

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Effect of Sotagliflozin on Early Mortality and Heart Failure-Related Events



A Post Hoc Analysis of SOLOIST-WHF

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND Approximately 25% of patients admitted to hospitals for worsening heart failure (WHF) are readmitted within 30 days.

OBJECTIVES The authors conducted a post hoc analysis of the SOLOIST-WHF (Effect of Sotagliflozin on Cardiovascular Events in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Post-WHF) trial to evaluate the efficacy of sotagliflozin versus placebo to decrease mortality and HF-related events among patients who began study treatment on or before discharge from their index hospitalization.

METHODS The main endpoint of interest was cardiovascular death or HF-related event (HF hospitalization or urgent care visit) occurring within 90 and 30 days after discharge for the index WHF hospitalization. Treatment comparisons were by proportional hazards models, generating HRs, 95% CIs, and *P* values.

RESULTS Of 1,222 randomized patients, 596 received study drug on or before their date of discharge. Sotagliflozin reduced the main endpoint at 90 days after discharge (HR: 0.54 [95% CI: 0.35-0.82]; *P* = 0.004) and at 30 days (HR: 0.49 [95% CI: 0.27-0.91]; *P* = 0.023) and all-cause mortality at 90 days (HR: 0.39 [95% CI: 0.17-0.88]; *P* = 0.024). In subgroup analyses, sotagliflozin reduced the 90-day main endpoint regardless of sex, age, estimated glomerular filtration rate, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide, left ventricular ejection fraction, or mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist use. Sotagliflozin was well-tolerated but with slightly higher rates of diarrhea and volume-related events than placebo.

CONCLUSIONS Starting sotagliflozin before discharge in patients with type 2 diabetes hospitalized for WHF significantly decreased cardiovascular deaths and HF events through 30 and 90 days after discharge, emphasizing the importance of beginning sodium glucose cotransporter inhibitor treatment before discharge.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AE	= adverse event
DKA	= diabetic ketoacidosis
eGFR	= estimated glomerular filtration rate
HF	= heart failure
HFpEF	= heart failure with preserved ejection fraction
HFrEF	= heart failure with reduced ejection fraction
LVEF	= left ventricular ejection fraction
NT-proBNP	= N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide
Q	= quartile
SGLT	= sodium glucose cotransporter
T2D	= type 2 diabetes
WHF	= worsening heart failure

Hear failure (HF) is the second most common cause of hospitalizations for patients >65 years of age in the United States, posing a significant cost burden on society.^{1,2} The morbidity and mortality impact on patients is also severe. Up to 62% of patients discharged after an episode of worsening heart failure (WHF) are readmitted to the hospital within 1 year.^{3,4} Nearly one-half of such patients are readmitted within 90 days and approximately a one-quarter within 30 days of hospital discharge,³⁻⁷ with mortality rates during the first 30 days after discharge as high as 17%.⁸⁻¹⁰ Tools for adequate risk prediction, and various tested strategies to decrease these risks, have been largely unsuccessful.¹⁰⁻¹⁵ Meanwhile, U.S. health care reimbursement policy penalizes hospitals with high rates of 30-day HF readmissions.¹⁶

These factors all point to a substantial unmet need for approaches that will decrease HF hospital readmissions and HF-related events such as visits to an urgent care center.

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Sodium glucose cotransporter (SGLT) inhibitors decrease the risk of cardiovascular death and HF hospitalizations in patients with chronic HF with reduced ejection fraction (HF_rEF) or HF with preserved ejection fraction (HF_pEF).¹⁷⁻²¹ Based on this evidence, SGLT inhibitors are recommended for the treatment of HF across the spectrum of left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) in U.S. and European guidelines.^{22,23} However, many patients admitted to the hospital with WHF have not previously received recommended therapies, and these patients are often discharged without or with only low doses of recommended HF agents.^{3,24-26}

