



ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Impact of Empagliflozin in Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction in Patients With Ischemic Versus Nonischemic Cause

Muhammad Shahzeb Khan , MD, MSc; Javed Butler , MD, MPH, MBA; Stefan D. Anker , MD, PhD; Gerasimos Filippatos , MD; João Pedro Ferreira , MD; Stuart J. Pocock, PhD; James L. Januzzi , MD; Ileana L. Piña , MD; Michael Böhm , MD; Piotr Ponikowski , MD; Subodh Verma , MD, PhD; Martina Brueckmann , MD; Ola Vedin, MD; Cordula Zeller , Dipl Math; Faiez Zannad , MD, PhD; Milton Packer , MD

BACKGROUND: Outcomes and treatment effects of therapy may vary according to the cause of heart failure (HF).

METHODS AND RESULTS: In this post hoc analysis of the EMPEROR-Reduced (Empagliflozin Outcome Trial in Patients With Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction) trial, the effect of empagliflozin on cardiovascular and renal outcomes was assessed according to the cause of HF. The cause of HF was investigator reported and stratified as ischemic or nonischemic. Cox proportional hazards models were used to calculate hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% CIs. Of the 3730 patients enrolled, 1929 (51.7%) had ischemic cause. In the placebo arm, patients with ischemic cause of HF did not have a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular mortality (HR, 1.21 [95% CI, 0.90–1.63]) and hospitalization for HF (HR, 0.90 [95% CI, 0.72–1.12]) compared with nonischemic cause. Empagliflozin compared with placebo significantly reduced the risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for HF in patients with ischemic and nonischemic cause (HR, 0.82 [95% CI, 0.68–0.99] for ischemic and HR, 0.67 [95% CI, 0.55–0.82] for nonischemic cause; *P* interaction=0.15). The benefit of empagliflozin on HF hospitalization, the renal composite end point, estimated glomerular filtration slope changes, and health status scores were also consistent in both groups without treatment by cause modification.

CONCLUSIONS: Empagliflozin offers cardiovascular and renal benefits in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction regardless of the cause of HF.

REGISTRATION: URL: <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov>; Unique identifier: NCT03057977.

Key Words: empagliflozin ■ heart failure ■ ischemic cause ■ reduced ejection fraction ■ sodium-glucose co-transporter-2

The cause of heart failure (HF) with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) is related to coronary heart disease in the majority of patients.^{1–5} Differentiating between ischemic and nonischemic causes of HFrEF is important. First, prognosis may vary by cause, with ischemic HFrEF having a more unfavorable outcome trajectory compared with nonischemic HFrEF cause.^{6,7} Second, treatment response to specific therapies for HFrEF may vary according to cause.^{8,9} The EMPEROR-Reduced (Empagliflozin

Outcome Trial in Patients With Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction) trial studied the SGLT2 (sodium-glucose co-transporter-2) inhibitor empagliflozin in patients with HFrEF and left ventricular ejection fraction <40% and showed a significant reduction in the risk of cardiovascular death or worsening HF events.¹⁰ In this post hoc analysis, we examined the effect of empagliflozin on cardiovascular and renal outcomes in patients who are ischemic and nonischemic. We also assessed

Correspondence to: Javed Butler, MD, MPH, MBA, Baylor Scott and White Research Institute, 3434 Live Oak Street, Ste 501, Dallas, TX 75204.
Email: javed.butler@bswhealth.org

For Sources of Funding and Disclosures, see page 7.

© 2022 The Authors and Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH. Published on behalf of the American Heart Association, Inc., by Wiley. This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

JAHA is available at: www.ahajournals.org/journal/jaha

CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

What Is New?

- Contrary to multiple previous studies, ischemic versus nonischemic cause was not significantly associated with a worse prognosis in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction in EMPEROR-Reduced (Empagliflozin Outcome Trial in Patients With Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction).
- The benefit of treatment with the SGLT2 (sodium-glucose co-transporter-2) inhibitor empagliflozin was not influenced by heart failure cause.

What Are the Clinical Implications?

- Patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, with and without ischemic cause, have a similarly poor prognosis.
- Patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, with and without ischemic cause, derive similar benefit from treatment with the SGLT2 inhibitor empagliflozin.

