

Cost-Effectiveness of DPP-4 Inhibitor and SGLT2 Inhibitor Combination Therapy for Type 2 Diabetes

Manjiri Pawaskar, PhD; S. Pinar Bilir, MS; Stacey Kowal, MS; Claudio Gonzalez, MD; Swapnil Rajpathak, MD; and Glenn Davies, DrPH

Of 23 million diabetes diagnoses in the United States, approximately 21.9 million are type 2 diabetes (T2D).¹ T2D is known to increase the risk of various complications and comorbidities throughout a patient's lifetime; in addition to generally raised mortality, patients with diabetes face higher risks of specific chronic conditions, such as cardiovascular disease (CVD), kidney disease, and blindness, as well as costly events, such as amputation, myocardial infarction, and stroke.^{1,2} Maintaining glycemic control has a direct relationship with mitigating risk,³ and patients with glycosylated hemoglobin (A1C) of 7.0% or less have been shown to have lower rates of comorbidities.⁴

Appropriately managing glycemic levels will help minimize economic burden as well. A study by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) estimated total direct diabetes-related expenditures at \$237 billion for 2017,⁵ and other evidence has shown that higher A1C levels were linked with higher healthcare costs (for A1C levels >7.5%).^{6,7} Past data have also shown that patients with diabetes without comorbidities may have annual healthcare costs that are only one-fourth as large as those of patients with cardiovascular complications.⁸ Considering healthcare costs from the opposite perspective, more than 25% of total national costs to manage ophthalmological, renal, and cardiovascular conditions are incurred by patients with diabetes.⁵

Although initial medical treatment includes metformin monotherapy when tolerated, ADA guidelines recommend intensification with a sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor or liraglutide (a glucagon-like peptide 1 [GLP-1] receptor agonist) in patients with established CVD due to evidence of cardiovascular benefit.⁹ In patients without established CVD or heart failure, the first intensification may combine metformin with therapies such as a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP-4) inhibitor, an SGLT2 inhibitor, a thiazolidinedione, a sulfonylurea (SU), a GLP-1 receptor agonist, or basal insulin. Subsequent intensification includes triple therapies composed of these options.⁹

Commonly used therapies for intensification after metformin failure may include generic medications like SU or, later, insulin, due to a combination of established efficacy and relative costs compared with branded medications.¹⁰⁻¹² However, the American

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES: Maintaining glycemic control limits costly health risks in patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D), but accomplishing this may require individualized strategies. Generic medications (eg, sulfonylureas [SU], insulin) are common in T2D management due to their efficacy and costs; however, relatively new drug classes (eg, dipeptidyl peptidase 4 [DPP-4] inhibitors, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 [SGLT2] inhibitors) have demonstrated clinical benefits in combination therapy. The objective of this study was to evaluate the long-term cost-effectiveness of a strategy involving branded combination therapy with DPP-4 inhibitors and SGLT2 inhibitors (pathway 1) compared with a generic alternative with SU and insulin (pathway 2) on a background of metformin.

STUDY DESIGN: Cost-effectiveness analysis using the validated IQVIA CORE Diabetes Model from the US payer perspective.

METHODS: Cost-effectiveness analysis. Lifetime clinical and economic outcomes (discounted 3%/year) were modeled for a T2D cohort failing to achieve glycemic goal on metformin monotherapy. Patient baseline data and treatment effects reflect results of clinical trials. Direct medical cost inputs are from multiple published sources. Scenario analyses on key intervention effects and assumptions tested robustness of results.

RESULTS: Pathway 1 had higher direct medical costs compared with pathway 2, yet also increased total quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs) by 0.24. Increased costs were partially offset by a reduction in diabetes-related complications and delayed insulin initiation. The incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) for pathway 1 is favorable at \$64,784/QALY. Scenario analyses showed limited impact; nearly all ICERs were less than \$100,000/QALY.

CONCLUSIONS: In the United States, sequential addition of SGLT2 inhibitors to DPP-4 inhibitors may be considered cost-effective compared with traditional treatment with generic medications for patients who fail to achieve glycemic goal on metformin.

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TAKEAWAY POINTS

- ▶ Generic medications (eg, sulfonylureas followed by insulin) are commonly used as therapy intensifies after metformin, but a pathway of newer medications (eg, dipeptidyl peptidase 4 [DPP-4] inhibitors and sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 [SGLT2] inhibitors prior to insulin) may be cost-effective over a lifetime.
- ▶ Evaluation of this sequence revealed that it increased costs compared with a generic pathway, yet also improved quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs) by 0.24 for an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of \$64,784/QALY.
- ▶ Costs were partially offset by a reduction in diabetes-related complications and delayed insulin initiation.
- ▶ In the United States, sequential addition of SGLT2 inhibitors to DPP-4 inhibitors may be cost-effective compared with traditional treatment using generic medications for patients not at glycemic goal on metformin.

College of Physicians has noted that evidence indicates potential safety differences with these therapy choices, including a higher risk of hypoglycemia and weight gain for metformin + SU compared with metformin combinations with DPP-4 inhibitors or SGLT2 inhibitors.¹⁰ Insulin likewise conveys increased risks of hypoglycemia and weight gain,¹³⁻¹⁵ whereas both SU and insulin may be associated with increased CVD risk.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ In addition to the negative impact to patient health, the additional costs associated with managing downstream complications can be substantial; both clinical and financial factors may be relevant to consider when making therapeutic choices.

At the same time, findings of recent clinical trials of triple-therapy combinations with newer (and thus branded) medications, such as DPP-4 inhibitors and SGLT2 inhibitors, have demonstrated significant clinical benefit over the use of each individual component when on a background of metformin.^{19,20} Multiple SGLT2 inhibitors have also been shown to convey CVD protective effects in this population, including reduced risk of heart failure, myocardial infarction, and stroke.^{16,21,22} Additionally, recent evidence suggests that remaining on DPP-4 inhibitor therapy provides significant improvement in A1C without increasing the risk of hypoglycemia compared with stopping it when initiating insulin.²³ Clinicians may therefore find it valuable to consider these newer therapies in combination prior to further intensification.

Given available clinical evidence, this study sought to model the overall impact on a lifetime of patient health outcomes, costs, and cost-effectiveness of a specific intensification pathway utilizing branded medications alone and in combination, sequentially. In this pathway, US patients with T2D that is poorly controlled on metformin alone transition from DPP-4 inhibitor to DPP-4 inhibitor + SGLT2 inhibitor on a background of metformin prior to insulin initiation. This pathway is compared against a more generic pathway in which patients intensify to metformin + SU, followed by initiation of insulin.