Few studies have examined the safety and effects of SGLT inhibitors on cardiovascular mortality and

hospital-related outcomes when these agents are started in the setting of in-hospital HF.^{17,27,28} The safety and efficacy of the relatively selective SGLT2 inhibitors such as empagliflozin and dapagliflozin when started in hospital after an episode of hospitalization for acute HF or WHF are promising, but as yet inconclusive. The dual SGLT1 and SGLT2 inhibitor sotagliflozin has been shown to decrease cardiovascular outcomes when administered before hospital discharge for WHF.¹⁷ In addition, in the SCORED (Effect of Sotagliflozin on Cardiovascular and Renal Events in Participants With Type 2 Diabetes and Moderate Renal Impairment Who Are at Cardiovascular Risk) trial of patients with chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes (T2D), sotagliflozin was shown to significantly decrease the incidence of nonfatal and fatal stroke and nonfatal and fatal myocardial infarction by 30%,²⁹ an effect that has not been noted in studies of the more selective SGLT2 inhibitors in patients with chronic kidney disease.^{30,31}

The potential mechanisms accounting for the effect of sotagliflozin on stroke and myocardial infarction including an effect of SGLT1 inhibition on the intestinal microbiome have been reviewed recently.³² In view of the potential difference in effectiveness of sotagliflozin in comparison with the more selective SGLT2 inhibitors and the fact that its effects on early and 30- and 90-day outcomes after discharge have not been analyzed in detail previously, we conducted a post hoc analysis of data from the SOLOIST-WHF (Effect of Sotagliflozin on Cardiovascular Events in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Post Worsening Heart Failure) trial focusing on the effects of sotagliflozin 30 and 90 days after discharge. In the SOLOIST-WHF trial, 48.8% of the total patient population received their first dose of study medication (either sotagliflozin or placebo) before discharge.¹⁷ We evaluated the efficacy and safety of sotagliflozin specifically in this subset of patients who began study treatment on or before the date of hospital discharge from their index WHF admission and assessed

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The authors attest they are in compliance with human studies committees and animal welfare regulations of the authors' institutions and Food and Drug Administration guidelines, including patient consent where appropriate. For more information, visit the [Author Center](#).

outcomes during the 90- and 30-day periods after discharge (not from randomization), when patients are at highest risk of death or readmission for HF-related events.^{33,34}

METHODS

The SOLOIST-WHF trial was a phase III, international, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial involving patients (aged 18-85 years) with T2D who were recently admitted for WHF, regardless of LVEF. Participants were assigned randomly to once-daily sotagliflozin 200 mg (with a possible dose escalation to 400 mg) or placebo. In the main trial, study medication was to be started before or within 3 days of discharge for the index WHF event. Randomization was stratified according to baseline LVEF (<50% or ≥50%) and geographic region. Over a median follow-up of 9.0 months, cardiovascular events, including hospital readmissions for HF events, were documented. The study conformed to the Declaration of Helsinki; the protocol was approved by the relevant health authority, institutional review board, or ethics committee at each participating study site; and all participants provided written, informed consent. Full design details as well as overall efficacy and safety results have been published previously.¹⁷

POPULATION AND ENDPOINTS. In the main trial, the primary endpoint was the total number of cardiovascular deaths and hospitalizations and urgent visits for HF (first and subsequent events) between the time of randomization and the end of study, a median of 9 months later.¹⁷ The main endpoint of this post hoc, exploratory analysis was first occurrence of cardiovascular death or HF-related event (hospitalizations or urgent care visits for HF) within 90 days and within 30 days after hospital discharge (*not* randomization), specifically in the subgroup of patients who began study treatment on or before the date of discharge for their index hospitalization for WHF. Additional endpoints included first nonfatal HF-related event (ie, hospitalization or urgent visit for HF), cardiovascular death, all-cause death, first occurrence of all-cause hospitalization, and first occurrence of all-cause death or hospitalization. For a given patient, if their date of first dose of study treatment was the same as their index hospitalization discharge date, it was assumed that the dose was received before discharge. A sensitivity analysis was performed to determine the event rates at 90 and 30 days from the randomization date.

STATISTICAL METHODS. Categorical variables are expressed as counts and percentages, while continuous variables are expressed as median (Q1 to Q3).

Cumulative incidences of events at 90 and 30 days were estimated by cumulative incidence functions. Treatment comparisons for events through 30 days, through 90 days, and through all postdischarge follow-up were performed using competing-risks proportional hazards models stratified by geographic region and baseline LVEF (<50%, ≥50%) to generate HRs and corresponding 95% CIs and *P* values. Deaths that were not part of a given endpoint were treated as competing terminal events. To determine whether the treatment effect on the main endpoint was different before and after 90 and 30 days after discharge, a competing-risks proportional hazards model that allowed the treatment HR to vary before and after 90 and 30 days after discharge was compared with the model in which the treatment HR was assumed constant over the total duration of postdischarge follow-up to test whether a nonconstant HR provided a better fit to the observed data. Possible heterogeneity of the sotagliflozin treatment effect on the main endpoint through 90 days after discharge for subgroups defined by baseline demographic and clinical characteristics was assessed by the significance of interaction terms in proportional hazards models. The sensitivity analysis evaluating time from randomization used the same statistical approach.

