When should GLP-1 RAs be used?

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Early intensive therapies with incretin-based drugs, DPP-4is and GLP-1 RAs has been adopted by many guidelines, but the recommendations on the use of these agents vary across major guidelines

Guideline		2019: ADA/EASD¹	2019: ESC/EASD ²	2015: NICE ³
Incretin-based therapies	DPP-4is	2 nd line if no ASCVD/ CKD but minimised hypoglycaemia required	2 nd /3 rd line as combination depending on existing therapy and CV risk	2 nd or 3 rd line combination therapy
	GLP-1 RAs	2 nd line if with ASCVD or at high ASCVD risk 2 nd line if minimised hypoglycaemia or weight loss required	1st line if with ASCVD or at (very) high CV risk - To reduce CV events use liraglutide, semaglutide, dulaglutide - To reduce mortality risk use liraglutide	4 th line if weight loss required

GLP-1RA impact on patient outcomes LOW High HbA CV benefits, Low risk of Gastrointestinal Secondary Renal benefits lowering mainly hypoglycaemia side effects benefit of (reductions in dulaglutide, albuminuria, no efficacy as main AEs weight loss semaglutide & effect on eGFR) liraglutide^{4,5}

Main differences in guidelines for use of GLP-1 RAs

- Both ADA/EASD (2019)¹, and ESC/EASD (2019)² guidelines recommend the use of GLP-1 RAs in patients with established ASCVD or at (very) high CV risk
 - ADA/EASD as an add-on therapy to metformin
 - ESC/EASD as first-line therapy in treatment-naïve patients
- NICE³ guideline recommendations were last updated **2015** hence do not reflect the latest evidence indicating CV protection, so recommends **GLP-1RAs** only as 4th line therapy and only if weight loss is required

What about other therapies?

- In patients with <u>no risk or</u> established ASCVD or CKD,
 DPP-4is are recommended as 2nd or 3rd line combination therapy, particularly when hypoglycaemia should be minimised^{1,3}
- Where HF or CKD predominates,
 SGLT-2is are preferred¹
 - If SGLT-2is are not tolerated,
 GLP-1RAs are recommended
 - GLP-1RAs can be used in CKD stage 3 (down to low eGFR) with no requirements for dose reduction

Which patients are suitable for treatment with GLP-1RAs?



Abbreviations: ADA, American Diabetes Association; AE, adverse event; ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; CKD, chronic kidney disease; CV, cardiovascular; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DPP-4i, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; EASD, European Association for the Study of Diabetes; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; HbA_{1,c}, Hemoglobin A_{1,c}; HF, heart failure; NICE, National Institute for Health & Care Excellence; Pts, patients; SGLT2i, sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitor.