Ibrar Hussain *et al*



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Research Article

COMPARISON OF HYPOGLYCEMIA BETWEEN COMBINATION OF INSULIN DETEMIR AND ASPART WITH COMBINATION OF NPH (NEUTRAL PROTAMINE HAGEDORN) AND REGULAR INSULIN IN PATIENTS OF TYPE 1 DIABETES MELLITUS Dr. Ibrar Hussain, Dr. Soud Ul Javed, Dr. Ali Farhan Abid

Medical Officer DHQ Hospital Faisalabad

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Abstract:

Introduction: Insulin analogues were developed to improve treatment of insulin-treated diabetes with respect to glycemic control and avoidance of hypoglycemic episodes. Short-acting insulin analogues (aspart, lispro and glulisine) were designed to mimic the fast-physiological postprandial insulin release and long-acting insulin analogues (detemir and glargine) were designed to mimic the basal continuous insulin release with minimal peak action, thereby leading to a presumed decreased risk of hypoglycemia.

Objectives: To compare the frequency of hypoglycemia between combination of insulin detemir and aspart with combination of NPH and regular insulin in patients of type 1 diabetes mellitus.

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial.**Settings**: Department of Pediatric Medicine, DHQ Hospital Faisalabad.

Study Duration: 26th October 2016 to 25th April 2016. **Materials & Methods**: A total of 90 patients of age between 1 and 15 years of both genders with type 1 diabetes were included. Patients with renal impairment, hepatic dysfunction, obese and cushing syndrome were excluded. In group A, patients received insulin detemir once daily with insulin aspart 3 times daily and in group B, patients received twice-daily NPH insulin accompanied by twice-daily Regular Insulin approximately 30 minutes before meals. There was follow up of each patient after 2 weeks and was checked with signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia. **Results**: Mean age was 10.23 ± 11.58 years. Out of 90 patients, 47 (52.22%) were males and 43 (47.78%) were females with male to female ratio of 1:1. Hypoglycemia in Group A (combination of insulin detemir and aspart) was seen in 02 (4.44%) patients while in Group B (combination of NPH and regular insulin) was seen in 10 (22.22%) patients (p-value = 0.013).Conclusion: This study concluded that combination of insulin detemir and aspart is better than combination of NPH and regular insulin in patients of type 1 diabetes in terms of hypoglycemia. **Keywords**: Type 1 diabetes mellitus, insulin detemir, NPH, hypoglycemia.

Corresponding author: Ibrar Hussain, *Medical Officer DHO Hospital Faisalabad*



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INTRODUCTION:

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is regarded as single disease entity. It is a heterogeneous group of characterized diseases by chronic hyperglycemia resulting from diverse group of etiology such as environmental and genetic factors acting simultaneously or jointly.1 There are three main types of diabetes mellitus (DM): (i) Type I or insulin dependent DM or juvenile diabetes, (ii) Type II or non-insulin dependent DM or adult-onset diabetes, (iii) gestational diabetes occurs when pregnant women without a previous diagnosis of diabetes develop a high blood glucose level. Other forms of diabetes mellitus include congenital diabetes, which is due to genetic defects of insulin secretion, cystic fibrosis-related diabetes, steroid diabetes induced by high doses of glucocorticoids, and several forms of monogenic diabetes.2

Type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM), also known as insulin- dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) or juvenile diabetes, is a form of diabetes resulting from autoimmune destruction of insulin-producing pancreatic β - cells leading to insulin deficiency. The incidence of type 1 diabetes mellitus has increased rapidly over recent decades, particularly in young children.3 Evidence from the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) and other landmark studies, have shown that tight glycemic control in adults and adolescents with T1DM is of crucial importance in reducing the premature onset of micro- and macro-vascular complications. However, in these studies, intensive insulin therapy was associated with an increased risk of hypoglycemia and increased body weight.4

MATERIALS & METHODS:

STUDY DESIGN: Randomized control trial. SETTING: Department of Pediatric Medicine, DHQ Hospital Faisalabad. DURATION OF STUDY: 26th October 2016 to 25th April 2016. SAMPLE SIZE: By using WHO sample size calculator for two proportions P1 = 25%3P2 = 6%9Level of significance = 5% Power of study = 80%, Sample size = 90 (45 in each group)

SAMPLE TECHNIQUE:

Non-probability,

consecutive

sampling. SAMPLE SELECTION: a. Inclusion Criteria: • Patients of age between 1 and 15 years of both genders with type 1 diabetes (as per operational definition).