Safety data were summarized as treatment-emergent adverse events (AEs), serious AEs, and events of special interest, which were defined for a given patient as events occurring between the date of first dose and either date of last dose plus 10 days of study treatment or 90 or 30 days after discharge, whichever was earlier.

RESULTS

Of the 1,222 randomized patients, 290 sotagliflozin recipients and 306 placebo recipients started study drug a median of 7 days (Q1-Q3: 4-9 days) after admission and before discharge. Within this subgroup, 142 patients began study drug ≥1 day before discharge (median, 2 days; Q1-Q3: 1-4 days) and 454 patients on the day of discharge. Baseline characteristics of the 596 patients are summarized in [Table 1](#) by treatment group. The median age was 70 years, 34.7% were female, and 96.1% were White. The median LVEF, estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), and N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) were 35%, 50.6 mL/min/1.73 m², and 1,686 pg/mL, respectively. Baseline characteristics were similar between the treatment groups.

These 596 patients were followed for cardiovascular death or HF-related event for a median of

TABLE 1 Demographics and Patient Characteristics at Baseline

	Sotagliflozin (n = 290)	Placebo (n = 306)	Total (N = 596)
Age, y	69 (63-75)	70 (64-76)	70 (64-76)
Female	96 (33.1)	111 (36.3)	207 (34.7)
Race			
White	281 (96.9)	292 (95.4)	573 (96.1)
Black	3 (1.0)	6 (2.0)	9 (1.5)
Asian	5 (1.7)	5 (1.6)	10 (1.7)
Other	0	1 (0.3)	1 (0.2)
Unknown	1 (0.3)	2 (0.7)	3 (0.5)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	56 (19.3)	75 (24.5)	
Geographic region ^a			
North America	8 (2.8)	9 (2.9)	17 (2.9)
Latin America	46 (15.9)	65 (21.2)	111 (18.6)
Western Europe	68 (23.4)	64 (20.9)	132 (22.1)
Eastern Europe	156 (53.8)	153 (50.0)	309 (51.8)
Rest of world	12 (4.1)	15 (4.9)	27 (4.5)
LVEF <50% ^a	232 (80.0)	243 (79.4)	475 (79.7)
LVEF, %	36 (30-46)	35 (29-45)	35 (30-45)
BMI, kg/m ²	30.4 (26.8-34.3)	30.9 (27.4-34.5)	30.7 (27.1-34.5)
BMI ≥30 kg/m ²	150 (51.7)	169 (55.2)	319 (53.5)
SBP, mm Hg	122 (112-133)	122 (113-133)	122 (112-133)
DBP, mm Hg	73 (68-80)	73 (68-80)	73 (68-80)
Duration of diabetes, y	10.0 (4.3-16.7)	10.1 (4.9-15.6)	10.1 (4.7-15.9)
Hemoglobin A1c, %	7.1 (6.4-8.4)	7.2 (6.4-8.1)	7.1 (6.4-8.2)
NT-proBNP, pg/mL	1,701 (742-3,632)	1,634 (811-3,694)	1,686 (776-3,687)
eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m ²	49.4 (39.8-61.0)	53.5 (42.1-64.6)	50.6 (40.6-62.3)
Any RAAS inhibitor	269 (92.8)	281 (91.8)	550 (92.3)
ACE inhibitor	123 (42.4)	124 (40.5)	247 (41.4)
ARB	116 (40.0)	129 (42.2)	245 (41.1)
MRA	197 (67.9)	198 (64.7)	395 (66.3)
ARNI	48 (16.6)	48 (15.7)	96 (16.1)
Beta-blocker	266 (91.7)	284 (92.8)	550 (92.3)
Loop diuretic	279 (96.2)	290 (94.8)	569 (95.5)
Other diuretic	29 (10.0)	27 (8.8)	56 (9.4)
First dose of study treatment			
Day of discharge	223 (76.9)	231 (75.5)	454 (76.2)
Before day of discharge	67 (23.1)	75 (24.5)	142 (23.8)
Days prior	2 (1-4)	2 (1-4)	2 (1-4)

Value are median (Q1-Q3) or n (%). ^aRandomization stratification factor; used as strata variables in proportional hazards models.

