

CGA/19/12 - Metformin prescribing in patients with severe renal impairment

Metformin is a very effective treatment for Type 2 Diabetes with research showing beneficial effects on the heart and kidneys. Guidelines currently recommend stopping metformin in patients with severe kidney impairment due to a very small risk of potential side effects. However, recent research has shown that with dose reduction it may be safe to use metformin in these patients. Hence, many diabetes and kidney specialists continue metformin even in patients with low kidney function as stopping it leads to weight gain and a severe decline in diabetes control. We will use anonymised patient records to determine how many patients in Tayside and Fife with kidney problems are prescribed metformin and how many develop side effects. The results will help plan a large randomised study comparing continuing to stopping metformin in patients with severe kidney impairment