• Body mass index less than 90th percentile.

b. Exclusion Criteria:

Patients with

• Impaired renal disease (serum creatinine $\geq 1.7 \text{ mg/dL}$).

• Hepatic function impairment (transaminases >2.5 fold the upper limit of normal range).

• Obese patients with acanthosis nigricans.

• An autosomal dominant family history of diabetes.

• Patients with secondary diabetes i.e. cystic fibrosis related diabetes (CFRD) and Cushing syndrome.

• Patients with lipoatrophy and lipohypertrophy at the injection sites.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE:

After taking approval from Ethical Review committee, Punjab Medical College/ Attached Hospitals, patients coming through OPD of the department meeting the inclusion criteria were enrolled and informed consent will be taken. All the patients were randomly divided into two groups by using computer generated random number table. In group A, patients received insulin detemir once daily with insulin aspart 3 times daily with main meals and in group B. patients received twice-daily NPH insulin accompanied by twice-daily Regular Insulin approximately 30 minutes before meals. There was follow up of each patient after 2 weeks. Home record of blood glucose monitoring i.e. 4 times a day before insulin injections were checked along with signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia. All the information on Performa was collected by me.

DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURE:

All the data was entered and analyzed by using V-20. Descriptive statistics were SPSS calculated for all the variables. Mean and standard deviation were calculated for all the quantitative variables like age, duration of diabetes mellitus, BMI and weight. Frequency and percentage were calculated for all variables like qualitative gender and hypoglycemia. Chi-square test was applied to compare hypoglycemia in both groups. Effect modifiers like age, weight, duration of diabetes mellitus, BMI and gender were controlled by stratification. Post-stratification chi-square test was applied. P-value ≤ 0.05 was taken as

significant.

RESULTS:

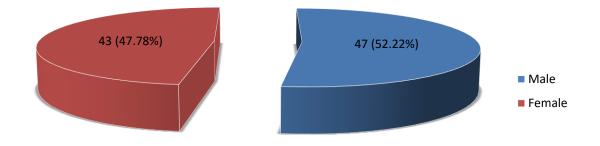
Age range in this study was from 1-15 years with mean age of 10.23 ± 11.58 years. The mean age of patients in group A was 8.98 ± 4.06 years and in group B was 11.49 ± 15.86 years. Majority of the patients 40 (44.44%) were between 11 to 15 years of age as shown in Table IV. Out of 90 patients, 47 (52.22%) were males and 43 (47.78%) were females with male to female ratio of 1:1 as shown in figure IX. Mean duration of disease was 3.85 ± 1.17 years (Table V). Mean weight was 17.39 ± 7.30 kg (Table VI). Mean BMI was 22.56 ± 3.24 kg/m2 (Table VII). Hypoglycemia in Group A (combination of insulin detemir and aspart) was seen in 02 (4.44%) patients while in Group B (combination of NPH and regular insulin) was seen in 10 (22.22%) patients as shown in Figure X (p-value = 0.013).

Stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to age groups and gender has shown in Table VIII & IX respectively. Stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to duration of disease has shown in Table X while Table XI & XII have shown the stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to weight and BMI.

| Table-IV: Age distril | ution for both | groups (n | =90). |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|-------|
| | | | |

| | Group A (n=45) | | Group B (n=45) | | Total (n=90) | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Age (years) | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age |
| 1-5 | 11 | 24.44 | 10 | 22.22 | 21 | 23.33 |
| 6-10 | 15 | 33.33 | 14 | 31.11 | 29 | 32.22 |
| 11-15 | 19 | 42.22 | 21 | 46.67 | 40 | 44.44 |
| Mean ± SD | 8.98 ± 4.06 | | 11.49 ± 15.86 | | 10.23 ± 11.58 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Figure IX: Distribution of patients according to Gender.



