

SGLT2 Inhibitors and Diabetic Ketoacidosis in Type 2 Diabetes



Patient Information Leaflet

WHY HAVE I BEEN GIVEN THIS LEAFLET?

You are taking, or about to take, one of the following drugs for improving your diabetes treatment:

- ❖ empagliflozin (Jardiance)
- ❖ canagliflozin (Invokana)
- ❖ dapagliflozin (Forxiga)

There has been some new information about these drugs which you should be aware of.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

People taking this drug for diabetes can develop an unusual complication called diabetic ketoacidosis. This is when you have too much acid in your blood and it can happen **even when your blood glucose concentration is normal**. If not identified early, this can be dangerous. However, this is a **very rare** complication.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR?

If you are taking one of these tablets, this problem can develop at any time; please look out for these symptoms:

nausea, vomiting, fast breathing, abdominal pains, unusual drowsiness or fever.

If you have any of these symptoms, please contact a medical professional immediately, such as a doctor or nurse, **even if your blood sugars are near normal**. If your GP practice is closed please phone NHS Direct at 111 for more advice.

Inform them that you are worried about "Diabetic keto-acid-osis"

Stop your medication until you have received medical advice.

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IS THERE ANYTHING MORE LIKELY TO CAUSE THIS?

- ❖ You need to be especially careful if you develop an infection (like a chest or urine infection) or undergo surgery.
- ❖ If you are planning to have an operation or any other procedure which involves fasting overnight, please discuss this medication with your doctor or nurse; you may need to stop your tablets.

IF I FEEL UNWELL, WHAT WILL MY DOCTOR OR NURSE DO?

You will have a finger prick blood test to test for the amount of sugar and ketones (a breakdown product of fat) in the blood. If the levels of ketones are high, they will contact the diabetes specialist team or the hospital for further advice.

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