Nonstandard Abbreviations and Acronyms

DAPA-HF	Dapagliflozin and Prevention of Adverse-outcomes in Heart Failure
EMPEROR-Reduced	Empagliflozin Outcome Trial in Patients With Chronic Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction
EMPHASIS-HF	Eplerenone in Mild Patients Hospitalization and Survival Study in Heart Failure
HFrEF	heart failure with reduced ejection fraction
MERIT-HF	Metoprolol CR/XL Randomized Intervention Trial in Congestive Heart Failure
PARADIGM-HF	Prospective Comparison of Angiotensin-Receptor-Nepriylsin Inhibitor with Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor to Determine Impact on Global Mortality and Morbidity in Heart Failure

PRAISE

Prospective Randomized Amlodipine Survival Evaluation

SGLT2

sodium-glucose co-transporter-2

the natural history and outcomes in patients with HFrEF according to cause.

METHODS

Trial Design and Patient Population

The EMPEROR-Reduced trial was a randomized, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled, event-driven study. The study was approved by an institutional review committee, and subjects gave informed consent. The design and primary results of EMPEROR-Reduced have been published previously.¹¹ Briefly, adult patients who had chronic HF with New York Heart Association functional class II to IV symptoms with a left ventricular ejection fraction $\leq 40\%$ were enrolled. Because the trial intended to enroll patients at higher risk, the eligibility criteria mandated either a hospitalization for HF within 12 months or ejection fraction $\leq 30\%$ with an NT-proBNP (N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide) level of ≥ 600 pg/mL, or ≥ 1000 pg/mL or ≥ 2500 pg/mL in those with an ejection fraction of 31% to 35% or 36% to 40%, respectively. Patients with symptomatic hypotension or a systolic blood pressure of < 100 mmHg and an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) < 20 mL/min per 1.73 m² body surface area or requiring dialysis were excluded. Patients were randomized (1:1) to receive empagliflozin 10 mg or placebo daily.

Cause of Heart Failure

Information on HF cause was collected from the case report form. The cause of HF was completed by the investigators as ischemic, hypertensive, valvular heart disease, alcoholism, diabetic, idiopathic, or other. Other cause was considered in the nonischemic group.

Outcomes

The primary end point of the EMPEROR-Reduced trial was the time-to-first-event analysis of the combined risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for HF. The key secondary end points were the total number of adjudicated hospitalizations for HF, and the slope of the change in eGFR. A composite renal end point was defined as the need for chronic dialysis or renal transplant or a $\geq 40\%$ decrease in eGFR (Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration), or a sustained

eGFR <15 mL/min per 1.73 m² (if the baseline eGFR was ≥30), or <10 mL/min per 1.73 m² (if the baseline eGFR was <30 mL/min per 1.73 m²). Safety end points included adverse events leading to discontinuation of study drug, hypotension, volume depletion, bone fracture, and hypoglycemia.

Statistical Analysis

Continuous variables are reported as mean±SD or median (interquartile range), whereas categorical variables are reported as frequency and percentage. Comparison was done using a *t* test for continuous variables and a χ^2 test for categorical variables. Baseline characteristics of the enrolled patients were stratified according to cause of HF (ischemic versus nonischemic). Incidence rates for each outcome of interest are presented per 100 patient-years of follow-up. Time-to-event data for the clinical outcomes according to cause of HF were evaluated using Cox proportional hazard models to calculate hazard ratios (HRs), 95% CIs, and 2-sided *P* values. The HRs were adjusted for age, sex, region, ejection fraction, eGFR, and diabetes status. For total hospitalizations for HF, a joint frailty model (with cardiovascular death as a competing risk) was used, adjusted by the same covariates as the Cox model. For the analysis of the primary outcome, the assumption of proportional hazards was investigated, and no violations were observed. Proportionality of hazards of the primary end point in the ischemic versus nonischemic subgroup was checked by visual inspection of the cumulative incidence curves, and no relevant deviations from the assumption of proportional hazards were observed. Between-group differences in the slope of change in eGFR were analyzed using a mixed-effects regression model including both a random intercept and a random slope based on on-treatment data. All available on-treatment change from baseline eGFR values were used for the slope analysis. The frequencies of the prespecified safety outcomes were investigated in a logistic regression model adjusted with the same covariates as the Cox model. To assess the consistency of effects across various subgroups, subgroup-by-treatment interaction terms were also added in the models. All analyses were conducted using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC). A *P* value of <0.05 was considered significant.

Data Sharing Statement

To ensure independent interpretation of clinical study results and enable authors to fulfill their role and obligations under the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors criteria, Boehringer Ingelheim grants all external authors access to relevant clinical study data. In adherence with the Boehringer Ingelheim Policy on Transparency and Publication of Clinical Study Data,

scientific and medical researchers can request access to clinical study data after publication of the primary article in a peer-reviewed journal, regulatory activities are complete, and other criteria are met. Researchers should use the <https://vivli.org/> link to request access to study data and visit <https://www.mystudywindow.com/msw/datasharing> for further information.

