

# DIABETIC KIDNEY DISEASE

## SGLT2s

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SGLT2 inhibitors protect the kidneys, but Argyropoulos said they likely help by stopping hyperfiltration and the resulting damage that occurs when the kidneys overwork.

“A big part of kidney disease development and progression is the kidneys sensing that something has happened to them and trying to compensate by working extra,” he said. “This process, called hyper-

filtration, causes secondary kidney damage, which makes more kidney tissue stop working.” The SGLT2s seem to be able to slow the kidneys down and make them last longer, he said.

There are still some questions that need to be answered about this class of drugs. For example, it would be helpful to know who is likely to have rare but serious side effects like diabetic ketoacidosis.

“The next thing that we would have to do is find ways to use these drugs more safely, or at least detect these complications,” Argyropoulos said.

It will also be important to manage or

prevent common side effects, such as genital yeast infections in both men and women taking the drugs. Although these infections are easy to treat, repeated infections may make patients want to stop taking the drugs, Argyropoulos said.

The growing number of trials supporting substantial kidney benefits of SGLT2 inhibitors is a major development for the field of nephrology, Argyropoulos said. In fact, he said it's likely the biggest development since the emergence of ARBs and ACE-inhibitors.

“We are really talking about a once every 20 years type of event for nephrology.” ■

## References

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## Take Action to Increase Access to Immunosuppressive Medication

ASN needs your help to ensure kidney transplant patients are able to access life-saving immunosuppressive medications.

Congress has introduced the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act (H.R. 5534/S. 3353), bipartisan legislation that would remove Medicare's three-year limit for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs.

According to a pre-pandemic Department of Health & Human Services report, hundreds of kidney transplant patients lose their transplant due to an inability to afford immunosuppressive medication. This is not only costly to the health of the patient, but also to Medicare as the patient returns to dialysis. A recent analysis by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office found that extending coverage of immunosuppressive drugs would save Medicare \$70 million over a period of 10 years.

ASN and stakeholder organizations have urged Congress to pass this legislation before time runs out. However, your legislators need to hear from you as a constituent. Urge them to pass the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act, which will save lives and taxpayer dollars.

Visit the following link and send a pre-composed email to your members of Congress: [www.asn-online.org/policy/lac.aspx](http://www.asn-online.org/policy/lac.aspx). ■