ACE = angiotensin-converting enzyme; ARB = angiotensin II receptor blocker; ARNI = angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor; BMI = body mass index; DBP = diastolic blood pressure; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; MRA = mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; NT-proBNP = N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide; RAAS = renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system; SBP = systolic blood pressure.

7.2 months (Q1-Q3: 3.4-12.3 months) after discharge. At 90 days after discharge, the estimated cumulative incidence of this endpoint was 10.8% in the sotagliflozin group and 19.9% in the placebo group, a 46% risk reduction for sotagliflozin (HR: 0.54 [95% CI: 0.35-0.82]; $P = 0.004$) (Table 2, Central Illustration). At 30 days, the corresponding estimated cumulative incidences were 5.2% and 10.2%, a 51% risk reduction (HR: 0.49 [95% CI: 0.27-0.91]; $P = 0.023$). Through 90 days, there was a 52% reduction in the composite

risk of all-cause death and HF-related events (HR: 0.48 [95% CI: 0.32-0.74]; $P = 0.0008$) and a 53% reduction in all-cause death and HF events through 30 days (HR: 0.47 [95% CI: 0.26-0.87]; $P = 0.0157$). Sotagliflozin significantly decreased the risk of HF-related events by 48% and 52% during the 90- and 30-day postdischarge periods, respectively, and all-cause death over 90 days by 61%; treatment differences were not significant for the other endpoints (Table 2). Similar results were obtained when the data were analyzed from the time of randomization (Supplemental Table 1).

Over the entire postdischarge follow-up period, sotagliflozin decreased the risk of the main endpoint by 31% (HR: 0.69 [95% CI: 0.51-0.94]; $P = 0.017$) (Supplemental Table 1, Supplemental Figure 1). Allowing the treatment HR to be different through 90 days and after 90 days suggested the sotagliflozin treatment benefit was more apparent in the earlier period (HR: 0.54) compared with the later period (HR after 90 days: 0.91 [95% CI: 0.59-1.41]; $P = 0.68$). Furthermore, a model allowing the treatment HR to differ through and after 90 days seemed to fit the data better than the model with an assumed constant treatment effect ($P = 0.09$ for model fit improvement), supporting the observation of a more pronounced early benefit. Similar results were observed when allowing the treatment HR to differ through 30 days and after 30 days.

In subgroup analyses for the main endpoint through 90 days after discharge (Figure 1), there was no significant heterogeneity ($P > 0.05$ for interaction) in the effectiveness of sotagliflozin across subgroups including age <65 or ≥65 years, sex, baseline LVEF <50% or ≥50%, baseline NT-proBNP level <1,686 or ≥1,686 pg/mL, and baseline eGFR <60 or ≥60 mL/min/1.73 m².

The safety profile of sotagliflozin during the postdischarge period was generally consistent with that observed in the main study.¹⁷ At 90 days (Table 3), diarrhea was reported in 3.4% of the sotagliflozin group and 1.3% of the placebo group and AEs associated with volume depletion in 7.2% and 5.6%, respectively (Table 3). Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) was reported in 1 patient (0.3%) receiving sotagliflozin and no patients receiving placebo. At 30 days (Supplemental Table 2), diarrhea was reported in 3.1% and 0.3% and volume depletion in 6.6% and 4.6% of the sotagliflozin and placebo groups, respectively. No cases of DKA were reported within 30 days after discharge. The incidence of other AEs and serious AEs was similar between treatment groups (Table 3, Supplemental Table 2).