RESULTS

Baseline Characteristics

Of the 3730 patients who were assigned to receive either placebo or empagliflozin, 1929 (51.7%) had ischemic cause of HF. Among the 1801 (48.3%) patients with nonischemic cause, 453 (25.2%) had hypertensive cause noted, 637 (35.4%) had idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy, 105 (5.8%) had valvular heart disease, and 506 (28.1%) had other causes. The median follow-up time was 16 months. Table 1 shows the baseline characteristics of the enrolled patients stratified according to cause of HF. Compared with patients with nonischemic cause, those with ischemic cause were older, more often White, men, and more likely to have a history of diabetes and coronary artery disease. Patients with ischemic cause of HF had a lower diastolic blood pressure, heart rate, eGFR, and NT-proBNP.

Outcomes According to Cause in Placebo Arm

The rate of the primary composite outcome of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for HF, its components, and all-cause mortality according to cause in the placebo arm are shown in Table 2. There was no significant difference in the risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for HF, all-cause, or cardiovascular mortality in patients with and without ischemic cause of HF.

Empagliflozin and Outcomes According to Cause of HF

Cardiovascular Outcomes

The effect of empagliflozin on the primary outcome was not influenced by the cause of HF. In patients with ischemic cause, the primary outcome occurred in 207 of 983 (17.1/100 patient-years) in the empagliflozin group and 236 of 946 (20.6/100 patient-years) in the placebo group (HR, 0.82 [95% CI, 0.68–0.99]). Among patients without an ischemic cause, the primary outcome occurred in 154 of 880 (14.3/100 patient-years) in the empagliflozin group and 226 of 921 (21.4/100 patient-years) in the placebo group (HR, 0.67 [95% CI, 0.55–0.82]). The effect of empagliflozin compared with placebo on other secondary end points is shown in Table 3. There was no significant subgroup interaction

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics According to Cause of Heart Failure

Characteristic	Ischemic, n=1929	Nonischemic, n=1801	P value
Age, y	68.4 (9.9)	65.2 (11.9)	<0.001
Men	1578 (81.8)	1259 (69.9)	<0.001
Race			<0.001
White	1440 (74.7)	1189 (66.0)	
Black	67 (3.5)	190 (10.5)	
Asian	324 (16.8)	348 (19.3)	
Other	52 (2.7)	62 (3.4)	
Missing	46 (2.4)	12 (0.7)	
Geographic region			<0.001
North America	222 (11.5)	203 (11.3)	
Latin America	511 (26.5)	775 (43.0)	
Europe	885 (45.9)	468 (26.0)	
Asia Pacific	213 (11.0)	280 (15.5)	
Other	98 (5.1)	75 (4.2)	
HF hospitalization within 1 y	534 (27.7)	617 (34.3)	<0.001
BMI, kg/m ²	27.8 (5.2)	27.9 (5.6)	0.668
Ejection fraction at screening, %	27.5 (5.9)	27.5 (6.2)	0.954
New York Heart Association class I/II	1441 (74.7)	1359 (75.5)	0.594
Systolic blood pressure, mm Hg	122.4 (15.5)	121.5 (15.8)	0.071
Heart rate, bpm	70.3 (11.1)	72.3 (12.3)	<0.001
Hypertension	1469 (76.2)	1229 (68.2)	<0.001
Diabetes	1067 (55.3)	789 (43.8)	<0.001
Atrial fibrillation	289 (15.0)	444 (24.7)	<0.001
Coronary artery disease	1815 (94.1)	331 (18.4)	<0.001
Cause of heart failure			
Ischemic	1929 (100)	0.0	<0.001
Hypertensive		453 (25.2)	
Valvular heart disease		105 (5.8)	
Diabetic		47 (2.6)	
Alcoholism		41 (2.3)	
Idiopathic		637 (35.4)	
Other		518 (28.8)	
ACEI, ARB, ARNI	1680 (87.1)	1613 (89.6)	0.019
Diuretic	1688 (87.5)	1560 (86.6)	0.419
β-Blocker	1833 (95.0)	1700 (94.4)	0.389
Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist	1338 (69.4)	1323 (73.5)	0.006
Statin	1676 (86.9)	878 (48.8)	<0.001
eGFR, mL/min per 1.73 m ²	59.7 (20.5)	64.5 (22.5)	<0.001
NT-proBNP, pg/mL	1811 (1072–3319)	1987 (1171–3625)	0.002

Data are mean (SD) or number (%), except NT-proBNP is median (interquartile range). Other includes “American Indian or Alaska Native,” “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” and patients who identified with more than one race. ACEI indicates angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; ARNI, angiotensin receptor–neprilysin inhibition; BMI, body mass index; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HF, heart failure; and NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

in patients with and without an ischemic cause of HF in any of the end points.