METHODS

IQVIA CORE Diabetes Model Summary Description

This study utilized the IQVIA CORE Diabetes Model (CDM) v9.0, a well-validated model that has been published previously in detail.²⁴⁻²⁶

This simulation model, which is programmed in C++, cycles a cohort of patients annually through a series of diabetes complication-related Markov modules over a lifetime. Treatment efficacy and safety data are used to project the impact of different therapeutic choices on major micro- and macrovascular diabetes complications, survival, quality of life, and medical costs. Efficacy benefits (eg, A1C decline) occur in the initial year of treatment, whereas safety effects (eg, hypoglycemic event rates) are applied throughout the years of therapy in the model. In addition to intervention-specific inputs, the model tracks

patient profiles (eg, current blood glucose, blood pressure, weight) and comorbidity status (eg, history of CVD, renal disease) to adjust risk of diabetes-related events. Key risk equations are derived from large cohort studies. A1C progression and A1C-dependent adjustments in T2D analyses reflect the United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study risk engine.^{3,27-29} Early A1C levels indirectly affect downstream events, as the initial value affects downstream A1C. Other physiological parameters projections reflect findings from the Framingham Heart Study.³⁰

Model outputs include differences in life expectancy, quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs), costs, cumulative incidences of complication events due to intervention effects on diabetes-related adverse events, and A1C levels and other physiological parameters that affect risks of major diabetes complications. Incremental costs and QALYs are then used to estimate an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) in terms of dollar amount per QALY.

Although there is no official threshold that specifies what makes an intervention a good value in the United States, a 2008 study summarizing the cost-effectiveness of interventions that have been approved and reimbursed found that the implicit US threshold ranges from \$109,000 to \$294,000 per QALY.³¹ Historical cited values, such as \$50,000 and \$100,000 per QALY, are currently thought to be low given available evidence about true reimbursement and societal preferences.³²

Analyses were run with 1000 patients for 1000 iterations each over a lifetime time horizon of 40 years from a US payer perspective, using a discount rate of 3% for costs and outcomes as recommended for cost-effectiveness analyses in the United States.³³

Model Inputs

The model cohort was designed to represent patients not at A1C goal on metformin and who have intensified to dual therapy; thus, they are the appropriate target population for this type of therapy intensification in the United States. Patient characteristics were derived from the GE Centricity electronic medical record database, with supplemental data provided to align with clinical trial data (key inputs shown in [Table 1](#)³⁴⁻³⁹; the [eAppendix](#) [available at ajmc.com] shows the full set of cohort inputs). The mean

baseline age for this group is 57.9 years, with 3 years duration of diabetes and a baseline A1C level of 8.37%.

Intervention effects. Full pathways under consideration are depicted in **Figure 1**. In pathway 1, intensification following failure with metformin monotherapy includes DPP-4 inhibitors followed by the addition of SGLT2 inhibitors prior to insulin; whereas pathway 2, which is more generic, follows intensification with SU followed by the addition of insulin(s). Clinical inputs for each therapeutic step in each pathway were obtained from randomized clinical trials or large meta-analyses (**Table 2**⁴⁰⁻⁴³). Treatments were assumed to have no impact on any clinical parameters not specified in Table 2,⁴⁰⁻⁴³ reflecting an interpretation that values not reported are not significantly different. Patients moved from one therapeutic line to the next when their A1C level exceeded 7.5%, as an indication of failing to meet their A1C goal. However, as this threshold is considered aggressive for some patients (eg, older patients, for whom consequences of hypoglycemic events may be more severe), this value was tested in scenario analysis (described in the Analyses section).

Regimen details. With the exception of insulin, treatment dosing reflects official prescribing information. For basal insulin, the dose reflects consumption as quantified in the metformin + sitagliptin + insulin glargine arm of the recently completed PN845 study (Merck, unpublished data [PN845 trial], 2018),²³ although costs are assumed to reflect a weighted average of available forms including glargine, detemir, and degludec (Merck, unpublished data, 2018). Bolus insulin (insulin aspart) dosing reflects published daily average consumption of 0.2 units per kg weight (average weight, 84.9 kg).³⁴

Estimates of additional resource use, such as test strips for self-monitoring of blood glucose, lancets, and needles for insulin, were based on literature or assumptions about typical usage (2.7 test strips daily,⁴⁴ daily replacement of lancets, and 2 needles per day with bolus insulin; note that basal insulin is provided in an injection pen or other prefilled syringe format).

Unit costs. Key cost inputs for the analyses are shown in Table 1.³⁴⁻³⁹ Costs are reported in 2017 US\$ and reflect published values from MediSpan PriceRx for drugs³⁵ or a combination of literature and

TABLE 1. Key Model Inputs³⁴⁻³⁹

| | Default Value | Source |
|--|--|------------------|
| Baseline characteristics | | |
| Start age in years, mean (SD) | 57.9 (11.9) | ^a |
| Duration of diabetes in years, mean (SD) | 3.0 (3.6) | ^{34,a} |
| Male, % | 51.8 | ^{34,a} |
| A1C, mean (SD) | 8.37% (1.84%) | ^{34,a} |
| Systolic blood pressure in mm Hg, mean (SD) | 130.94 (16.90) | ^{34,a} |
| BMI, mean (SD) | 34.40 (7.87) | ^{34,a} |
| Key intervention annual costs | | |
| Metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class | \$4853.39 | ³⁵ |
| Metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class + SGLT2 inhibitor class ^b | \$6416.46 | ³⁵ |
| Metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class + basal insulin | \$9928.09 | ^{34,c} |
| Metformin + basal insulin + bolus insulin | \$5240.17 | ^{34,35} |
| Metformin + SU | \$1844.29 | ³⁵ |
| Metformin + SU + basal insulin | \$4814.32 | ^{35,c} |
| Metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class + NPH insulin (scenario) | \$7049.59 | ^{34,35} |
| Metformin + SU + NPH insulin (scenario) | \$4040.49 | ^{34,35} |
| Metformin + NPH insulin + bolus insulin (scenario) | \$4466.34 | ^{34,35} |
| Quality of life inputs | | |
| Baseline utility | 0.785 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for myocardial infarction | -0.055 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for angina | -0.090 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for stroke event | -0.164 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for neuropathy | -0.084 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for active ulcer | -0.170 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for amputation event | -0.280 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for NSHE (diminishing approach) | Automatically calculated per line of therapy | ³⁹ |
| Disutility for SHE 1 (during daytime or nighttime) | -0.0183 | ³⁸ |
| Disutility for SHE 2 (during daytime) | -0.055 | ³⁷ |
| Disutility for SHE 2 (nocturnal) | -0.057 | ³⁷ |
| Disutility for hemodialysis | -0.164 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for peritoneal dialysis | -0.204 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for background diabetic retinopathy | -0.040 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for proliferative diabetic retinopathy | -0.070 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for macular edema | -0.040 | ³⁶ |
| Disutility for severe vision loss | -0.074 | ³⁶ |

A1C indicates glycated hemoglobin; BMI, body mass index; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase 4; NPH, neutral protamine Hagedorn; NSHE, nonsevere hypoglycemic event; SGLT2, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2; SHE, severe hypoglycemic event; SU, sulfonylurea.

^aGE Healthcare Centricity electronic medical record, 2015.

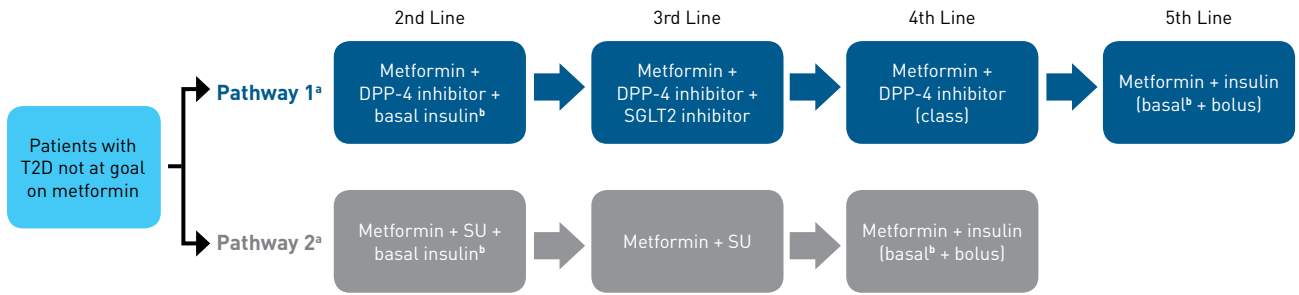
^bSGLT2 inhibitor class represented by least costly option, canagliflozin.

^cMerck, unpublished data (PN845 trial), 2018.

Medicare fee schedules⁴⁵ for complications and events. The full list of cost inputs and references is housed in the eAppendix.

Quality of life. Quality of life is captured via adjusting total life-years with utilities and disutilities associated with health status and health events. Utility and disutility input values reflect IQVIA CDM defaults for a T2D population (Table 1³⁴⁻³⁹).³⁶⁻³⁹

FIGURE 1. Intervention Pathways



A1C indicates glycated hemoglobin; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase 4; SGLT2, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2; SU, sulfonylurea; T2D, type 2 diabetes.

^aThis analysis assumes that patients switch lines of therapy when A1C exceeds 7.5%.

^bBasal insulin reflects the effects of insulin glargine.

TABLE 2. Key Intervention Effects⁴⁰⁻⁴³

| Line | Therapy | A1C Change, % (SE) | BMI Change, kg/m ² (SE) ^a | Hypoglycemic Event Rate per 100 Patient-Years ^b | SBP Change, mm Hg (SE) ^a |
|------------------|--|--------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Pathway 1 | | | | | |
| 2nd | Metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class ⁴⁰ | -0.65 [0.026] | 0.04 [0.03] | 7.28 | -3.04 [0.68] |
| 3rd | Metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class + SGLT2 inhibitor class ^c | -0.86 [0.069] | -1.07 [0.079] | 3.88 | -4.82 [0.88] |
| 4th | Metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class + basal insulin ^d | -1.88 [0.051] | 0.56 [0.068] | 145.43 | -0.303 [0.4] |
| 5th | Metformin + basal insulin + bolus insulin ^{41,42} | -1.5 [0.10] | 1.27 | 784.43 | 0 |
| Pathway 2 | | | | | |
| 2nd | Metformin + SU ⁴⁰ | -0.94 [0.13] | 0.42 [0.09] | 19.44 | 0 |
| 3rd | Metformin + SU + basal insulin ⁴³ | -1.70 [0.029] | 0.70 | 137.36 | 0 |
| 4th | Metformin + basal insulin + bolus insulin ^{41,42} | -1.5 [0.10] | 1.27 | 784.43 | 0 |

A1C indicates glycated hemoglobin; BMI, body mass index; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase 4; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SE, standard error; SGLT2, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2; SU, sulfonylurea.

^aTreatment effect assumed to be 0 when not otherwise specified in data source; unreported variability information was not incorporated into probabilistic sensitivity analysis.

^bRates were assumed to reflect nonsevere hypoglycemic events when otherwise unspecified severity in publication. For metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor class + basal insulin, details were available and 9.11 nonsevere (no medical assistance) and 0.46 severe (medical assistance) hypoglycemic events were also included.

^cMerck, unpublished data [VERTIS 006 trial], 2017.

^dMerck, unpublished data [PN845 trial], 2018.

Analyses

The base-case analysis compares a pathway with patients on a background of metformin remaining on DPP-4 inhibitors when adding SGLT2 inhibitors as a second intensification therapy prior to insulin initiation versus a pathway in which patients intensify to insulin initiation from metformin + SU. These pathways reflect intervention effects as summarized in Table 2.⁴⁰⁻⁴³ The deterministic base-case analysis was supplemented with probabilistic sensitivity analysis to capture potential variation in results due to known parameter variation as captured in distributions around parameters.

Additionally, a series of scenario analyses were defined to assess the impact of key model inputs and assumptions. Among these, potential variation in treatment effects across all lines of therapy within a pathway (eg, for A1C, hypoglycemic event rates, body mass index [BMI]) were tested using 95% CIs for each line from their respective primary data source. An alternate intensification

regimen utilizing neutral protamine Hagedorn (NPH) insulin in place of other basal insulin was also explored, due to its generic nature and thus potential preferred use by some payers.

Generalizability across somewhat different diabetes populations was also tested via alternate cohort definitions. These include older patients (≥65 years) with a higher A1C target threshold of 8% to affect treatment intensification and patients with lower and higher baseline A1C levels (7% and 9%, based on the range found in published trial populations).⁴⁰

Evidence from the CANVAS, CVD-REAL, and EMPA-REG trials suggests that SGLT2 inhibitor therapies convey additional CVD protective effects,^{16,21,22} lowering risk of heart failure and/or myocardial infarction and stroke. Therefore, a set of analyses tested these potential benefits, as well as the impact of insulin glargine¹⁷ and a weighted average DPP-4 inhibitor effect on heart failure.⁴⁶ However, no additional effect on CVD-related mortality was implemented

with these individual components, to avoid any potential double counting of effects given the mortality risk offset through these other cardiovascular events.

Scenarios with discounting (25%, 50%) across branded product pricing, including DPP-4 inhibitors, SGLT2 inhibitors, and basal insulin, were also performed. Given negotiations between payers and manufacturers, the wholesale acquisition costs that define treatment costs in the base-case analyses do not reflect the true reimbursement rates and therefore are likely to overestimate the incremental costs and cost-effectiveness ratio associated with pathway 1.

RESULTS

Base-case analysis results indicate that pathway 1—in which patients intensify to triple therapy with DPP-4 inhibitors and SGLT2 inhibitors before transitioning to triple therapy with DPP-4 inhibitors and basal insulin—improves life-years and QALYs by 0.133 and 0.240, respectively, compared with a generic pathway (transitioning from metformin + SU to triple therapy including metformin + SU + basal insulin). This is simultaneously associated with a relatively limited increase in overall medical costs over a patient’s lifetime (\$15,548), as shown in **Table 3**, along with total costs, life-years, and QALYs per pathway. Overall, higher total treatment costs in pathway 1 are partially offset by lower costs associated with managing complications in comparison with a more generic medication pathway. These results translate to an ICER for pathway 1 of \$64,784/QALY.

Probabilistic sensitivity analysis confirms the robustness of results, showing an acceptable mean ICER of \$75,943/QALY. Given sampling to account for variation in parameters values, results remain cost-effective at \$100,000/QALY approximately 60% of the time (see **eAppendix Figure**).

The majority of scenarios tested continued to provide QALY improvement with limited cost increases; ICERs remained under thresholds approved in real-world settings (**Figure 2**^{16,17,21,22}),³¹ with only 1 scenario (older baseline age) resulting in an ICER higher than \$100,000/QALY. Simultaneously varying input values across all lines of therapy in each pathway to reflect 95% CI values in A1C led to an 8% increase or a 51% decrease in the ICER, for a total range of \$31,945 to \$70,126/QALY. However, similar explorations of 95% CI variation in hypoglycemic event rates and BMI had negligible impact on ICERs, with only 1% to 2% change from baseline. Use of a fully generic sequence, assuming NPH insulin rather than more often branded basal insulins (eg, glargine), had limited impact on the ICER, leading to a \$60,031/QALY ICER (a decline of ~7%).

Despite sensitivity of the ICER value to changes in population characteristics, such as A1C level, interpretation would not necessarily change. Patients with different baseline A1C levels (7%, 9%) continue to benefit from pathway 1, with consistent incremental QALY benefits ranging from 2.5 to 3 quality-adjusted months. Coupled with therapy switching rules (eg, that therapy should be changed upon reaching A1C >7.5%), different baseline levels mean

TABLE 3. Base-Case Results*

| | Pathway 1 | Pathway 2 | Incremental Value |
|--|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Projected direct medical costs per patient (cost of drugs, complications, AEs) | \$145,029 | \$129,481 | \$15,548 |
| Treatment | \$121,343 | \$104,616 | \$16,727 |
| CVD | \$13,801 | \$14,571 | -\$770 |
| Renal | \$1142 | \$1359 | -\$217 |
| Ulcer/amputation/neuropathy | \$5479 | \$5594 | -\$115 |
| Eye | \$954 | \$993 | -\$39 |
| Hypoglycemia (all levels) | \$710 | \$764 | -\$54 |
| Life-years | 14.334 | 14.201 | 0.133 |
| QALYs | 9.722 | 9.482 | 0.240 |
| ICER: ΔCosts/ΔQALY | Pathway 1 is cost-effective compared with pathway 2 (ICER <\$100,000) | | \$64,784 |

AE indicates adverse event; CVD, cardiovascular disease; ICER, incremental cost-effectiveness ratio; QALY, quality-adjusted life-year.

*All results are discounted at 3% per year.

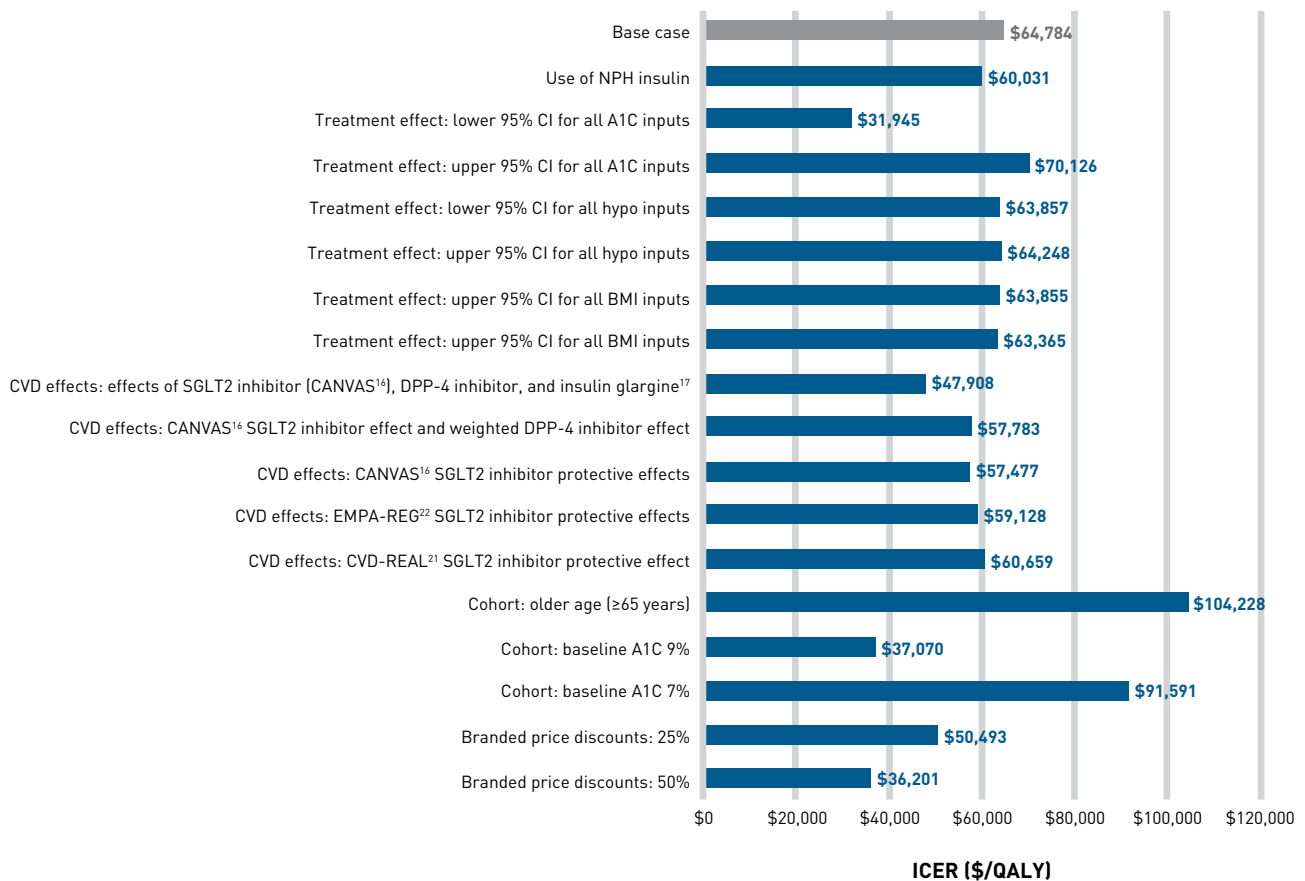
that patients may stay on initial lines of therapy for more or fewer years than in the base case; associated changes to treatment-related cost differences mean that ICERs range from less than \$40,000/QALY to just over \$90,000/QALY.

In addition to consistently favorable results given potential alternate key treatment effects and assumptions about the patient population, the ICER fell below even the most stringent of traditional willingness-to-pay thresholds (\$50,000/QALY) when considering the impact on potential CVD event risks across all lines of therapy, including both protective effects (SGLT2 inhibitors) and potential harms associated with other medications. Individual consideration of SGLT2 inhibitor benefits led to ICER reductions of 6% to 11%, whereas simultaneously considering potential harms associated with early transition to insulin decreased the ICER by 26%.

Finally, price discounting to more accurately reflect costs associated with the pathways under consideration showed an ICER of \$50,493/QALY with 25% discounts. Larger discounting of branded products at a 50% level led to an ICER of \$36,201/QALY.

DISCUSSION

Results of base-case and scenario analyses demonstrate that for patients who are not at their A1C goal on metformin, intensification with DPP-4 inhibitors (second line) followed by addition of SGLT2 inhibitors (third line) on a background of metformin may be considered cost-effective compared with a more generic treatment strategy with metformin + SU prior to insulin initiation, with an ICER well under \$100,000/QALY. Although the addition of costlier branded oral medications after metformin failure increased direct

FIGURE 2. Scenario Results^{16,17,21,22}

A1C indicates glycated hemoglobin; BMI, body mass index; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase 4; hypo, hypoglycemic event; NPH, neutral protamine Hagedorn; SGLT2, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2; SU, sulfonylurea; T2D, type 2 diabetes.

medical costs in pathway 1, the health benefits associated with pathway 1 medications partially offset treatment costs, improving life expectancy and quality of life over a patient's lifetime.

