In some parts of the world, particularly in developing countries, there is an urgent need for essential drugs. This is especially true in Africa, where the disease burden is high and healthcare facilities are limited. The provision of effective care requires the availability of essential drugs, such as those used in the treatment of diabetes, hypertension, and cancer.

For diabetes, one of the most common chronic diseases worldwide, optimal patient outcomes depend on access to effective medications. In China, the number of diabetes patients has been rising steadily, and the use of oral anti-diabetic drugs (OADs) is a common treatment strategy. A recent study investigated the cost-effectiveness of OADs in China, using a cost-utility analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of different OADs.

**Objectives:** The study aimed to determine the cost-effectiveness of OADs for type 2 diabetes patients in China. The researchers compared four commonly used OADs (Metformin, Acarbose, XIaoke Pill, and Gliclazide) in terms of their cost-effectiveness.

**Methods:** This was a retrospective study involving 17,642 diabetes patients from 58 hospitals in China. The primary outcome measure was the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) of each OAD compared with the next most effective drug. The study considered direct medical costs and indirect costs associated with the treatment of diabetes.

**Results:** The ICER values were as follows: Metformin vs. Acarbose, RMB 3,400 per QALY; Metformin vs. XIaoke Pill, RMB 8,100 per QALY; Metformin vs. Gliclazide, RMB 12,800 per QALY.

**Conclusions:** Metformin was the most cost-effective option, followed by Acarbose and XIaoke Pill, with Gliclazide being the least cost-effective. These findings highlight the importance of considering cost-effectiveness when selecting OADs for diabetes treatment in China.

In summary, the study provides valuable insights into the cost-effectiveness of OADs for type 2 diabetes patients in China, emphasizing the need for careful consideration of cost when selecting treatments to maximize patient outcomes.

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**References:**

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