Renal Outcomes

The effect of empagliflozin on eGFR slope change was consistent across both groups (placebo-corrected eGFR

slope change, 1.57 [95% CI, 0.70–2.44] in ischemic HFREF and 1.93 [95% CI, 1.01–2.86] in nonischemic HFREF; *P* interaction=0.572; Table 3). Similarly, empagliflozin reduced the risk of renal composite events in patients with and without an ischemic cause of HF (HR, 0.42 [95% CI, 0.24–0.75]) in ischemic HFREF and HR, 0.62 [95% CI, 0.31–1.23] in nonischemic HFREF; *P* interaction=0.399.

Table 2. Natural History of Heart Failure Patients With Ischemic or Nonischemic Cause Receiving Placebo

History	Ischemic, n=946	Nonischemic, n=921	P value
Time to first event of cardiovascular death or HHF			
Incidence rates per 100 patient-y	20.64	21.41	
Comparison vs nonischemic, HR (95% CI)	0.98 (0.81–1.19)		0.861
Time to first HHF			
Incidence rates per 100 patient-y	14.60	16.57	
Comparison vs nonischemic, HR (95% CI)	0.90 (0.72–1.12)		0.342
Time to cardiovascular death			
Incidence rates per 100 patient-y	8.85	7.38	
Comparison vs nonischemic, HR (95% CI)	1.21 (0.90–1.63)		0.199
Time to first renal composite outcome			
Incidence rates per 100 patient-y	3.69	2.41	
Comparison vs nonischemic, HR (95% CI)	1.63 (0.92–2.88)		0.093

HHF indicates hospitalization for heart failure; and HR, hazard ratio.

Health Status

Empagliflozin improved Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire-Clinical Summary Score in both of the groups (+1.70, +0.79, and +1.07 in ischemic HFrEF and +2.21, +1.96, and +2.22 in nonischemic HFrEF at 12, 32, and 52 weeks, respectively; *P* interaction=0.61, 0.29, and 0.36 at 12, 32, and 52 weeks, respectively) without any evidence of treatment modification.

Safety

The rates of adverse events were similar across treatment arms in patients with and without ischemic cause of HF (Table 4).

DISCUSSION

In this prespecified analysis of the EMPEROR-Reduced trial, we show several key findings. First, patients with ischemic cause of HF did not have a higher risk of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality compared with patients who had nonischemic cause of HF. Second, empagliflozin reduced the risk of primary composite outcome, its components, and composite renal outcomes in patients with HF irrespective of cause. Empagliflozin also improved quality of life measured by Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire in both groups. These data outline the important benefit of empagliflozin across a broad range of patients.

The most common investigator reported cause was ischemic heart disease. Of note, the proportion of patients with ischemic cause in EMPEROR-Reduced was much less than those reported previously.^{12,13} Considerable differences in clinical profiles were seen between the 2 groups, with patients with ischemic cause being older and more likely to have comorbidities such as diabetes and coronary artery disease.

Consistent with previous data, the most common cause of nonischemic HF was idiopathic (35.4% of the nonischemic cases), followed by hypertension (25.2%).^{14,15} Data from 1924 Danish patients with <40% left ventricular ejection fraction showed that 48% of patients had ischemic HF, followed by idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (11.6%) and hypertension (10.6%).⁶

Among patients with HFrEF caused by ischemic heart disease in the placebo arm, survival was similar compared with those with nonischemic cause of HFrEF. This is in contrast with several large clinical trials of HF therapy such as the PRAISE (Prospective Randomized Amlodipine Survival Evaluation) trial and Veterans Administration Cooperative study, in which HF mortality was significantly higher among patients with ischemic HF in the placebo arm.¹⁶ However, the community-based Framingham Heart Study showed worse long-term survival among patients with nonischemic HF.¹⁷ Of note, patients with nonischemic cause of HFrEF form a heterogeneous population, with certain causes linked to a better prognosis, whereas others have a poorer prognosis. It is also possible that with improved treatment of ischemic heart disease as well as for HF in general, the outcomes differences historically seen between ischemic and nonischemic causes in patients have been mitigated.

