Lecture Code : DO01-S1
Session Name : Diabetes and Obesity
Session Topic : New Horizons in DKD: Emerging Diagnostic and Therapeutic Approaches
Date & Time, Place : June 21 (Sat) / 12:50-14:50 / Room 1 (GBR 101)

Synergy in Action: Novel Combination Strategies for DKD

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Despite optimal monotherapy with SGLT2 inhibitors, 60-70% of patients with diabetic kidney disease (DKD) continue to progress, highlighting an urgent need to reimagine our therapeutic approach. This lecture will explore the paradigm shift from sequential add-on therapy to strategic combination strategies that address multiple pathophysiologic pathways simultaneously. Drawing from recent insights on guideline-directed medical therapy, including the principle that "partial doses of all therapies beat full doses of few," we will examine how SGLT2 inhibitors can serve as "enablers" that facilitate the use of other agents by mitigating hyperkalemia and improving hemodynamics. Current evidence-based combinations including SGLT2i + GLP-1RA (building on FLOW trial insights), SGLT2i + endothelin receptor antagonists, and SGLT2i + non-steroidal MRAs will be critically evaluated through the lens of phenotype-driven patient selection. The lecture will then explore the revolutionary potential of multi-receptor agonists—including dual GLP-1/GIP agonists (tirzepatide), triple GLP-1/GIP/glucagon agonists (retatrutide, mazdutide), and novel combinations like amycretin and cagrisema—which may fundamentally "remodel" the metabolic phenotype of DKD. Emerging therapies such as aldosterone synthase inhibitors, which offer advantages over receptor antagonism, will be discussed as next-generation combination partners. Practical implementation strategies will be presented, including rapid optimization protocols achieving multi-drug therapy, biomarker-guided intensification, and management algorithms for specific phenotypes (obesity-predominant, proteinuric, rapid progressors). Special consideration will be given to Asian populations, where lower BMI but high metabolic risk may offer unique opportunities for these novel combinations. The lecture will conclude with a vision for precision medicine in DKD.

Keywords: SGLT2 inhibitors, GLP-1 receptor agonists, non-steroidal mineralocorticoid antagonists, endothelin receptor antagonists, diabetic kidney disease