DISCUSSION

In the SOLOIST-WHF trial primary analysis, the administration of sotagliflozin resulted in a significantly lower number of cardiovascular deaths and hospitalizations and urgent visits for HF relative to placebo in patients admitted for a WHF event.¹⁷ Sotagliflozin was also found to decrease total hospitalizations and increase days alive and out of the hospital in the SOLOIST-WHF population.²¹ In the present post hoc analysis of the 48.8% of SOLOIST-WHF participants who received study drug before or at the time of discharge from their index event, sotagliflozin decreased the relative risk of a composite of cardiovascular mortality and HF-related hospitalizations and urgent visits for HF by >40% within 90 and within 30 days of discharge from the index WHF hospitalization and also significantly decreased total mortality at 90 days after discharge. A similar analysis from the time of randomization conducted to avoid any potential bias resulting from an analysis from the time of discharge revealed almost identical outcomes. Decreases in 90-day postdischarge cardiovascular mortality and HF events were observed across subgroups including sex, age, baseline eGFR, NT-proBNP, LVEF, and mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist use (Figure 1). The consistent reduction in this composite endpoint in patients with HFpEF (LVEF ≥50%) was particularly noteworthy.

As in the main SOLOIST-WHF trial, sotagliflozin was relatively well-tolerated, with a safety profile that is largely consistent with selective SGLT2 inhibitors, including an increased incidence of AEs associated with volume depletion. In this analysis, rates of urinary tract and genital infections were similar between the treatment groups. The increased incidence of diarrhea in the present analysis (as in other sotagliflozin studies) is attributable to the partial inhibition of SGLT1 in the intestine with sotagliflozin.^{35,36} A single case of DKA occurred in a sotagliflozin-treated patient within the 90-day postdischarge period included in this analysis, whereas over the entire 9 months of the SOLOIST-WHF trial, there were 2 cases of DKA in the sotagliflozin group and 4 in the placebo group.¹⁷

A >40% decrease in postdischarge cardiovascular mortality and HF events, as observed in this post hoc analysis, may have important implications for patients' readmission rates, health status, and cost of care. A poor health status, defined by a Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire-12 item (KCCQ) score of ≤50, has been reported in ≤43% of patients after an acute HF hospitalization.³⁷ In SOLOIST-WHF,

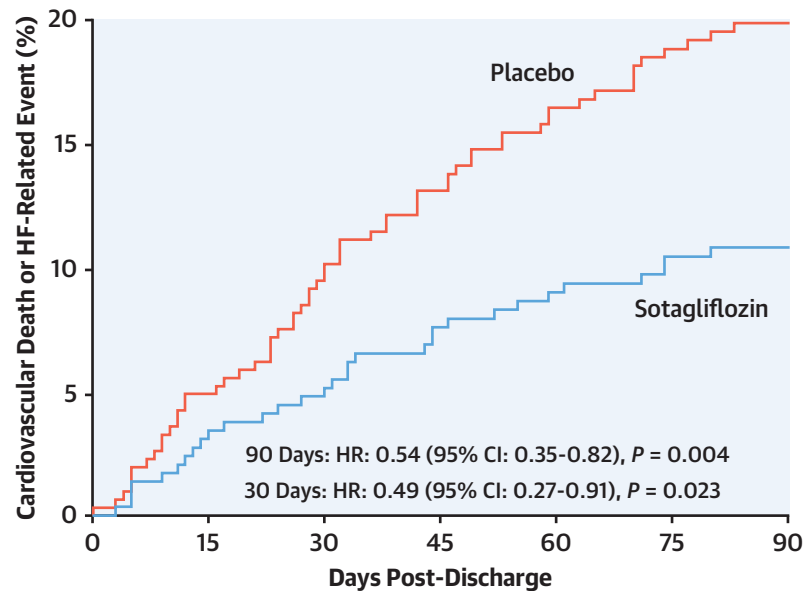
TABLE 2 Cumulative Incidence and Relative Treatment Effects for Each Endpoint Over the 90- and 30-Day Postdischarge Observation Periods in Patients Who Started Study Medication Before Discharge From the Index Worsening HF Hospitalization