Our results are in line with previous trials of SGLT2 inhibitors in patients with HFrEF. In DAPA-HF (Dapagliflozin and Prevention of Adverse Outcomes in Heart Failure), dapagliflozin reduced the risk of worsening HF and death and improved symptoms similarly in patients with ischemic and nonischemic cause.¹⁷ Similarly, previous studies have shown β -blockers, angiotensin receptor–neprilysin inhibitors, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, and mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists are effective in HFrEF regardless of the cause. The MERIT-HF (Metoprolol CR/XL Randomized Intervention Trial in Congestive Heart

Table 3. Effect of Empagliflozin on Outcomes According to Cause of Heart Failure

Effect	Placebo		Empagliflozin		HR (95% CI)	P value interaction
	n/N	Events/100 patient-y	n/N	Events/100 patient-y		
Cardiovascular death or HHF						
Ischemic	236/946	20.6	207/983	17.1	0.82 (0.68 to 0.99)	0.149
Nonischemic	226/921	21.4	154/880	14.3	0.67 (0.55 to 0.82)	
HHF, first and recurrent						
Ischemic	281		221		0.73 (0.56 to 0.95)	0.620
Nonischemic	272		167		0.66 (0.50 to 0.88)	
First HHF						
Ischemic	167/946	14.6	135/983	11.1	0.76 (0.61 to 0.96)	0.240
Nonischemic	175/921	16.6	111/880	10.3	0.62 (0.49 to 0.79)	
Cardiovascular death						
Ischemic	113/946	8.9	113/983	8.6	0.96 (0.74 to 1.25)	0.609
Nonischemic	89/921	7.4	74/880	6.4	0.86 (0.63 to 1.17)	
All-cause mortality						
Ischemic	151/946	11.8	156/983	11.9	0.99 (0.79 to 1.24)	0.318
Nonischemic	115/921	9.5	93/880	8.0	0.82 (0.63 to 1.08)	
Composite renal end points						
Ischemic	36/946	3.7	17/983	1.7	0.42 (0.24 to 0.75)	0.399
Nonischemic	22/921	2.4	13/880	1.5	0.62 (0.31 to 1.23)	
		Mean (SE)	Mean (SE)		Difference (95% CI)	
eGFR (CKD-EPI) slope change per year						
Ischemic		-2.31 (0.32)	-0.66 (0.31)		1.57 (0.70 to 2.44)	0.572
Nonischemic		-2.33 (0.33)	-0.39 (0.34)		1.93 (1.01 to 2.86)	
KCCQ-CSS						
Change at 12 weeks						
Ischemic		3.32 (0.50)	5.02 (0.49)		1.70 (0.33 to 3.07)	0.609
Nonischemic		3.45 (0.52)	5.66 (0.52)		2.21 (0.79 to 3.63)	
Change at 52 weeks						
Ischemic		4.09 (0.62)	5.17 (0.60)		1.07 (-0.62 to 2.76)	0.361
Nonischemic		4.00 (0.64)	6.22 (0.65)		2.22 (0.44 to 4.00)	

CKD-EPI indicates Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHF, hospitalization for heart failure; HR, hazard ratio; and KCCQ-CSS, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire-Clinical Summary Score.

Failure) trial showed that metoprolol reduces the risk of all-cause mortality by 38% in ischemic HFrEF and by 27% in nonischemic cause.¹⁸ The PARADIGM-HF (Prospective Comparison of Angiotensin Receptor-Nephrilysin Inhibitor With Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor to Determine Impact on Global Mortality and Morbidity in Heart Failure) trial, which enrolled 8399 patients with HFrEF, showed that adjusted outcomes were similar across cause categories, as was the benefit of sacubitril/valsartan over enalapril.¹⁹ EMPHASIS-HF (Eplerenone in Mild Patients Hospitalization and Survival Study in Heart Failure) showed that the drug eplerenone reduced the risk of cardiovascular mortality and HF hospitalization in patients with both ischemic and nonischemic causes of HFrEF without any significant treatment interaction (*P*

interaction=0.73).²⁰ These data suggest that once left ventricular dilation and consequent dysfunction have ensued, regardless of prior cause journey progression of HF syndrome, a quadruple therapy regimen is effective and can be broadly used.

