TREATMENT SATISFACTION IS POSITIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH GLYCEMIC CONTROL AND NEGATIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH PATIENT REPORTED EXPERIENCE OF HYPOGLYCEMIC SYMPTOMS AMONG PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS (T2DM) ON ORAL ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC AGENTS (OHA) IN EUROPE

Alvarez-Guisasola F1, Tinahones FJ2, Pfeiffer A3, Krishnarajah G4, Yin D5, Lyu R5, Mavros P6

1Centro de Salud La Calzada II, Gijón, Spain, 2H.C.U. Virgen de la Victoria, Malaga, Malaga, Spain, 3Charite University Medical School Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 4Merck & Co, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA, 5Merck & Co, Inc, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA

OBJECTIVES: To assess whether treatment satisfaction is associated with effectiveness of OHA and with the experience of hypoglycemic symptoms among patients with T2DM who added sulfonylureas (SU) or glitazone (PPAR) to metformin (MF).

METHODS: A retrospective clinical chart review and patient survey (June 2006–February 2007) was conducted in 7 countries (Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Poland, Spain, UK). Patients recruited (aged 30 years at T2DM diagnosis) added SU or PPAR/β-agonist to previous MF. Patients with gestational diabetes and those using insulin were excluded. The Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication (TSQM), a 14-item grouped in 4 domains validated instrument, was used to measure patients’ treatment satisfaction with current OHA. Adequate glycemic control was defined according to the IDF-2005 recommendations as A1C < 6.5%. Unadjusted differences in treatment satisfaction by experience of hypoglycemia and glycemic control was assessed using the chi-square test. RESULTS: 1709 patients were included. Average age was 63 (SD = 11) years and 45% were female. The mean A1C level was 7.1% (SD = 1.1), while 28% (477 patients) had adequate glycemic control. 652 (38%) reported hypoglycemic symptoms of varying severity and frequency. Relative to those reporting experience of hypoglycemic symptoms, patients not experiencing hypoglycemic symptoms report higher scores on all domains of TSQM: effectiveness (71.5 vs. 67.8), side effect (91.9 vs. 81.4), convenience (77.0 vs. 73.4), and global satisfaction (76.3 vs. 71.6) (all p < 0.0001). Treatment satisfaction with therapy was higher for patients with adequate glycemic control than for those without, for all TSQM domains: effectiveness (71.3 vs. 69.6; p = 0.08), side effect (89.5 vs. 87.1; p = 0.0339), and convenience (76.9 vs. 75.0; p = 0.14) and global satisfaction (75.8 vs. 74.0; p = 0.0436). CONCLUSION: Twenty-eight percent of patients had A1C < 6.5% while 38% experienced hypoglycemic symptoms. Patient-reported experience of hypoglycemia is associated with statistically significant lower treatment satisfaction. Global satisfaction with treatment is statistically significantly higher among patients with adequate treatment control.