| Table-V: Percentage of patients according to dur | ation of DM (n=90). |
|--|---------------------|
|--|---------------------|

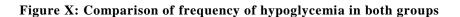
| Duration of | Group A (n=45) | | Group B (n=45) | | Total (n=90) | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| disease (years) | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age |
| 0-1 year | 19 | 42.22 | 20 | 44.44 | 39 | 43.33 |
| >1 year | 26 | 57.78 | 25 | 55.56 | 51 | 56.67 |
| Mean ± SD | 3.84 ± 1.26 | | 3.94 ± 1.11 | | 3.85 ± 1.17 | |

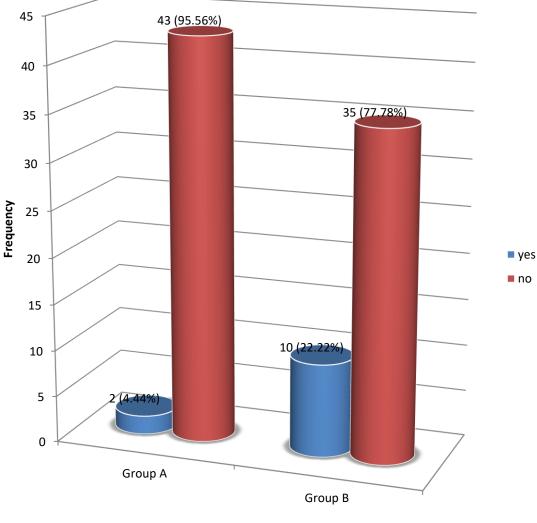
| | | 0 1 | | 0 | Total (n=90) | | |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | Group A (n=45) | Group A (n=45) | | Group B (n=45) | | | |
| Weight (kg) | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age | |
| ≤20 | 29 | 64.44 | 27 | 60.0 | 56 | 62.22 | |
| >20 | 16 | 35.56 | 18 | 40.0 | 34 | 37.78 | |
| Mean ± SD | 17.47 ± 7.50 | 17.47 ± 7.50 | | 17.62 ± 7.19 | | 17.39 ± 7.30 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Table-VI: Percentage of patients according to weight (n=90).

Table-VII: Percentage of patients according to BMI (n=90).

| | Group A (n=45) | | Group B (n=45) | | Total (n=90) | |
|-------------|------------------|-------|------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| BMI (kg/m2) | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age | No. of patients | %age |
| ≤15 | 17 | 37.78 | 18 | 40.0 | 35 | 38.89 |
| >15 | 28 | 62.22 | 27 | 60.0 | 55 | 61.11 |
| Mean ± SD | 22.39 ± 3.31 | | 22.78 ± 3.19 | | 22.56 ± 3.24 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |





Hypoglycemia

P-value = 0.013 which is statistically significant.

| | Group A (n=45) | | Group B (n=45 | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------|
| Age of patients | Hypoglycemia | | Hypoglycemia | | P-value |
| (years) | yes | no | yes | no | |
| 1-5 | 00 (0.0%) | 11 (100.0%) | 03 (30.0%) | 07 (70.0%) | 0.050 |
| 6-10 | 01 (6.67%) | 14 (93.33%) | 02 (14.29%) | 12 (85.71%) | 0.501 |
| 11-15 | 01 (5.26%) | 18 (94.74%) | 05 (23.81%) | 16 (76.19%) | 0.101 |

Table VIII: Stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to age groups.

Table IX: Stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to gender.

| | Group A (n=45 |) | Group B (n=45 | | |
|--------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------|
| Gender | Hypoglycemia | | Hypoglycemia | | P-value |
| | yes | no | yes | no | |
| Male | 01 (4.0%) | 24 (96.0%) | 04 (18.18%) | 18 (81.82%) | 0.116 |
| Female | 01 (5.0%) | 19 (95.0%) | 06 (26.09%) | 17 (73.91%) | 0.062 |

Table X: Stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to duration of disease.