With all scenarios demonstrating cost-effectiveness relative to willingness-to-pay thresholds, results are robust to alternate assumptions. Notably, the base-case analysis did not incorporate the potential cardiovascular protective effects of adding an SGLT2 inhibitor as documented in multiple clinical trials,^{16,21,22} yet scenarios incorporating cardioprotective effects further improved QALYs and lowered total costs to the point of reducing ICER results to below \$50,000/QALY. Most other scenarios remained similar to the base case; the exceptions were those that led to limited duration of therapy, such as starting at a higher baseline A1C level, such that the benefits outweighed the costs accrued. This and other scenarios reinforce the conclusion that use of relatively new branded medications that rely on novel mechanisms of action may provide long-term benefits compared with traditional generic therapies. When additionally accounting for the range of price discounts that are commonly negotiated between payers and manufacturers on

branded medications, ICERs fell close to \$50,000/QALY with 25% discounts and as far as \$36,201/QALY with 50% discounts, thereby indicating that pathway 1 is highly cost-effective compared with pathway 2 according to any willingness-to-pay threshold typically considered in the United States.³²

To the authors' knowledge, no economic evaluation has been performed to assess the cost-effectiveness of specific sequential treatment pathways, and the multiple intensification steps included in this analysis limit comparability with other publications. As noted in a review of diabetes-related cost-effectiveness publications, nearly all studies have evaluated the cost-effectiveness of a single intervention, whereas in the real world, patients will receive multiple interventions over a lifetime, both sequentially and simultaneously as suggested in guidelines.^{9,47} However, it is possible to consider the results of this analysis given the general literature on cost-effectiveness thresholds. ICERs are often evaluated relative to willingness-to-pay thresholds, and although \$50,000/QALY or \$100,000/QALY is often used as a point of comparison, the rationale is outdated.³² The World Health Organization's

WHO-CHOICE program suggests that 2 to 3 times the national gross domestic product would be appropriate in developed countries (approximately \$115,000-\$172,000),³² and alternate suggested values have ranged between approximately \$110,000/QALY and close to \$300,000/QALY.^{31,48,49} The present analysis results can be interpreted as falling under those suggested values and thus indicate that it represents good value for money.

Limitations

Although the results of this analysis are robust, it does have some limitations to consider. When initiating insulin, it is assumed that patients drop SGLT2 inhibitors and thus do not continue to receive the benefits of potential weight loss and CVD protection associated with those medications. This was done due to lack of clinical data regarding the effects of combination therapy including metformin + DPP-4 inhibitor + SGLT2 inhibitor + basal insulin. Omitting the potential long-term benefits may also be offset by eliminating the associated long-term medication costs. The analysis was also simplified by assuming that insulin dosage within each line of therapy remained constant. This simplification was also used due to lack of additional data to inform changes over time. However, because any insulin change would apply to both strategies equally, the incremental results are anticipated to remain similar and thus have limited impact on study conclusions. Additionally, a less costly option among several rapid-acting forms of bolus insulin was selected as a proxy for this last line of therapy in both pathways. This assumption was considered conservative, as it limits cost offsets due to delaying the basal-bolus line of therapy and thus removes any potential bias associated with adding a step into the treatment pathway.

Another point of consideration is that this analysis did not incorporate certain potential adverse event differences. For instance, this analysis did not include costs related to infrequent adverse events that may be associated with some of the drugs in the SGLT2 inhibitor class, such as diabetic ketoacidosis or amputations,¹⁶ as these would have limited impact on analytic results. No association was incorporated between hypoglycemic events and other downstream complications, such as cardiovascular events, although recent study results have indicated a potential link between these events.^{50,51} Adding this relationship would only improve an already cost-effective result. Finally, no association between A1C treatment switching threshold and potential mortality (eg, if it is aggressive for some subgroups) was implemented; however, this was not required in the deterministic base-case analysis, as the threshold was appropriate for the cohort average.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite its limitations, by estimating lifetime direct medical costs and clinical outcomes of potential therapeutic pathways, this study improves on available information regarding the potential economic value of different treatment strategies that could be

used for management of T2D. Specifically, this analysis shows that additional anticipated long-term health benefits of a sequential pathway with branded oral medication including DPP-4 inhibitors and subsequent addition of SGLT2 inhibitors prior to insulin initiation provides acceptable value relative to costs compared with a generic treatment pathway of metformin with SU and insulin in the United States. ■

Author Affiliations: Merck & Co, Inc (MP, CG, SR, GD), Kenilworth, NJ; IQVIA, Inc (SPB, SK), San Francisco, CA.

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Authorship Information: Concept and design (MP, SPB, SK, SR, GD); acquisition of data (SPB, CG); analysis and interpretation of data (MP, SPB, SK, CG, SR, GD); drafting of the manuscript (MP, SPB, SR, GD); critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content (MP, SPB, SK, CG, GD); statistical analysis (MP); obtaining funding (SR); administrative, technical, or logistic support (SK, GD); and supervision (MP, GD).

Address Correspondence to: S. Pinar Bilir, MS, IQVIA, 135 Main St, Floors 21 and 22, San Francisco, CA 94015. Email: Pinar.bilir@iqvia.com.

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eAppendix Table.

Cohort Characteristics

| Required values | All patients | | Units/Range | References/Notes |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS | Mean | SD | | |
| Start age | 57.9 | 11.9 | years | |
| Duration of Diabetes | 3 | 3.6 | years | GE Centricity ¹ |
| Prop. Male | 0.518 | | [0-1] | |
| All patients | | | | |
| BASELINE RISK FACTORS | Mean | SD | | |
| HbA1c | 8.37 | 1.84 | %-points | GE Centricity ¹ |
| SBP | 130.94 | 16.90 | mmHg | |
| T-CHOL | 181.79 | 42.81 | mg/dL | Merck Data on File ² |
| HDL | 42.94 | 11.52 | mg/dL | GE Centricity ¹ |
| LDL | 99.53 | 37.21 | mg/dL | Merck Data on File ² |
| TRIG | 143.34 | 80.88 | mg/dL | |
| BMI | 34.40 | 7.87 | kg/m ² | GE Centricity ¹ |
| eGFR | 87.200 | 18.500 | ml/min/1.73m ² | Merck Data on File ² |
| HAEM | 13.827 | 1.237 | gr/dl | Merck Data on File ² |
| WBC | 7.437 | 1.913 | 10 ⁶ /ml | |
| Heart rate | 70.502 | 10.698 | bpm | Merck Data on File ² |
| Alcohol consumption | 7.54 | | oz/week | WHO Global status report on alcohol and health 2014 ³ |
| All patients | | | | |
| RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS | Mean | | | |
| Prop. White | 0.659 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. Black | 0.0126 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. Hispanic | 0.00 | | [0-1] | GE Centricity ¹ |
| Prop. Native American | 0.0034 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. Asian/Pacific Islander | 0.02 | | [0-1] | |
| All patients | | | | |
| BASELINE CVD COMPLICATIONS | Mean | | | |
| Prop. MI | 0.029 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. Angina | 0.034 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. PVD | 0.003 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. stroke | 0.011 | | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² |
| Prop. HF | 0.008 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. Atrial fibrillation | 0.015 | | [0-1] | |
| Prop. LVH | 0.005 | | [0-1] | |
| All patients | | | | |