Cause may be more important in the context of cardiac devices. Prophylactic implantation of cardioverter-defibrillator implantation has been shown to reduce the risk of sudden cardiac death and all-cause mortality in ischemic HFrEF.⁹ However, their effectiveness in nonischemic HFrEF today is debatable. Resynchronization therapy in HFrEF because of nonischemic cause may achieve greater improvement in left ventricular function than in patients with ischemic cause.¹⁰

A key goal of management of HF is to improve patients' health status. Like HF outcomes, improvements

Table 4. Effect of Empagliflozin on Safety Outcomes According to Cause of Heart Failure

Effect	Placebo	Empagliflozin	OR (95% CI)	P value interaction
	n/N (%)	n/N (%)		
Discontinuation of study drug for any reason excluding serious fatal events leading to discontinuation				
Ischemic	170/944 (18.0)	173/983 (17.6)	0.96 (0.76–1.22)	0.358
Nonischemic	176/919 (19.2)	143/880 (16.3)	0.82 (0.64–1.05)	
AEs leading to discontinuation				
Ischemic	182/944 (19.3)	193/983 (19.6)	1.02 (0.81–1.28)	0.478
Nonischemic	146/919 (15.9)	129/880 (14.7)	0.90 (0.69–1.17)	
Volume depletion				
Ischemic	92/944 (9.7)	106/983 (10.8)	1.11 (0.82–1.49)	0.786
Nonischemic	92/919 (10.0)	91/880 (10.3)	1.05 (0.77–1.42)	
Fractures				
Ischemic	23/944 (2.4)	22/983 (2.2)	0.89 (0.49–1.60)	0.417
Nonischemic	19/919 (2.1)	23/880 (2.6)	1.26 (0.68–2.35)	
Confirmed hypoglycemia*				
Ischemic	15/944 (1.6)	17/983 (1.7)	1.05 (0.52–2.12)	0.673
Nonischemic	13/919(1.4)	10/880 (1.1)	0.83 (0.36–1.91)	

Treatment emergent adverse events up to 7 days following discontinuation of study medication are included. AEs indicates adverse events; and OR, odds ratio.

*Hypoglycemic AEs with a plasma glucose value of ≤ 70 mg/dL or that required assistance.

in health-related quality of life were similar with empagliflozin in HFREF with ischemic cause compared with nonischemic cause. Similarly, data on tolerability and safety are assuring, with serious adverse events and discontinuation of drugs being mostly low, with no significant differences between the 2 groups.

The results of this study should be interpreted in context of potential limitations. Cause was investigator reported, and no instructions as how to identify cause were provided; therefore, some degree of misclassification of HF cause cannot be precluded. Although analysis by cause was predefined, the evaluation of secondary outcomes by cause was done post hoc.

In conclusion, treatment with empagliflozin reduced the risk of HF hospitalization and cardiovascular death regardless of HF cause. These data outline the important benefit of empagliflozin across a broad range of patients.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received September 23, 2022; accepted November 14, 2022.

Affiliations

Division of Cardiology, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC (M.S.K.); Baylor Scott and White Research Institute, Dallas, TX (J.B.); Department of Medicine, University of Mississippi School of Medicine, Jackson, MS (J.B.); Department of Cardiology (CVK), Berlin Institute of Health Center for Regenerative Therapies (BCRT), German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK) partner site Berlin, Berlin, Germany (S.D.A.); Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany (S.D.A.); Institute of Heart Diseases, Wrocław Medical University, Wrocław, Poland (S.D.A.); National and Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Medicine, Athens University Hospital Attikon, Athens, Greece (G.F.); Institut Lorrain

du Coeur et des Vaisseaux, Nancy, France (J.P.F.); Department of Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom (S.J.P.); Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA (J.L.J.); Department of Medicine, Wayne State and Central Michigan Universities, Detroit, MI (I.L.P.); Department of Internal Medicine III, University Hospital Saarland, Saarland University, Homburg, Saar, Germany (M.B.); Centre for Heart Diseases, Wrocław Medical University, Wrocław, Poland (P.P.); Division of Cardiac Surgery, St Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada (S.V.); Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH, Ingelheim (M.B.); Faculty of Medicine Mannheim, University of Heidelberg (M.B.); First Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Mannheim of the University of Heidelberg, Mannheim, Germany (M.B.); Boehringer Ingelheim AB, Stockholm, Sweden (O.V.); Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, Biberach, Germany (C.Z.); Université de Lorraine, CIC Inserm, CHRU Nancy, Nancy, France (F.Z.); Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX (M.P.) and Imperial College, London, United Kingdom (M.P.).

Acknowledgments

Graphical assistance was provided by 7.4 Ltd. and was funded by Boehringer Ingelheim.

Sources of Funding

The EMPEROR-Reduced trial was funded by the Boehringer Ingelheim & Eli Lilly and Company.