| | Group A (n=45 |) | Group B (n=45 | | |
|----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| Duration | Hypoglycemia | | Hypoglycemia | | P-value |
| | yes | no | yes | no | |
| 0-1 year | 02 (10.53%) | 17 (89.47%) | 04 (20.0%) | 16 (80.0%) | 0.412 |
| >1 year | 00 (0.0%) | 26 (100.0%) | 06 (24.0%) | 19 (76.0%) | 0.008 |

Table XI: Stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to weight.

| | Group A (n=45 | 5) | Group B (n=45 | | |
|--------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Weight | Hypoglycemia | | Hypoglycemia | | P-value |
| | yes | no | yes | no | |
| ≤20 kg | 02 (6.90%) | 27 (93.10%) | 07 (25.93%) | 20 (74.07%) | 0.053 |
| >20 kg | 00 (0.0%) | 16 (100.0%) | 03 (16.67%) | 15 (83.33%) | 0.087 |

Table XII: Stratification of hypoglycemia with respect to BMI.

| | Group A (n=45 | 5) | Group B (n=45 | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| BMI (kg/m2) | Hypoglycemia | | Hypoglycemia | P-value | |
| | yes | no | yes | no | |
| ≤15 | 01 (5.88%) | 16 (94.12%) | 04 (22.22%) | 14 (77.78%) | 0.256 |
| >15 | 01 (3.57%) | 27 (96.43%) | 06 (22.22%) | 21 (77.78%) | 0.038 |

DISCUSSION:

Insulin formulations are classified into three main categories: short acting, intermediate acting, and long acting. Short-acting insulins include regular human insulin, glulisine, aspart, and lispro. The latter three are often referred to as rapid-acting insulins because their onset of activity and time to peak concentration are more rapid than those of regular human insulin. The rapid-acting insulins also have a shorter duration of activity and a time to peak action that is independent of the insulin dose, whereas regular insulin shows an increased time to peak action with increasing doses.81

Basal insulin formulations, such as the newer intermediate- or long-acting synthetic insulin analogs (e.g., insulin detemir, glargine), are effective basal insulin options for children with DM. Their primary use, particularly in type 1 DM, is to mimic the body's natural basal insulin secretion to limit gluconeogenesis and lipolysis, thereby reducing the potential for ketosis. Insulin detemir contains a 14-carbon fatty acid moiety that is acylated to lysine on the B chain of insulin. This fatty acid moiety allows insulin detemir to bind reversibly to albumin and other proteins, extending its duration of activity.81,82 The duration of action of insulin detemir appears to be dosedependent and variable between subjects. With smaller daily doses (less than 0.4 units/kg/day), a shorter duration of action may be expected and will often require twice-daily dosing. Unlike neutral protamine Hagedorn (NPH) and insulin glargine, insulin detemir is soluble at a neutral pH. Insulin glargine is administered while soluble in its acidic formulation; when exposed to a higher pH by subcutaneous injection, it forms a precipitate, which permits an extended duration of activity and no pronounced peak concentration compared with NPH. Both insulin detemir and glargine have been studied in children as young as 6 years, and both insulins are available in either vial or injectable pen devices.83

In my study, I have compared the frequency of hypoglycemia between combination of insulin detemir and aspart with combination of NPH and regular insulin in patients of type 1 diabetes mellitus. Age range in my study was from 1-15 years with mean age of 10.23 ± 11.58 years. The mean age of patients in group A was 8.98 ± 4.06 years and in group B was 11.49 ± 15.86 years. Majority of the patients 40 (44.44%) were between 11 to 15 years of age. Out of 90 patients, 47 (52.22%) were males and 43 (47.78%) were females with male to female ratio of 1:1. Hypoglycemia in Group A (combination of insulin detemir and aspart) was seen in 02 (4.44%) patients while in Group B (combination of NPH and regular insulin) was seen in 10 (22.22%) patients (p-value = 0.013). Hypoglycemia was found to be in 6% patients taking insulin detemir and aspart9 and in 25% patients taking Neutral protamine hagedorn and regular insulin in type 1 diabetes.3

Recent evaluation of the time action profiles of both analog insulins reveals very similar response curves.84 In an open-label, parallelgroup comparison of subjects with type 1 diabetes, patients received either insulin detemir twice daily or insulin glargine once daily in combination with premeal insulin aspart.85 The overall risk of hypoglycemia was similar between the 2 groups; however, the risk of severe hypoglycemia was 73% lower and the risk of nighttime hypoglycemia was 32% lower with insulin detemir. The clinical significance of these findings needs to be evaluated.85

