Patient information on SGLT2 inhibitors for diabetes

What are SGLT2 inhibitors?
- Sodium-Glucose Co-transporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitors are a type of diabetes medication. The medicine works in the kidneys so that excess glucose comes out in your urine.
- They can be prescribed on their own or in a combination tablet for diabetes including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine name</th>
<th>Common brand names*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dapagliflozin</td>
<td>Forxiga, Xigduo, Qtern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empagliflozin</td>
<td>Jardiance, Jardiamet, Glyxambi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ertugliflozin</td>
<td>Steglatro, Segluromet, Steglujan</td>
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What are the benefits and side effects of taking SGLT2 inhibitors?

Benefits: Possible side effects. You might:
- Lower blood glucose level
- Weight loss
- Better blood pressure
- Lower risk of death in people with heart disease
- Get genital or urinary tract infections
- Pass more urine more often; be thirstier
- Have nausea and constipation
- Get low blood pressure and dehydration
- Diabetic ketoacidosis (see below)

What is diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)?
- DKA happens when the body doesn’t have enough insulin and acid levels get too high in the blood.
- DKA is rare, but serious, and needs urgent medical treatment.
- It is most likely to happen at the time of surgery, severe infection or illness.

What are the symptoms of DKA?
- Symptoms of DKA include nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, rapid breathing, and dehydration e.g. dizziness, thirst.

If you experience any of these symptoms you should:
- Go to the nearest hospital Emergency Department.
- Tell the emergency doctor that you are taking this medicine

To reduce the chance of DKA, stop taking your SGLT2 inhibitor:
- At least three days before fasting for surgery or a procedure
- If you are unable to eat or drink e.g. nausea, vomiting
- If you are unwell with an infection or illness
- If you are on a very low carbohydrate diet

- Anytime you see a doctor you need to tell them that you are taking an SGLT2 inhibitor.
- If you are unwell then ask the doctor to test your blood glucose and ketone levels.
- Check with a doctor before you start taking your SGLT2 inhibitor again.

For further information call the St Vincent’s Hospital Diabetes Centre:
Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.30pm 8382 2622
After hours 8382 1111 (hospital switchboard) - ask for the diabetes doctor on call