INFORMATION ON THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF MEDICINES

English title: A Pragmatic Trial Comparing Empagliflozin and Dapagliflozin Through Cluster Randomization Embedded in the Electronic Health Record (APPLE TREE)

Background and purpose of the survey

The Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand are currently conducting a study involving the drug type SGLT2 inhibitor, which is used to treat diabetes, heart failure and chronic kidney disease. You are receiving this information because your doctor has determined that you need this type of medicine.

The aim of the study is to investigate the efficacy and safety of the two different SGLT2 inhibitors (empagliflozin and dapagliflozin). These treatments are currently regarded as equally effective in preventing death, heart failure, kidney failure and high blood sugar, as well as being safe with regard to the risk of side effects. However, there are no studies that directly compare the drugs against each other, so the goal is to determine whether they are indeed equally effective and safe.

How is the survey conducted?

Through a module in ”Sundhedsplatformen”, a random selection is made regarding which of the two drugs (empagliflozin or dapagliflozin) you will receive. In practical terms, when the doctor assesses that you need this type of medication, they will enter ”Sundhedsplatformen” and prescribe it for you. ”Sundhedsplatformen” will then automatically draw lots to decide which of the two drugs will be administered. This means there is a possibility you will receive the treatment that the doctor would have prescribed anyway, had the draw not taken place.

Is there a risk for me?

Currently, medications are used as if they are interchangeable, meaning that the choice of medication often relies solely on price or the doctor's preference. In this study, a computer system will determine which drug you receive, rather than you simply getting the cheapest option or what your doctor usually prescribes. There is currently no significant price difference between the drugs, and prices are not expected to change substantially until the manufacturers' patents expire after the study concludes in 2028. Should future price changes for empagliflozin and dapagliflozin lead to a price difference of ≥1000 DKK per year compared to the current level, you will be informed via E-boks. The most common side effects for both drugs include cystitis, genital infection, low blood sugar, and constipation, and so far, there is no evidence indicating a difference between them. This means that regardless of which of the two drugs you take, it is not considered to be associated with any increased risk. You are also protected by “Patienterstatningen” if any unforeseen circumstances arise.

Simple consent

According to new Danish and EU legislation, the traditional informed consent is not required, but consent can be based on written information provided in this document. However, you have the option to opt-out if you do not wish to participate. A refusal will not affect your subsequent treatment. If you do not wish to participate, simply inform your doctor or nurse, and you will receive

the standard treatment, either dapagliflozin or empagliflozin, which you will choose in consultation with your doctor.
If you choose to participate in the study, you can also withdraw your consent at a later date, at which point we will no longer use your data. One month after your discharge, you will receive a letter in E-boks, where you will also have the opportunity to withdraw your consent for us to use your data.

Processing of personal data

Please note that the trial processes sensitive personal data, including diagnoses made during and prior to hospitalization, medications administered during hospitalization, blood test results, and procedures performed during hospitalization. This information will be collected automatically via the national health registries until December 31, 2027, when the trial concludes. This data will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Personally identifiable data, including medical records, blood samples, etc., are stored in compliance with Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016, on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, as well as in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act, and the Health Act. All data (notes, health information, background, and contact information, etc.) are stored securely and are inaccessible to unauthorized persons. Data is retained until September 2031, after which it will be deleted. We process your personal data on the basis of GDPR Art. 6(1)(a) and Art. 9(2)(a) under the basis of the simplified consent.

Contact information

For questions regarding the survey, please write to our secure digital mailbox. For questions regarding treatment, please contact your doctor. If you do not want your data to be used, write to our secure digital mailbox: appletree.herlev-og-gentofte-hospital@regionh.dk. Withdrawal of consent will be recorded but will not receive a response.

You can also read more at http://www.appletreestudy.com

With kind regards,

On behalf of the participating departments in Region Zealand and the Capital Region of Denmark

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