Disclosures

Dr Khan reports no relevant disclosures. Dr Butler reports consulting fees from Boehringer Ingelheim, Cardior, CVRx, Foundry, G3 Pharma, Imbria, Impulse Dynamics, Innolife, Janssen, LivaNova, Luitpold, Medtronic, Merck, Novartis, NovoNordisk, Relypsa, Roche, Sanofi, Sequana Medical, V-Wave Ltd., and Vifor. Dr Anker has received grants from Vifor Pharma; personal fees from Bayer, Brahms GmbH, Cardiac Dimensions, Cordio, Novartis, Servier; and has received grants and personal fees from Abbott Vascular, outside the submitted work. Dr Filipatos reports lecture fees and/or committee member contributions in clinical trials sponsored by Bayer, Medtronic, Vifor, Servier, Novartis, Amgen, and Boehringer Ingelheim, and research support from the European Union. Dr Ferreira reports consultancy fees from Boehringer Ingelheim. Dr Pocock reports consultancy fees from Boehringer Ingelheim. Dr Januzzi is a Trustee of the American College of Cardiology, a Board member of Imbria Pharmaceuticals, has received grant support from Applied Therapeutics, Innolife, Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Abbott Diagnostics; consulting income

from Abbott, Janssen, Novartis, and Roche Diagnostics; and participates in clinical end point committees/data safety monitoring boards for Abbott, AbbVie, Amgen, Bayer, CVRx, Janssen, MyoKardia, and Takeda. Dr Piña reports personal fees from Boehringer Ingelheim. Dr Bohm is supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation; TTR 219, project number 322900939) and reports personal fees from Abbott, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Cytokinetics, Medtronic, Novartis, Servier, and Vifor during the conduct of the study. Dr Ponikowski reports personal fees from Boehringer Ingelheim, AstraZeneca, Servier, BMS, Amgen, Novartis, Merck, Pfizer, Berlin Chemie; and grants and personal fees from Vifor Pharma. Dr Verma has received research and/or speaking honoraria from Amgen, Amarin, AstraZeneca, Bayer, CMS, Janssen, HLS, Sanofi, Novo Nordisk, Novartis, Merck, and PhaseBio. He is also the president of the Canadian Medical and Surgical Knowledge Translation Research Group and holds the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Cardiovascular Surgery. Dr Brueckmann, Dr Vedin, and C. Zeller are employees of Boehringer Ingelheim. Dr Zannad has recently received steering committee or advisory board fees from Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Boston Scientific, Cardior, CVRx, Janssen, Livanova, Merck, Mundipharma, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, and Vifor Fresenius. Dr Packer reports personal fees from Boehringer Ingelheim during the conduct of the study; personal fees from Abbvie, Actavis, Amarin, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Caladrius, Casana, CSL Behring, Cytokinetics, Imara, Lilly, Moderna, Novartis, Reata, Relypsa, and Salamandra outside the submitted work.

