

# Study Shows Diabetes-Cancer Links by Site

BY SHARON WORCESTER

FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

ORLANDO – Diabetes appears to be associated with an increased risk of several types of cancer and with an increased risk of cancer-related mortality in both men and women, findings from a large prospective study have shown.

Incidence rates for both diseases are increasing worldwide, and although prior research has

demonstrated a decreased risk for prostate cancer in men with diabetes – perhaps due to the lower testosterone levels associated with diabetes – the association between diabetes and other cancers has not been well studied, Gabriel Lai, Ph.D., said at the meeting.

To better characterize the association between the two diseases, Dr. Lai and his colleagues analyzed data from the nearly 300,000 men and 200,000 women aged 50-71 years who participated in a diet and health study by the National Institutes of Health and AARP. After 11 years of follow-up, about 13,000 of the men and nearly 6,500 of the women in the study had died of cancer.

A modest inverse association between diabetes and total incident cancer was observed in men (hazard ratio, 0.96), but this stemmed largely from prostate cancer, as expected based on the prior research on diabetes and prostate cancer. In the current study, prostate cancer accounted for 42% of all the cancers in men, and when it was excluded from the analysis, diabetes was found to be positively associated with cancer in men (HR, 1.08) and with cancer mortality in men (HR, 1.20), said Dr. Lai, a cancer prevention fellow at the National Cancer Institute.

Diabetes also was found to have a modest association with cancer in women (HR, 1.06) and with cancer mortality in women (HR, 1.15).

Statistically significant associations were observed for cancers of the colon, rectum, and liver in both men and women (HR, 1.15, 1.28, and 2.40, respectively); for the pancreas and urinary bladder in men (HR, 1.47 and 1.10, respectively); and for the stomach, anus, and corpus and uterus in women (HR, 1.74, 2.44, and 1.20, respectively). The risk estimates for cancers of the pancreas and urinary bladder in women with diabetes were similar to those in men, and the risk estimate for stomach cancer in men was similar to that in women, but these did not reach statistical significance, Dr. Lai said.

No association between diabetes and lung, skin, or other cancers was observed, he noted.

Diabetes in the NIH-AARP study was assessed by self-report in the predominantly white, non-Hispanic cohort, and all analyses included adjustment for age, education, body mass index, smoking status, self-reported health status, physical activity, vitamin supplement use, alcohol intake, diet (fruit, vegetable, and meat consumption), family history of cancer, and – among women – hormonal therapy.

The findings provide additional evidence that abnormal insulin and glucose signaling contribute to cancer risk, and suggest that in addition to myriad other benefits, avoiding diabetes through diet, exercise, and maintenance of healthy body weight potentially reduces the risk for cancer development and mortality, Dr. Lai said.

Further study is needed to elucidate the biologic mechanisms of the association between diabetes and cancer, he concluded. ■

## VITALS

**Major Finding:** Statistically significant associations were observed for cancers of the colon, rectum, and liver in both men and women (hazard ratios, 1.15, 1.28, and 2.40, respectively); for the pancreas and urinary bladder in men (HR, 1.47 and 1.10, respectively); and for the stomach, anus, and corpus and uterus in women (HR, 1.74, 2.44, and 1.20, respectively).

**Data Source:** The large, prospective NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study.

**Disclosures:** Dr. Lai said he had no relevant financial disclosures. The study was sponsored by the National Cancer Institute.

important adverse renal effects were observed in clinical studies. Assessments included creatinine clearance; measurements of blood urea nitrogen (BUN), creatinine, and electrolytes in serum; urine specific gravity and pH; and examination of urine sediment. **Studies in Men and Women with Glucocorticoid-Induced Osteoporosis** The safety of FORTEO in the treatment of men and women with glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis was assessed in a randomized, double-blind, active-controlled trial of 428 patients (19% men, 81% women) aged 22 to 89 years (mean 57 years) treated with  $\geq$  5mg per day prednisone or equivalent for a minimum of 3 months. The duration of the trial was 18 months with 214 patients exposed to FORTEO and 214 patients exposed to oral daily bisphosphonate (active control). All patients received 1000 mg of calcium plus 800 IU of vitamin D supplementation per day. The incidence of all cause mortality was 4% in the FORTEO group and 6% in the active control group. The incidence of serious adverse events was 21% in FORTEO patients and 18% in active control patients, and included pneumonia (3% FORTEO, 1% active control). Early discontinuation because of adverse events occurred in 15% of FORTEO patients and 12% of active control patients, and included dizziness (2% FORTEO, 0% active control). Adverse events reported at a higher incidence in the FORTEO group and with at least a 2% difference in FORTEO-treated patients compared with active control-treated patients were: nausea (14%, 7%), gastritis (7%, 3%), pneumonia (6%, 3%), dyspnea (6%, 3%), insomnia (5%, 1%), anxiety (4%, 1%), and herpes zoster (3%, 1%), respectively. **Postmarketing Experience:** The following adverse reactions have been identified during postapproval use of FORTEO. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure. **Osteosarcoma:** Cases of bone tumor and osteosarcoma have been reported rarely in the postmarketing period. The causality to FORTEO use is unclear. Long term osteosarcoma surveillance studies are ongoing. **Hypercalcemia:** Hypercalcemia greater than 13.0 mg/dL has been reported with FORTEO use. Adverse events reported since market introduction that were temporally (but not necessarily causally) related to FORTEO therapy include the following: **Allergic Reactions:** Anaphylactic reactions, drug hypersensitivity, angioedema, urticaria; **Investigations:** Hyperuricemia; **Respiratory System:** Acute dyspnea, chest pain; **Musculoskeletal:** Muscle spasms of the leg or back; **Other:** Injection site reactions including injection site pain, swelling and bruising; oro-facial edema.

## USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

**Pregnancy Category C.** There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of FORTEO in pregnant women. In animal studies, teriparatide increased skeletal deviations and variations in mouse offspring at doses more than 60 times the equivalent human dose and produced mild growth retardation and reduced motor activity in rat offspring at doses more than 120 times the equivalent human dose. FORTEO should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. In animal studies, pregnant mice received teriparatide during organogenesis at subcutaneous doses 8 to 267 times the human dose. At doses  $\geq$  60 times the human dose, the fetuses showed an increased incidence of skeletal deviations or variations (interrupted rib, extra vertebra or rib). When pregnant rats received subcutaneous teriparatide during organogenesis at doses 16 to 540 times the human dose, the fetuses showed no abnormal findings. In a perinatal/postnatal study, pregnant rats received subcutaneous teriparatide from organogenesis through lactation. Mild growth retardation in female offspring at doses  $\geq$ 120 times the human dose (based on surface area, mcg/m<sup>2</sup>). Mild growth retardation in male offspring and reduced motor activity in both male and female offspring occurred at maternal doses 540 times the human dose. There were no developmental or reproductive effects in mice or rats at doses 8 or 16 times the human dose, respectively. Exposure multiples were normalized based on body surface area (mcg/m<sup>2</sup>). Actual animal doses: mice (30 to 1000 mcg/kg/day); rats (30 to 1000 mcg/kg/day). **Nursing Mothers:** It is not known whether teriparatide is excreted

in human milk. Because of the potential for tumorigenicity shown for teriparatide in animal studies, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. **Pediatric Use:** The safety and efficacy of FORTEO have not been established in any pediatric population. FORTEO should not be prescribed in patients at an increased baseline risk of osteosarcoma which include pediatric and young adult patients with open epiphyses. Therefore, FORTEO is not indicated for use in pediatric or young adult patients with open epiphyses. **Geriatric Use:** Of the patients receiving FORTEO in the osteoporosis trial of 1637 postmenopausal women, 75% were 65 years of age and over and 23% were 75 years of age and over. Of the patients receiving FORTEO in the osteoporosis trial of 437 men, 39% were 65 years of age and over and 13% were 75 years of age and over. No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between these subjects and younger subjects, and other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out. **Hepatic Impairment:** No studies have been performed in patients with hepatic impairment. **Renal Impairment:** In 5 patients with severe renal impairment (CrCl $<$ 30 mL/min), the AUC and T<sub>1/2</sub> of teriparatide were increased by 73% and 77%, respectively. Maximum serum concentration of teriparatide was not increased.

## OVERDOSAGE

Incidents of overdose in humans have not been reported in clinical trials. Teriparatide has been administered in single doses of up to 100 mcg and in repeated doses of up to 60 mcg/day for 6 weeks. The effects of overdose that might be expected include a delayed hypercalcemic effect and risk of orthostatic hypotension. Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and headache might also occur. In postmarketing spontaneous reports, there have been cases of medication errors in which the entire contents (up to 800 mcg) of the FORTEO delivery device (pen) have been administered as a single dose. Transient events reported have included nausea, weakness/lethargy and hypotension. In some cases, no adverse events occurred as a result of the overdose. No fatalities associated with overdose have been reported. **Overdose Management** There is no specific antidote for teriparatide. Treatment of suspected overdose should include discontinuation of FORTEO, monitoring of serum calcium and phosphorus, and implementation of appropriate supportive measures, such as hydration.

## DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Multi-dose prefilled delivery device (pen) for subcutaneous injection containing 28 daily doses of 20 mcg.

## PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Patients should read the FDA-approved *Medication Guide* and delivery device (pen) *User Manual* before starting therapy with FORTEO and re-read them each time the prescription is renewed. Patients need to understand and follow the instructions in the FORTEO delivery device *User Manual*. Failure to do so may result in inaccurate dosing.

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## PLEASE SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

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