	Sotagliflozin (n = 290)	Placebo (n = 306)	HR (95% CI)	P Value
Through 90 days				
Cardiovascular death or HF-related event	31 (10.8)	60 (19.9)	0.54 (0.35-0.82)	0.004
All-cause death or HF-related event	31 (10.8)	65 (21.2)	0.48 (0.32-0.74)	0.008
HF-related event	25 (8.7)	51 (16.9)	0.52 (0.32-0.83)	0.006
Cardiovascular death	9 (3.1)	17 (5.7)	0.53 (0.23-1.23)	0.14
All-cause death	9 (3.1)	22 (7.4)	0.39 (0.17-0.88)	0.024
All-cause hospitalization	75 (26.5)	81 (26.8)	0.98 (0.71-1.34)	0.89
All-cause death or hospitalization	77 (26.6)	86 (28.1)	0.92 (0.68-1.26)	0.62
Through 30 days				
Cardiovascular death or HF-related event	15 (5.2)	31 (10.2)	0.49 (0.27-0.91)	0.023
All-cause death or HF-related event	15 (5.2)	32 (10.5)	0.47 (0.26-0.87)	0.016
HF-related event	12 (4.1)	26 (8.5)	0.48 (0.24-0.95)	0.036
Cardiovascular death	4 (1.4)	7 (2.3)	0.55 (0.16-1.94)	0.36
All-cause death	4 (1.4)	8 (2.6)	0.48 (0.14-1.62)	0.23
All-cause hospitalization	36 (12.4)	44 (14.4)	0.84 (0.54-1.31)	0.44
All-cause death or hospitalization	38 (13.1)	47 (15.4)	0.81 (0.53-1.25)	0.35

Values are n (%) unless otherwise indicated. Note: percentages are cumulative incidences at 90 or 30 days, estimated by cumulative incidence functions.
 HF = heart failure.

significant improvements in KCCQ-12 were found after 4 months of sotagliflozin treatment.¹⁷ It is reasonable to postulate that health status and quality of life likely improved with sotagliflozin within 30 and 90 days after hospital discharge, because HF hospitalizations and urgent visits negatively affect the quality of life of not only patients, but also of family and caregivers. Also important is the potential for decreased health care costs. A recent Medicare claims analysis demonstrated that hospital readmissions accounted for 36% of postacute care spending within 90 days of an index hospitalization.³⁸ Although no formal cost-effectiveness study has yet been conducted in SOLOIST-WHF, the finding of consistent decreases across subgroups in HF hospitalizations and urgent visits would likely have a major impact on the cost of care for HF patients. Moreover, in the United States, where hospitals are penalized by Medicare for high rates of 30-day HF readmissions,¹⁶ decreasing HF events may have an even broader positive impact.

The results from EMPULSE (Empagliflozin in Patients Who Are in Hospital for Acute Heart Failure) are broadly consistent with our observations from SOLOIST. In EMPULSE, 530 patients who were hospitalized for acute HF, including worsening and new onset HF, received empagliflozin or placebo and were followed for 90 days after hospital discharge.²⁷ Empagliflozin treatment resulted in a significantly greater clinical benefit as determined by a win ratio composite of

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Risk of Cardiovascular Death and HF-Related Events Over 30 and 90 Days