The PREDICTIVE (Predictable Results and Experience in Diabetes through Intensification and Control to Target: an International Variability Evaluation) trial is a multinational observational study designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of insulin detemir. This is one of the largest diabetes trials to date, evaluating approximately 35,000 patients in multiple countries. Both type 1 and type 2 patients were enrolled, including newly diagnosed patients. The German arm of this trial (N=10,276) is the first to be published, and results were presented at the 2006 American

Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions.86 The German subgroup analysis included patients who were poorly controlled on other insulins or were insulin naive, and the major intervention was adding insulin detemir to existing OAD therapy or changing to insulin detemir if patients were on another basal insulin.

Overall improvement in A1C of 0.89% in type 2 patients was seen (P < .001). In type 1 patients, major hypoglycemic events were reduced from 106 per 100 patient-years to 12 events per 100 patient years after changing basal insulin to insulin detemir. In type 2 patients, major hypoglycemic events dropped from 30 to 6 events per 100 patient-years. Subset analysis revealed an absolute A1C reduction of 1.29% in those diabetics who had been on OADs only. In the groups in which insulin detemir was substituted for insulin glargine or NPH, an absolute A1C reduction of 0.59% was seen in both sets. Despite improved control, and even adding insulin to insulinnaive groups, major hypoglycemic events were less frequent than they had been prior to the intervention.86

Current management of type 1 DM focuses on the use of basal/bolus (basal/prandial) insulin regimens to more closely mimic natural insulin secretion. The basal insulin provides background insulin release to regulate homeostatic glucose concentrations and increased nocturnal glucose release from the liver (known as the dawn phenomenon). Bolus insulin doses are designed to match new and carbohydrate intake correct for hyperglycemic postprandial excursions. Several combination insulin regimens can be chosen. The choice of insulin regimen depends on the patient's lifestyle, ability to adhere to the regimen, and physiologic limitations.87

Insulin regimens are based on the time-action curve of the particular insulin used. A traditional combination regimen consists of NPH plus a short-acting insulin. Although NPH is not a basal insulin by the strict interpretation of the definition, it is still widely used. The most common regimens use NPH with shortacting insulin in the morning and NPH administered again at dinner with the shortacting insulin or given separately at bedtime. The short-acting insulin is used to lower the postprandial glucose concentration to target concentrations by matching the carbohydrate intake at breakfast and dinner. The NPH administered in the morning is used to cover for carbohydrate intake at lunch and offer some basal coverage during the day. Evening or bedtime administration offers basal coverage throughout the night. This NPH insulin plus short-acting insulin regimen requires a fairly strict adherence to prescribed mealtimes and carbohydrate intakes (especially at lunch) because NPH given at breakfast will not reach its peak effect for 4–6 hours.88

Newer regimens using insulin glargine or detemir for basal insulin coverage can provide a closer approximation to true physiologic secretion. Basal insulin is given once or divided twice daily, and all meals and corrections for hyperglycemia are covered with a short-acting insulin. The time-action profiles of a basal/bolus regimen make it easier to adapt to patient-specific needs. These regimens tend to be more injection intensive (often four or five injections daily) because most meal and correction boluses are given separately from the basal injection.89 However, patients have much more flexibility in the timing of meals and the glucose ability to decrease elevated concentrations to target goals. There is less risk of hypoglycemia and cyclic hyper- and hypoglycemia because of the basal insulin's flatter timeaction profile. In addition, carbohydrates in the meal can be varied with a corresponding change in the insulin bolus dose. This may make it easier to achieve tight glycemic control and reduce the hemoglobin A1C to goal; however, injection frequency and cost may be increased. Overall, a true basal/bolus regimen may be less challenging than an NPH insulin regimen.90,91