| BASELINE RENAL COMPLICATIONS | | | |
|---|-------------|-------|--|
| | Mean | | |
| Prop. MA | 0.017 | [0-1] | |
| Prop. GRP | 0.006 | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² |
| Prop. ESRD | 0.000 | [0-1] | |
| All patients | | | |
| BASELINE RETINOPATHY COMPLICATIONS | | | |
| | Mean | | |
| Prop. BDR | 0.038 | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² |
| Prop. PDR | 0.000 | [0-1] | |
| Prop. SVL | 0.004 | [0-1] | |
| All patients | | | |
| BASELINE MACULAR EDEMA | | | |
| | Mean | | |
| Prop. ME | 0.0 | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² ; none reported |
| All patients | | | |
| BASELINE CATARACT | | | |
| | Mean | | |
| Prop. cataract | 0.063 | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² |
| All patients | | | |
| BASELINE FOOT ULCER COMPLICATIONS | | | |
| | Mean | | |
| Prop. uninfected ulcer | 0.000 | [0-1] | |
| Prop. infected ulcer | 0.000 | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² |
| Prop. healed ulcer | 0.000 | [0-1] | (0= not reported) |
| Prop. history of amputation | 0.002 | [0-1] | |
| All patients | | | |
| BASELINE NEUROPATHY | | | |
| | Mean | | |
| Prop. neuropathy | 0.125 | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² |
| All patients | | | |
| BASELINE DEPRESSION | | | |
| | Mean | | |
| Prop. depression | 0.054 | [0-1] | Merck Data on File ² |

Clinical inputs (non-treatment specific)

| | Required values | Units/Range | References/Notes |
|---|-----------------|-------------|--|
| HbA1c adjustments - Type 2 diabetes | | | |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c MI T2 | 14 | [0-100] | Stratton et al 2000 ⁴ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c micro T2 | 37 | [0-100] | Stratton et al 2000 ⁴ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c PVD T2 | 22 | [0-100] | Adler et al 2002 ⁵ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c Cataract T2 | 19 | [0-100] | Stratton et al 2000 ⁴ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c HF T2 | 16 | [0-100] | Stratton et al 2000 ⁴ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c stroke type 2 | 12 | [0-100] | Stratton et al 2000 ⁴ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c angina type 2 | 12 | [0-100] | Clarke et al 2004 ⁶ |
| HbA1c adjustments - Type 1 and -2 diabetes | | | |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c HD Mort | 12 | [0-100] | Morioka et al 2001 ⁷ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c PD Mort | 12 | [0-100] | Morioka et al 2001 ⁷ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c RT Mort | 0 | [0-100] | Wiesbauer et al 2010 ⁴ |
| Risk Reduct for 1%-point lower HbA1c 1st ulcer | 17 | [0-100] | Monami et al 2009 ⁸ |
| SBP adjustments | | | |
| Risk Reduct for 10mmHg lower SBP all micro T2 | 13 | [0-100] | Adler et al 2000 ⁹ |
| Risk Reduct for 10mmHg lower SBP SVL T2 | 0 | [0-100] | Assumption (No data) |
| MI | | | |
| Prop. init CHD event MI Female | 0.361 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |
| Prop. init CHD event MI Male | 0.522 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |
| Prop. subseq CHD event MI female | 0.474 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |
| Prop. subseq CHD event MI Male | 0.451 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |
| Increased Risk MI if MA | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Increased Risk MI if GPR | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Increased Risk MI if ESRD | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Multiplier for Risk rec MI if DIGAMI intensive control | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Multiplier for Risk pot MI mort if DIGAMI intensive control | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Multiplier Aspirin 1° MI | 0.82 | Multiplier | Antithrombotic Trialists' (ATT) Collaboration 2009 ¹¹ |
| Multiplier Aspirin 2° MI | 0.80 | Multiplier | Antithrombotic Trialists' (ATT) Collaboration 2009 ¹¹ |
| Multiplier Statins 1° MI | 0.70 | Multiplier | Brugts et al 2009 ¹² |
| Multiplier Statins 2° MI | 0.81 | Multiplier | Shepherd et al 2002 ¹³ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE 1st MI | 0.78 | [0-1] | Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation (HOPE) Study Investigators 2000 ¹⁴ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE rec MI | 0.78 | [0-1] | Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation (HOPE) Study Investigators 2000 ¹⁴ |
| MI mortality | | | |
| p sudden death 1st MI male | 0.393 | [0-1] | Sonke et al 1996 ¹⁵ |
| p sudden death 1st MI female | 0.364 | [0-1] | Sonke et al 1996 ¹⁵ |
| p sudden death rec MI male | 0.393 | [0-1] | Sonke et al 1996 ¹⁵ |

| | | | |
|--|-------|------------|---|
| p sudden death rec MI female | 0.364 | [0-1] | Sonke et al 1996 ¹⁵ |
| Multiplier 12 month mortality MI convent treatment | 1.45 | Multiplier | Malmberg et al 1995 ¹⁶ |
| Multiplier Aspirin mortality 1st year MI | 0.88 | Multiplier | Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaboration 1994 ¹⁷ |
| Multiplier Aspirin mortality 2nd+ years MI | 0.88 | Multiplier | Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaboration 1994 ¹⁷ |
| Multiplier Statins mortality 1st year MI | 0.75 | Multiplier | Stenstrand et al 2001 ¹⁸ |
| Multiplier Statins mortality 2nd+ years MI | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Multiplier Aspirin sudden death MI | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Multiplier Statin sudden death MI | 1.00 | Multiplier | Briel et al 2006 ¹⁹ |
| Multiplier ACE sudden death MI | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Risk Reduct with ACE MI long-term mort | 0.64 | [0-1] | Gustafsson et al 1999 ²⁰ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE MI 12 month mort | 0.64 | [0-1] | Gustafsson et al 1999 ²⁰ |
| Stroke | | | |
| Mult Stroke MA | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (no data) |
| Mult Stroke GRP | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (no data) |
| Mult Stroke ESRD | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (no data) |
| Multiplier Aspirin 1° stroke | 0.86 | Multiplier | Antithrombotic Trialists' (ATT) Collaboration 2009 ¹¹ |
| Multiplier Aspirin 2° stroke | 0.78 | Multiplier | Antithrombotic Trialists' (ATT) Collaboration 2009 ¹¹ |
| Multiplier Statins 1° stroke | 0.81 | Multiplier | Brugts et al 2009 ¹² |
| Multiplier Statins 2° stroke | 0.84 | Multiplier | The Stroke Prevention by Aggressive Reduction in Cholesterol Levels (SPARCL) Investigators 2006 ²¹ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE 1st stroke | 0.67 | [0-1] | Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation (HOPE) Study Investigators 2000 ¹⁴ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE rec stroke | 0.72 | [0-1] | PROGRESS Collaborative Group 2001 ²² |
| Stroke mortality | | | |
| p 30-day death 1st stroke male | 0.124 | [0-1] | Eriksson et al 2001 ²³ |
| p 30-day death 1st stroke female | 0.124 | [0-1] | Eriksson et al 2001 ²³ |
| p 30-day death rec stroke male | 0.422 | [0-1] | Eriksson et al 2001 ²³ |
| p 30-day death rec stroke female | 0.422 | [0-1] | Eriksson et al 2001 ²³ |
| Multiplier Aspirin mortality 1st year stroke | 0.84 | Multiplier | Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaboration 1994 ¹⁷ |
| Multiplier Aspirin mortality 2nd+ years stroke | 0.84 | Multiplier | Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaboration 1994 ¹⁷ |
| Multiplier Statins mortality 1st year stroke | 1.00 | Multiplier | Manktelow et al 2009 ²⁴ |
| Multiplier Statins mortality 2nd+ years stroke | 1.00 | Multiplier | Manktelow et al 2009 ²⁴ |
| Multiplier Aspirin sudden death stroke | 0.95 | Multiplier | Sandercock et al 2008 ²⁵ |
| Multiplier Statin sudden death stroke | 1.00 | Multiplier | Briel et al 2006 ¹⁹ |
| Multiplier ACE sudden death stroke | 0.49 | Multiplier | Chitravas et al 2007 ²⁶ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE stroke long-term mort | 1.000 | [0-1] | Asberg et al 2010 ²⁷ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE stroke 12 month mort | 1.000 | [0-1] | Asberg et al 2010 ²⁷ |
| Angina | | | |
| Prop. init CHD event angina Female | 0.621 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |

| | | | |
|--|----------|------------------------|--|
| Prop. init CHD event angina Male | 0.420 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |
| Prop. subseq CHD event angina Female | 0.359 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |
| Prop. subseq CHD event angina Male | 0.301 | [0-1] | D'Agostino et al 2000 ¹⁰ |
| Mult Angina MA | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Mult Angina GRP | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Mult Angina ESRD | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Congestive heart failure | | | |
| Increased Risk HF if MAU | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Increased Risk HF if GPR | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Increased Risk HF if ESRD | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Risk reduct HF if Aspirin | 1.00 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |
| Risk reduct HF if Statin | 1.00 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |
| Risk reduct HF if ACE | 0.80 | [0-1] | Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation (HOPE) Study Investigators 2000 ¹⁴ |
| Risk reduct HF death if ACE | 0.80 | [0-1] | Ascencao et al 2008 ²⁸ |
| Multiplier HF death diab male | 1.00 | Multiplier | Ho et al 1993 ²⁹ |
| Multiplier HF death diab female | 1.70 | Multiplier | Ho et al 1993 ²⁹ |
| ACE inhibitor adjustments for microvascular complications | | | |
| Risk Reduct with ACE BDR T2 | 0.75 | [0-1] | Chaturvedi et al 1998 ³⁰ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE PDR T2 | 0.19 | [0-1] | Chaturvedi et al 1998 ³⁰ |
| Risk Reduct with ACE ME T2 | 1.00 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |
| Risk Reduct with ACE SVL T2 | 1.00 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |
| Risk Reduct with ACE Neuropathy T2 | 1.00 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |
| Probabilities for ACE side effects | | | |
| p SEs stopping ACE 1st year | 0.000 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |
| p SEs stopping ACE 2nd+ years | 0.000 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |
| Adverse events | | | |
| p die major hypo T2 | 0.000 | [0-1] | Ben-Ami et al 1999 ³¹ |
| p die ketoacidosis | 0.027 | [0-1] | MacIsaac et al 2002 ³² |
| p die after lactic acidosis | 0.430 | [0-1] | Campbell 1985 ³³ |
| Increased Risk hypo with ACE T2 | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Foot ulcer and amputation | | | |
| p gangrene to amp with gang | 0.181800 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p gangrene to healed amp | 0.308200 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p death following onset gangrene | 0.009800 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p death with history amputation | 0.004000 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |

| | | | |
|---|----------|---------------------------|---|
| p death following healed ulcer | 0.004000 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p developing recurrent uninfected ulcer | 0.039300 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p amputation following infected ulcer | 0.003700 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p infect ulcer->amp healed | 0.044500 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p infect ulcer->death | 0.009800 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p infect ulcer->gangrene | 0.007500 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p infect ulc->uninfect ulc | 0.139700 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p recurrent amp | 0.008451 | [0-1] monthly based | Borkosky et al 2012 ³⁵ |
| p uninfect ulc->death | 0.004000 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p uninfect ulc->infect ulc | 0.047300 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p uninfect ulc->healed ulc | 0.078700 | [0-1] monthly based | Persson et al 2000 ³⁴ |
| p developing ulcer with neither neur or PVD | 0.000250 | [0-1] monthly based | Ragnarson Tennvall et al 2001 ³⁶ |
| p developing ulcer with either neur or PVD | 0.006092 | [0-1] monthly based | Ragnarson Tennvall et al 2001 ³⁶ |
| p developing ulcer with both neur or PVD | 0.006092 | [0-1] monthly based | Ragnarson Tennvall et al 2001 ³⁶ |
| Depression | | | |
| Mult for all cause death if depression | 1.33 | Multiplier | Egede et al 2005 ³⁷ |
| Mult for CHF if depression | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Mult for MI if depression | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Mult for depression if neuropathy | 3.10 | Multiplier | Yoshida et al 2009 ³⁸ |
| Mult for depression if stroke | 6.30 | Multiplier | Whyte et al 2004 ³⁹ |
| Mult for depression if amp. | 1.00 | Multiplier | Assumption (No data) |
| Other | | | |
| p BDR->SVL | 0.0148 | [0-1] | Javitt et al 1994 ⁴⁰ |
| p reversal of neuropathy | 0.000 | [0-1] | Assumption (No data) |

Other management relevant inputs

| | Required values | Units/ Range | References/Notes |
|--|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Concomitant medication | | | |
| | Mean | | |
| Prop 1° prevention ASP | 0.575 | [0-1] | VanWormer 2014 ⁴¹ |
| Prop 2° prevention ASP | 0.575 | [0-1] | |
| Prop 1° prevention Statins | 0.404 | [0-1] | Gamboia 2014 ⁴² |
| Prop 2° prevention Statins | 0.215 | [0-1] | Abdallah 2014 ⁴³ |
| Prop 1° prevention ACE-I | 0.64 | [0-1] | Ali 2013 ⁴⁴ |
| Prop 2° prevention ACE-I | 0.64 | [0-1] | |
| Screening and patient management proportions | | | |
| Prop on foot ulcer prevention program | 0.714 | [0-1] | Ali 2013 ⁴⁴ |
| Prop screened eye disease | 0.734 | [0-1] | |
| Prop screened for renal disease | 0.477 | [0-1] | Anabtawi 2013 ⁴⁵ |
| Prop receiving intensive insulin after MI | 0.877 | [0-1] | McMullin 2004 ⁴⁶ |
| Prop treated with extra ulcer treatment | 0.570 | [0-1] | Lyon 2008 ⁴⁷ |
| Prop screened for depression - no complications | 0.830 | [0-1] | Jones 2007 ⁴⁸ |
| Prop screened for depression - complications | 0.830 | [0-1] | |
| Other | | | |
| Reduction in incidence FU with Prev Program | 0.310 | [0-1] | O'Meara 2000 ⁴⁹ |
| Improvement in ulcer healing rate with extra ulcer treatment | 1.390 | Multiplier | Kantor 2001 ⁵⁰ |
| Reduction in amputation rate with footcare | 0.340 | [0-1] | O'Meara 2000 ⁴⁹ |
| Sensitivity eye screening | 0.934 | [0-1] | Wilson 2010 ⁵¹ |
| Specificity eye screening | 0.858 | [0-1] | |
| Sensitivity GRP screening | 0.989 | [0-1] | White 2011 ⁵² |
| Sensitivity MA screening | 0.87 | [0-1] | Wu 2014 ⁵³ |
| Specificity MA screening | 0.88 | [0-1] | |