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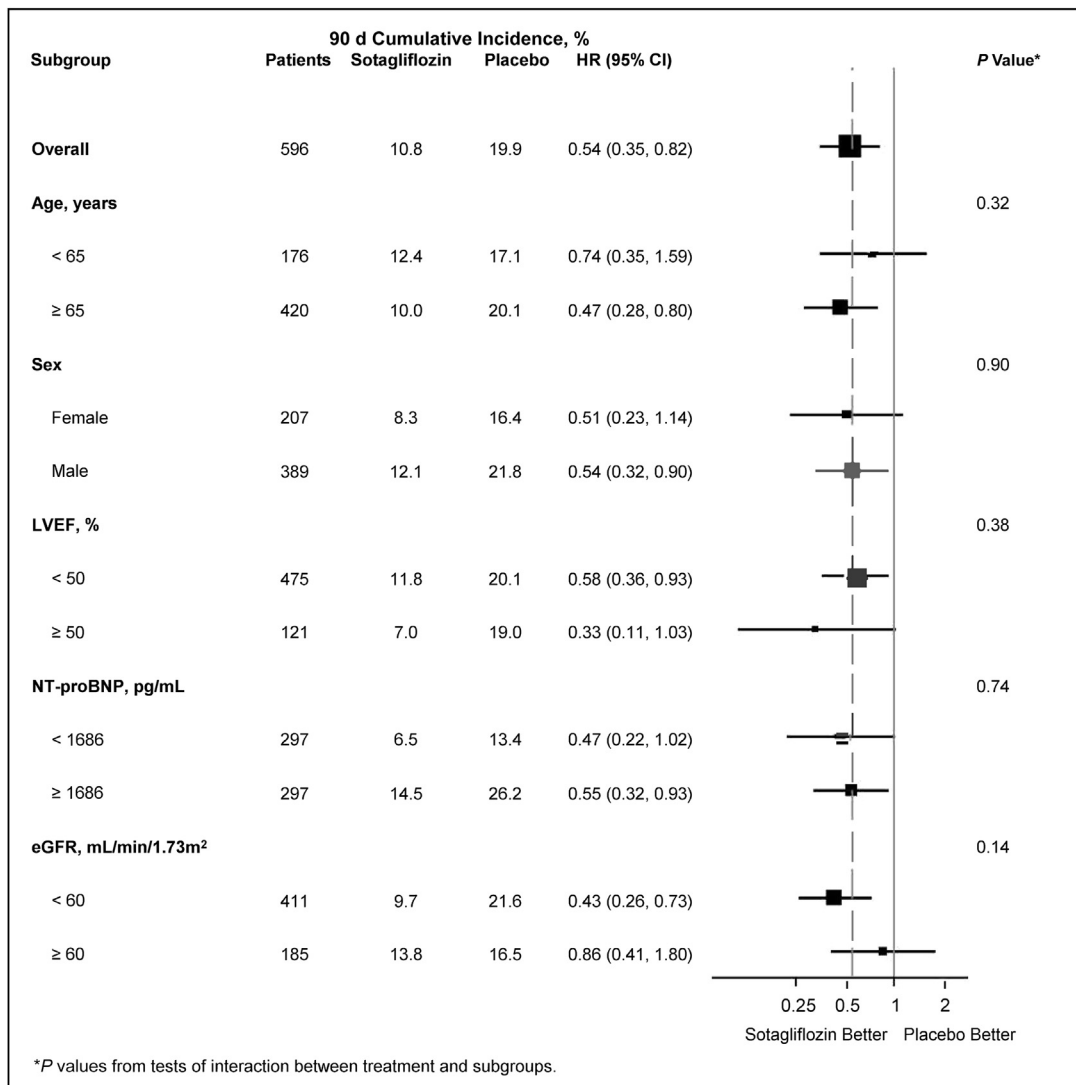
Estimated cumulative incidence for the main endpoint, consisting of the composite of cardiovascular death and heart failure (HF)-related events (hospitalizations and urgent visits for HF) in the sotagliflozin and placebo groups.

clinical endpoints and patient-reported outcomes, including a 31% nonsignificant decrease in the composite of cardiovascular mortality and HF hospitalizations at 90 days (HR: 0.69; 95% CI: 0.45-1.08). Improvements in the KCCQ-23 were also observed in EMPULSE, which further supports the benefits of starting SGLT inhibitor therapy before discharge.²⁷ Recent results from the subset of patients in DELIVER (Dapagliflozin Evaluation to Improve the Lives of Patients with Preserved Ejection Fraction Heart Failure) who were recently hospitalized with HF and a mildly reduced or preserved ejection fraction also suggest that SGLT inhibitors safely decreased the risk of WHF or cardiovascular death similarly in patients with and without a history of recent HF hospitalization.³⁹ It should, however, be pointed out that, in patients randomized to dapagliflozin in DELIVER during a recent HF hospitalization, the event curves did not diverge during the first 6 months of treatment, suggesting no early benefit in this group. Furthermore, neither EMPULSE nor DELIVER showed a decreased in total mortality at 90 days.

Previous pharmacological trials in patients hospitalized for acute or WHF before hospital discharge

generally support our findings of the benefits of starting HF therapy in the hospital.^{27,40,41} Initiation of an SGLT inhibitor such as sotagliflozin along with other guideline-recommended HF therapies in patients hospitalized for WHF is relatively well-tolerated and should improve patients' health status and decreased cardiovascular mortality and HF events, as well as health care costs. Starting evidence-based treatment during an HF hospitalization is also predictive of a higher likelihood appropriate HF therapy being maintained in the long term.³⁶ Conversely, when medication initiation is postponed until after discharge of patients hospitalized for WHF, there is a 75% chance guideline-recommended HF therapies will not be started within the next year.⁴²⁻⁴⁵ Prompt initiation of the 4-pillar regimen (consisting of an SGLT inhibitor, renin-angiotensin system inhibitor, beta-blocker, and a mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist), which is recommended for patients with HFrEF,^{22,23} may prolong the lifespan of this vulnerable group by 2 to 8 years.⁴⁶ HF guidelines also recommend use of SGLT inhibitors for patients with HFpEF as well as HFrEF.^{22,23} Nevertheless, these agents are frequently not prescribed for HF because

