WHO Probability Scale showed that 57% had possible and 22% had probable relationship to AEs. As per Hartwig’s severity score assessment, 63%`of AEs were mild while 16% were moderate. There were no serious AE(SAEs) reported.

Association of sociodemographic factors and clinical characteristics with AEs:

As shown in Table 3, multivariate analysis showed that lower BMI (OR=0.8, [0.64 ; 1.0], p= 0.046) was associated with higher rates of adverse events while the socioeconomic status, employment status, education, gender, age , address and presence of comorbidities were not associated with the AEs incidences.

Table 3: Association between demographic variables & rate of adverse events:

	Odds Ratio	p-Value
Rate of adverse events	293.2 [0.686 ; 125252.96]	0.066
Age		
Risk for each 1-unit increase	0.999 [0.958 ; 1.04]	0.958
Address		
Reference: rural	1.1 [0.368 ; 3.31]	0.861
Employment status	0.793 [0.222 ; 2.83]	0.72
BMI		
Risk for each 1-unit increase	0.799 [0.641 ; 0.996]	0.046 *
Education	0.902[0.251;3.24]	0.875
Socioeconomic status		
Reference: lower middle	1.14 [0.36 ; 3.62]	0.821
	0.506 [0.155 ; 1.65]	0.259
Comorbidities	2.06 [0.799 ; 5.31]	0.135
Gender		
Reference: M	0.994 [0.277 ; 3.57]	0.993

* p<0.05** p<0.01*** p<0.001**** p<0.0001

In multivariate analysis (Table 4), > 1 year duration of administration of dapagliflozin (OR=4.66, [1.58 ; 13.75], p= 0.0053) and concomitant medications (OR=0.32, [0.13 ; 0.81], p= 0.016)were associated with higher rates of AE.

Table 4: Association of dapagliflozin data to rate of AEs

	Odds Ratio	p-Value
Intercept	0.873 [0.47 ; 1.62]	0.668
Dapa dose		

	Odds Ratio	p-Value
Reference: 10mg	0.532 [0.202 ; 1.4]	0.202
Duration		
Reference: <1 year	4.66 [1.58 ; 13.75]	0.00527 **
Concomittant medications		
Reference: Yes	0.321 [0.127 ; 0.809]	0.016 *

* p<0.05** p<0.01*** p<0.001**** p<0.0001

Multilogistic regression analysis showed that the most common AEs like hypoglycemia, UTI , GI disturbances showed a positive trend of incidence towards duration of dapaglifozin administration while fatiguability was significantly associated with higher dose of dapaglifozin (10mg)(p<0.05).

Discussion:

Amongst the various SGLT2 inhibitors, dapaglifozin has been one of the commonly used antidiabetic agents in Indian population at a dose of 5mg/10mg/day. In the recent days, its use has also been expanded towards management of heart failure, chronic kidney disease, myocardial infarction, fatty liver diseases, weight loss, dyslipidemia.^{10,11,12}

Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics observed in study by Jung-Fu Chen et al was similar to that observed in our study including mean age (57.65±12.23yrs), male preponderance (57%) with BMI (27.75 ± 2.42)(p<0.05). More than half of our study population had comorbidities(55%), most common being hypertension(49%) similar to the study.¹³

In this study the real time dapaglifozin utilisation showed majority of study population on multiple antidiabetic medications while 66% were on highest dapaglifozin dose/day for effective blood glucose control. This was also associated with 56% of study population on concomitant medications to improve morbidity and mortality status. AE frequency of our study was similar to the study done by Brooks A.M et al where single and multidose phase I studies reported 21% and 37% of AEs while safety data analysis from phase II/III studies done by Serge Jabbour showed ≥1 AEs in 60% of cases.^{14,15}

Most common AEs reported in this study were classified as expected such as dapaglifozin specific adverse events such as urinary tract infections (UTI)(12.8%), genital tract infections(GTI)(12.8%), hypoglycemia(17.9%), gastrointestinal tract infections such as nausea, vomiting, pain abdomen, weight loss and unexpected AEs included increased fatiguability, palpitation, loss of appetite, chest pain. The expected AEs reported is similar to review article by Sohita Dhillon¹⁶ and research study done by Guo L¹⁷ et al, where hypoglycemia was ~14% while genital and urinary tract infections were ~5%. While the clinical practice experience study done by Anitha A P et al showed hypoglycemia, GTI, UTI, hypotension, increased risk of breast and bladder cancer and increased uric acid levels.¹⁸ DECLARE TIMI 58 clinical trial and study by Martha K Nicholson showed higher frequency of genital tract infections among women (13.2 %) which is similar to our study.¹⁹

Questionnaire based surveillance focused on the subjective AEs which included the increased incidence unexpected events such as increased fatiguability, constipation, loss of appetite, weight loss, palpitation, chest pain. These AEs affected the routine activity, medication adherence among the patients. Focusing on subjective AEs are important to identify and report AEs as well as provide timely assistance to help patients adhere to treatment.²⁰

Increased rate of dapa specific adverse events such as hypoglycemia, UTI and genital tract infections were significantly (p<0.05) associated with factors such as increased duration (>1 yr) and higher dose (10mg) of dapaglifozin administration, concomitant medications and increased BMI (>25). More than half of the study population showed mild AEs and possible relationship with

dapagliflozin. Study by Amit Varshney²¹ has shown good safety profile of dapagliflozin when administered in Indian population.

Despite absence of SAEs, our study has shown that 6% of AE cases discontinued treatment similar to study by jabbour at al.¹⁵ The most common adverse events reported in our study which resulted in discontinuation of treatment were increased fatiguability, hypoglycemia and genital tract infections which affected their quality of life.²²

The study focused on active surveillance to collect AEs through direct patient interviews which significantly showed association with reasons for discontinuation of treatment. Dapagliflozin related AEs reported can be added to the global watchlist. However, the study also presents with the limitation of a smaller sample size and was confined to a smaller geographical distribution. Hence more detailed multicentric study should be carried out to track the safety profile of SGLT2 inhibitors due to its increasing popularity,

Conclusion: Safety data in this preliminary study on real time dapagliflozin utilisation has shown incidence similar to global reporting. The increased incidence of unexpected adverse events which had serious implication on patient's day to day activity and medication adherence needs more surveillance on field.

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