REFERENCES

- Ho KKL, Pinsky JL, Kannel WB, Levy D. The epidemiology of heart failure: the Framingham study. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 1993;22:6A–13A. doi: 10.1016/0735-1097(93)90455-A
- Mahmood SS, Wang TJ. The epidemiology of congestive heart failure: contributions from the Framingham heart study. *Glob Heart*. 2013;8:77–82. doi: 10.1016/j.ghheart.2012.12.006
- Lam CSP, Teng THK, Tay WT, Anand I, Zhang S, Shimizu W, Narasimhan C, Park SW, Yu CM, Ngarmukos T, et al. Regional and ethnic differences among patients with heart failure in Asia: the Asian sudden cardiac death in heart failure registry. *Eur Heart J*. 2016;37:3141–3153. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehw331
- Dokainish H, Teo K, Zhu J, Roy A, Alhabib KF, Elsayed A, Paillee-Villaneuva L, Lopez-Jaramillo P, Karaye K, Yusoff K, et al. Heart failure in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America: the INTER-CHF study. *Int J Cardiol*. 2016;204:133–141. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2015.11.183
- Kumbhani DJ, Fonarow GC, Heidenreich PA, Schulte PJ, Lu D, Hernandez A, Yancy C, Bhatt DL. Association between hospital volume, processes of care, and outcomes in patients admitted with heart failure: insights from get with the guidelines-heart failure. *Circulation*. 2018;137:1661–1670. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.117.028077
- Pecini R, Møller DV, Torp-Pedersen C, Hassager C, Køber L. Heart failure etiology impacts survival of patients with heart failure. *Int J Cardiol*. 2011;149:211–215. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2010.01.011
- Frazier CG, Alexander KP, Newby LK, Anderson S, Iverson E, Packer M, Cohn J, Goldstein S, Douglas PS. Associations of gender and etiology with outcomes in heart failure with systolic dysfunction. A pooled analysis of 5 randomized control trials. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2007;49:1450–1458. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2006.11.041
- Køber L, Thune JJ, Nielsen JC, Haarlo J, Videbk L, Korup E, Jensen G, Hildebrandt P, Steffensen FH, Bruun NE, et al. Defibrillator implantation in patients with nonischemic systolic heart failure. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;375:1221–1230. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1608029
- Felker GM, Benza RL, Chandler AB, Leimberger JD, Cuffe MS, Califf RM, Gheorghiade M, O'Connor CM. Heart failure etiology and response to milrinone in decompensated heart failure: results from the OPTIME-CHF study. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2003;41:997–1003. doi: 10.1016/S0735-1097(02)02968-6
- Packer M, Anker SD, Butler J, Filippatos G, Pocock SJ, Carson P, Januzzi J, Verma S, Tsutsui H, Brueckmann M, et al. Cardiovascular and renal outcomes with empagliflozin in heart failure. *N Engl J Med*. 2020;383:1413–1424. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2022190
- Packer M, Butler J, Filippatos GS, Jamal W, Salsali A, Schnee J, Kimura K, Zeller C, George J, Brueckmann M, et al. Evaluation of the effect of sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibition with empagliflozin on morbidity and mortality of patients with chronic heart failure and a reduced ejection fraction: rationale for and design of the EMPEROR-reduced trial. *Eur J Heart Fail*. 2019;21:1270–1278. doi: 10.1002/ejhf.1536
- McMurray JJV, Krum H, Abraham WT, Dickstein K, Køber LV, Desai AS, Solomon SD, Greenlaw N, Ali MA, Chiang Y, et al. Aliskiren, enalapril, or aliskiren and enalapril in heart failure. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;374:1521–1532. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1514859
- McMurray JJV, Solomon SD, Inzucchi SE, Køber L, Kosiborod MN, Martinez FA, Ponikowski P, Sabatine MS, Anand IS, Bělohávek J, et al. Dapagliflozin in patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction. *N Engl J Med*. 2019;381:1995–2008. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1911303
- Gheorghiade M, Sopko G, De Luca L, Velazquez EJ, Parker JD, Binkley PF, Sadowski Z, Golba KS, Prior DL, Rouleau JL, et al. Navigating the crossroads of coronary artery disease and heart failure. *Circulation*. 2006;114:1202–1213. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.106.623199
- McMurray JJ, Packer M, Desai AS, Gong J, Lefkowitz MP, Rizkala AR, Rouleau JL, Shi VC, Solomon SD, Swedberg K, et al. Angiotensin-neprilysin inhibition versus enalapril in heart failure. *N Engl J Med*. 2014;371:993–1004. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1409077
- Packer M, O'Connor CM, Ghali JK, Pressler ML, Carson PE, Belkin RN, Miller AB, Neuberger GW, Frid D, Wertheimer JH, et al. Effect of amlodipine on morbidity and mortality in severe chronic heart failure. Prospective randomized amlodipine survival evaluation study group. *N Engl J Med*. 1996;335:1107–1114. doi: 10.1056/NEJM199610103351504
- Butt JH, Nicolau JC, Verma S, Docherty KF, Petrie MC, Inzucchi SE, Schou M, Kosiborod MN, Langkilde AM, Martinez FA, et al. Efficacy and safety of dapagliflozin according to aetiology in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction: insights from the DAPA-HF trial. *Eur J Heart Fail*. 2021;23:601–613. doi: 10.1002/ejhf.2124
- Effect of metoprolol CR/XL in chronic heart failure: metoprolol CR/XL randomised intervention trial in congestive heart failure (MERIT-HF). *Lancet*. 1999;353:2001–2007. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(99)04440-2
- Balmforth C, Simpson J, Shen L, Jhund PS, Lefkowitz M, Rizkala AR, Rouleau JL, Shi V, Solomon SD, Swedberg K, et al. Outcomes and effect of treatment according to etiology in HFrEF: an analysis of PARADIGM-HF. *JACC Heart Fail*. 2019;7:457–465. doi: 10.1016/j.jchf.2019.02.015
- Zannad F, JJ MM, Krum H, van Veldhuisen DJ, Swedberg K, Shi H, Vincent J, Pocock SJ, Pitt B; EMPHASIS-HF Study Group. Eplerenone in patients with systolic heart failure and mild symptoms. *N Engl J Med*. 2011;364:11–21. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1009492