In one multicenter, open-label, randomized, six-month study, 349 type 1 diabetes mellitus patients aged five to 16 years received insulin glargine once daily or NPH insulin either once or twice daily.92 Fasting blood glucose (FBG) levels decreased significantly more in the insulin glargine group (-1.29 mmol/L) than in the NPH insulin group (-0.68 mmol/L, p=0.02). The percentage of symptomatic hypoglycemic events was similar between groups; however, fewer patients in the insulin glargine group reported severe hypoglycemia (23 versus 29 percent, respectively) and severe nocturnal percent. hypoglycemia (13)versus 18 respectively), although these differences were not statistically significant. Fewer serious adverse events occurred in the insulin glargine group than in the NPH insulin group (p<0.02).92

A trial aimed to compare insulin analogues (insulin detemir, insulin aspart) versus traditional human insulins (insulin NPH, insulin regular) in type 1 diabetic patients with basal bolus therapy showed interesting results in term of hypoglycemic events, numbers of overall hypoglycemia episodes per person-year were 37.1 and 48.2 for the insulin detemir and insulin NPH, respectively, while corresponding numbers of nocturnal hypoglycemia episodes person-year were 4.0and 9.2. per respectively.93

A six-month, prospective, randomized, openlabel, controlled, parallel-group trial conducted at 92 sites included 749 men and women with type 1 diabetes with HbA1c < 12 percent who were already taking daily intermediate- or longacting insulin and a fast-acting human insulin or insulin analogue as bolus insulin.94 Patients were randomized to insulin detemir or NPH at bedtime in combination with human insulin with main meals. Main outcome measures included HbA1c, FPG, and hypoglycemia. After six months, FPG was lower with insulin detemir than with NPH (-1.16 mmol/L difference; p=0.001), whereas HbA1c did not differ significantly between treatments (-0.12 percent; p=NS). Day-to-day variability in selfmeasured fasting blood glucose was lower with insulin detemir (2.82 versus 3.60 mmol/L; p<0.001). Lower glucose levels were seen before breakfast with insulin detemir compared to NPH (p<0.001). There was a 26 percent reduction in the relative risk of nocturnal hypoglycemia with insulin detemir compared with NPH (p=0.003). The adverse effect profiles were similar between treatment groups.94

In the 18-week, randomized, open-label, parallel trial, 595 patients with type 1 diabetes received insulin detemir or NPH insulin in the morning and at bedtime in combination with mealtime insulin aspart or regular human insulin, respectively.95 Glycemic control with insulin detemir/insulin aspart was improved in comparison with NPH insulin/regular human insulin (HbA1c: 7.88 versus 8.11 percent; p<0.001). Lower postprandial plasma glucose levels were seen in the insulin detemir/insulin aspart group (p<0.001), as well as lower withinperson day-today variation in plasma glucose (SD: 2.88 versus 3.12 mmol/L; p<0.001). Risk of overall and nocturnal hypoglycemia was 21 percent (p=0.036) and 55 percent (p<0.001) lower in the insulin detemir/insulin aspart group than in the NPH insulin/regular human insulin group, respectively.95

multinational, А 22-week, open-label, randomized, parallel-group trial enrolled 395 patients with type 2 diabetes. Patients were randomized to treatment with either insulin detemir in combination with insulin aspart at meals or insulin NPH in combination with regular human insulin at meals.96 Basal insulins were administered either once or twice daily. At 22 weeks, HbA1c was comparable between treatments (insulin detemir group: 7.46 percent, NPH group: 7.52 percent, p=0.515) with decreases from baseline of 0.65 and 0.58 percent, respectively. The insulin detemir group was associated with a significantly lower within-person variation in self-measured FPG (SD: 1.20 versus 1.54 mmol/L, p<0.001), as well as a lower body weight gain (0.51 versus 1.13 kg, p=0.038) than with the NPH group. The risk of nocturnal hypoglycemia was 38 percent lower with the insulin detemir group compared to the NPH group (p=0.14). The overall safety profile was similar between the two treatments.96

CONCLUSION:

This study concluded that combination of insulin detemir and aspart is better than combination of NPH and regular insulin in patients of type 1 diabetes in terms of hypoglycemia. So, we recommend that combination of insulin detemir and aspart should be used as a primary treatment in patients of type 1 diabetes in order to reduce the hypoglycemia in these particular patients.

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