Economic inputs

| | Required values | Units / Range | References/notes |
|--|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| DISCOUNT RATES | | | |
| Discount Clinical | 3.0 | % | Sanders 2016 ⁵⁴ |
| Discount Costs | 3.0 | % | |
| SAMPLING FOR PROBABILISTIC SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS | | | |
| Percent variation direct costs | 20.0 | % | Assumed |
| Percent variation indirect costs | 20.0 | % | Assumed |
| MANAGEMENT COSTS | | | |
| c statins | 47.67 | \$ | PriceRx 2017 ⁵⁵ |
| c aspirin | 2.82 | \$ | |
| c ACE | 33.22 | \$ | |
| c screening for MA | 28.39 | \$ | |
| c screening for GRP | 25.49 | \$ | |
| c eye screening | 66.75 | \$ | |
| DIRECT COSTS CVD COMPLICATIONS | | | |
| c MI 1st year | 16,556.91 | \$ | Yeaw 2014 ⁵⁶ |
| c MI 2nd+ years | 2,004.75 | \$ | |
| c angina 1st year | 3,625.33 | \$ | |
| c angina 2nd+ years | 507.00 | \$ | |
| c CHF 1st year | 12,523.77 | \$ | |
| c CHF 2nd+ years | 6,394.86 | \$ | |
| c stroke 1st year | 7,223.48 | \$ | |
| c stroke 2nd+ years | 1,010.65 | \$ | |
| c stroke death within 30 days | 7,343.84 | \$ | |
| c PVD 1st year | 5,496.51 | \$ | |
| c PVD 2nd+ years | 2,128.86 | \$ | |
| DIRECT COSTS RENAL COMPLICATIONS | | | |
| HD costs 1st year | 20,204.70 | \$ | Yeaw 2014 ⁵⁶ |
| annual costs HD 2+ years | 15,302.76 | \$ | |
| PD costs 1st year | 30,901.02 | \$ | |
| annual costs PD 2+ years | 22,241.36 | \$ | |
| RT costs 1st year | 10,149.04 | \$ | |
| annual costs RT 2+ years | 7,166.74 | \$ | |
| DIRECT COSTS ACUTE EVENTS | | | |
| c severe hypo requiring non-medical third party intervention | 75.26 | \$ | Foos 2013 ⁵⁷ |
| c severe hypo requiring medical third party intervention | 1,311.30 | \$ | |
| c non-severe hypo | 10.23 | \$ | CMS PFS 2017 ⁵⁸ |
| c keto event | 290.78 | \$ | Yeaw 2014 ⁵⁶ |
| c lactic acid event | 12,889.02 | \$ | |
| DIRECT COSTS EYE DISEASE | | | |
| c laser treatment | 982.27 | \$ | CMS PFS 2017 ⁵⁸ |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----|-------------------------|
| c cataract operation | 627.67 | \$ | Yeaw 2014 ⁵⁶ |
| c following cataract operation | 154.85 | \$ | |
| c blindness - year of onset | 1,241.15 | \$ | |
| c blindness - following years | 302.60 | \$ | |

DIRECT COSTS NEUROP/FOOT ULCER/AMP

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----|-------------------------|
| c Neurop 1st year | 2,101.68 | \$ | Yeaw 2014 ⁵⁶ |
| c Neurop 2nd+ years | 709.23 | \$ | |
| c Amputation (event based) | 7,304.32 | \$ | |
| c Amp Prosthesis (event based) | 21,720.47 | \$ | |
| c Gangrene treatment | 15,552.16 | \$ | |
| c after healed ulcer | 3,898.29 | \$ | |
| c infected ulcer | 7,833.17 | \$ | |
| c standard uninfected ulcer | 7,833.17 | \$ | |
| c healed ulcer history of amputation | 3,898.29 | \$ | |

| QUALITY OF LIFE | Mean | | |
|--|--|--------|--|
| QoL utility T2 no complications | 0.7850 | [0-1] | Clarke et al 2002 ⁵⁹ |
| QoL disutility MI event | -0.0550 | [-1-0] | |
| QoL utility post MI | 0.7300 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility angina | 0.6950 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility CHF | 0.6770 | [0-1] | |
| QoL disutility stroke event | -0.1640 | [-1-0] | |
| QoL utility post Stroke | 0.6210 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility PVD | 0.7240 | [0-1] | Bagust et al 2005 ⁶⁰ |
| QoL utility MA | 0.7850 | [0-1] | Assumed to be asymptomatic |
| QoL utility GRP | 0.7370 | [0-1] | Bagust et al 2005 ⁶⁰ |
| QoL utility HD | 0.6210 | [0-1] | Wasserfallen et al 2004 ⁶¹ |
| QoL utility PD | 0.5810 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility RT | 0.7620 | [0-1] | Kiberd 1995 ⁶² |
| QoL utility BDR | 0.7450 | [0-1] | Fenwick et al 2012 ⁶³ |
| QoL utility BDR wrongly treated | 0.7450 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility PDR laser treated | 0.7150 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility PDR no Laser | 0.7150 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility ME | 0.7450 | [0-1] | |
| QoL utility SVL | 0.7110 | [0-1] | Clarke et al 2002 ⁵⁹ |
| QoL utility cataract | 0.7690 | [0-1] | Lee et al 2012 ⁶⁴ |
| QoL utility neuropathy | 0.7010 | [0-1] | Bagust et al 2005 ⁶⁰ |
| QoL utility healed ulcer | 0.7850 | [0-1] | Assumed not to have impact on QoL |
| QoL utility active ulcer | 0.6150 | [0-1] | Bagust et al 2005 ⁶⁰ |
| QoL disutility amp event | -0.2800 | [-1-0] | Clarke et al 2002 ⁵⁹ |
| QoL utility post amputation | 0.5050 | [0-1] | |
| QoL disutility for major hypo events, non-medical third party assistance | -0.0183 | [-1-0] | Marrett et al 2011 ⁶⁵ |
| QoL disutility for major hypo events, medical third party assistance | -0.055 | [-1-0] | Evans et al 2013 ⁶⁶ |
| QoL for minor hypo events | Lauridsen diminishing disutilities function selected | | Lauridsen et al 2014 ⁶⁷ [model autocalculates per line of therapy based on annual rate] |

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eAppendix Figure. PSA Scatterplot and Cost-Effectiveness Acceptability Curve

