pressure, HDL cholesterol, and BMI were not significant, they reported.

But despite the improvements, only 2% of the patients had achieved all three target goals of the NHANES study at the time of their most recent office visit. For the ADA guidelines, 9% reached all five, 28% reached four, 28% reached three, 22% reached two, 10% reached one, and 3% reached none.

Lack of medication was not the reason: Of the 334 patients, 59% were taking metformin, 40% insulin, 38% thiazolidinediones, 36% sulfonylureas, and 16% nonsulfonylurea secretagogues (8% repaglinide and 8% nateglinide). Of these, monotherapy was used in 25%, two glucose-lowering drugs in 41%, three in 22%, a three-drug regimen plus insulin in 6%, and lifestyle modification in 5%.

Only 2% of the patients had achieved all three target goals of the NHANES study at the time of their most recent visit to the endocrinologists' office.

As for antihypertensive drugs, 53% were receiving angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, 28% diuretics, 17% angiotensin II receptor blockers, 14% β-adrenergic blocking agents, 12% calcium channel blockers, and 1% α-adrenergic blocking agents. Of these patients, 42% were taking one, 23% two, 8% three, and 3% more than three, while 24% were not taking any antihypertensive drugs.

In the lipid-lowering category, statins were taken by 61%, fibrates by 10%, ezetimibe by 9%, and niacin by 1%. Most (63%) were on monotherapy, while 9% were taking two drugs and 28% weren't taking any, they reported. ■

Majority Not Meeting AACE Target Levels

BY MIRIAM E. TUCKER
Senior Writer

WASHINGTON — Two-thirds of Americans with type 2 diabetes are not meeting the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists' target hemoglobin A_{1c} level of 6.5% or less, according to a report issued by the association at its annual meeting.

The AACE's "State of Diabetes in America" report is based in part on data from more than 157,000 individuals with type 2 diabetes from 39 states and the District of Columbia who were tracked by Surveillance Data Inc. (SDI) during 2003-2004. The study was funded by GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

The AACE has launched a public awareness campaign in which patients are encouraged to take an 'oath' to better control their blood sugar levels.

Overall, 67% of patients had HbA_{1c} levels above 6.5%. The 10 worst states were Mississippi (73%); Illinois (73%); Utah (72%); Ohio (72%); Alabama, Louisiana, New York, and Pennsylvania (all approximately 71%); Arkansas and West Virginia (both approximately 70%); and Georgia (69%). Even in the best state, Montana, 55% did not meet the AACE target.

In 11 additional states in which SDI data were not available, the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Health Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) were used instead, showing the proportion of patients with HbA_{1c} levels above 9%. Of those, California was the worst, with 35% of patients having HbA_{1c} values that high. The next four were Hawaii (33%), and North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts (all approximately 30%). New Hampshire scored the "best," at 20%.

The AACE has launched a public awareness campaign encouraging patients to take an "oath" to better control their blood sugar levels. To take the oath and order items such as a diabetes-friendly cookbook, patients can go to www.stateofdiabetes.com or call 800-704-4694. ■

VERBATIM

'Remember to think: "Maybe that suprapubic pain isn't a UTI. Maybe it's an appendix. Remember to think outside the box."'

Dr. John Rose, p. 54