FIGURE 1 90-Day Cumulative Incidence for the Composite of Cardiovascular Death and HF-Related Events by Subgroups



HR with 95% CIs for the overall analysis population and selected subgroups over 90 days after discharge from the index worsening heart failure (HF) event in patients who began study drug before discharge from index event. eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; NT-proBNP = N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

physicians may be unfamiliar with them or think of them as diabetes drugs and outside the bounds of their medical specialty.⁴⁷ Given the high mortality rate within the first 30 days after discharge,⁸⁻¹⁰ decreases in 30- and 90-day post-discharge HF-related events and total mortality in this analysis should give clinicians confidence in the benefits of SGLT inhibitors as part of the 4-pillar strategy for HFrEF, as well as for HF patients with less severe EF deficits.

STUDY LIMITATIONS. The results of this analysis need further confirmation owing to the relatively small number of events—particularly deaths—and the fact that this is a post hoc analysis. As previously published, SOLOIST-WHF was stopped prematurely, endpoints were not centrally adjudicated, and the original primary endpoint was modified before database lock.¹⁷ Without a trial directly comparing sotagliflozin with a more selective SGLT2 inhibitor, such

TABLE 3 Incidence of AEs and EOSIs Over the 90-Day Postdischarge Observation Period in Patients Who Started Study Medication Before Discharge From the Index WHF Hospitalization

	Sotagliflozin (n = 290)	Placebo (n = 306)
AEs		
Any AE	158 (54.5)	158 (51.6)
Any SAE	74 (25.5)	78 (25.5)
Any related AE	31 (10.7)	21 (6.9)
Any related SAE	6 (2.1)	2 (0.7)
Any AE leading to permanent treatment discontinuation	8 (2.8)	3 (1.0)
EOSI		
Bone fractures	3 (1.0)	2 (0.7)
Diabetic ketoacidosis	1 (0.3)	0
Genital mycotic infections	1 (0.3)	0
Urinary tract infections	19 (6.6)	17 (5.6)
Volume depletion	21 (7.2)	17 (5.6)
Diarrhea	10 (3.4)	4 (1.3)
Pancreatitis	0	0
Venous thrombotic events	2 (0.7)	0
AE leading to amputation	0	0
Severe hypoglycemia	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)

Values are n (%).
AE = adverse event; EOSI = event of special interest; SAE = serious adverse event; WHF = worsening heart failure.

as empagliflozin or dapagliflozin, it is difficult to reach any definitive conclusions about the advantages of dual SGLT1 and SGLT2 inhibition on HF mechanisms and outcomes. It would, however, seem that sotagliflozin is at least as effective as the selective SGLT2 inhibitors and possibly more effective as evidenced by the prior finding of a significant 30% decrease in stroke and myocardial infarction in patients with chronic kidney disease and T2D,²⁹ as well as the significant decrease in total mortality 90 days from the time of discharge in the present analysis in patients hospitalized with WHF.

CONCLUSIONS

This post hoc analysis of a subset of the SOLOIST-WHF trial population suggests that sotagliflozin, when administered before hospital discharge after an episode of hospitalization for WHF in patients with T2D, decreases the 30- and 90-day rates of cardiovascular mortality and HF-related events by >40%, as well as total mortality, by 90 days after discharge. These findings are the first to demonstrate a decrease in mortality and HF events for a SGLT inhibitor treatment initiated during WHF hospitalization and underscore the benefits of early initiation of evidence-based HF therapy. These results suggest

that dual inhibition of SGLT1 and SGLT2 is safe and may provide added benefit to patients with WHF.

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PERSPECTIVES

COMPETENCY IN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE: Initiation of sotagliflozin before discharge in patients with T2D admitted with decompensated HF markedly reduced their risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for HF at both 30 and 90 days. Barring contraindications, SGLT inhibitors should be routinely started in such patients before discharge.

TRANSLATIONAL OUTLOOK: Dual SGLT1 and SGLT2 inhibition afforded by sotagliflozin might provide additional clinical benefits beyond selective SGLT2 inhibition, though adequately powered randomized clinical trials of sufficient duration will be necessary to test this hypothesis.

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APPENDIX For supplemental tables and a figure, please see the online version of this paper.