## Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment of Cardiovascular Diseases in People With Type 2 Diabetes and Prediabetes

A Consensus Statement Jointly From the Japanese
 Circulation Society and the Japan Diabetes Society

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Table of Contents ————————————————————————————————————	
Introduction 83	1.1 Lifestyle Intervention93
I. Diagnosis       83         1. Impaired Glucose Metabolism       83         1.1 Significance of Early Diagnosis of Impaired Glucose Metabolism       83         1.2 Approach to Diagnosis       84         1.3 Indices of Insulin Secretory Ability and Insulin	1.2 Pharmacotherapies 99     1.3 Coronary Revascularization 106     2. Prevention and Treatment of Heart Failure in     Patients With Impaired Glucose Metabolism 108     2.1 Lifestyle Intervention 108     2.2 Pharmacotherapies 108
Resistance	3. Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation in Patients With Impaired Glucose Metabolism
(Particularly, Coronary Artery Disease) 87  2.2 Heart Failure 91  2.3 Arrhythmia (Atrial Fibrillation) 92  II. Prevention and Treatment 93  1. Prevention and Treatment of Macroangiopathies (Coronary Artery Disease and Peripheral Artery Disease) in Patients With Impaired Glucose  Metabolism 93	Therapy 110 3.3 Indications for and Methods of Rate Control 113 3.4 Rhythm Control Using Drugs 113 3.5 Catheter Ablation 114 3.6 Points of Caution on Treatment in Patients With Diabetes and AF 114

J-STAGE Advance Publication released online November 30, 2020

Key Words: Cardiovascular disease; Consensus Statements; Diabetes

This statement is based on the "Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment of Cardiovascular Diseases in People With Type 2 Diabetes and Pre-Diabetes: A Consensus Statement Jointed from The Japanese Circulation Society and The Japane Diabetes Society" (ISBN978-4-524-22818-8), which was published in Japanese by Nankodo Co., Ltd. (©The Japanese Circulation Society, The Japan Diabetes Society, 2020) and is jointly published in *Diabetology International* (official English journal of the JDS: https://doi.org/10.1007/s13340-020-00471-5) and the *Circulation Journal* (official English journal of the JCS).

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III. Criteria for Patient Referral 114	2.2
1. Criteria for Patient Referral From a Diabetologist to a	
Cardiologist114	
1.1 Criteria for Referral of Asymptomatic Patients 114	
1.2 Referral of Symptomatic Patients 114	2.3
2. Criteria for Patient Referral From a Cardiologist to a	
Diabetologist114	
2.1 Criteria for Referral of Patients Who Newly	
Develop Diabetes (Cotreat After Referral or	
Consider Continuing Diabetes Treatment With	Disclosu
a Cardiologist After a Certain Time Period) 114	Reference

	2.2	Criteria for Referral of Patients in Whom
		Substantial Changes in Diabetes Treatment
		Are Desirable (Cotreat After Referral or
		Consider Continuing Diabetes Treatment With
		a Cardiologist After a Certain Time Period) 115
	2.3	Criteria for Referral of Patients in Whom
		Continued Diabetes Management by a
		Diabetologist is Desirable (Also With
		Consideration of Continued Cotreatment by
		Both Specialists) 115
Disc	clos	ures 115
Ref	eren	ces117

#### Introduction

The most important goal of diabetes treatment is to prevent the onset of complications, thereby extending the healthy life span of the patient. Therefore, it is necessary to properly diagnose diabetes and the risk factors for its complications, to appropriately implement preventive measures, and to simultaneously perform comprehensive therapeutic intervention, as needed.

In recent years, new evidence has been accumulating of the disease concept and treatment strategies of diabetes and its associated complications, causing a paradigm shift in some clinical practices. Thus, there has been a need to gather and update such evidence and for clinicians to extensively share that information. In particular, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are very closely associated, from their pathologies to prognoses. For the achievement of treatment goals, it is critical to deepen the mutual understanding between cardiologists and diabetologists regarding the latest evidence and the current state of clinical practice, because of the overlapping of these departments, and to apply the acquired information appropriately to routine clinical practice. Information sharing can be achieved by developing a consensus based on the latest evidence of shared clinical practice that goes beyond the framework of each clinical department. This process can be expected to result in improved quality of care. In the USA and Europe, the cardiology and diabetes associations periodically publish joint statements. Partly in view of this fact, the Japanese Circulation Society and the Japan Diabetes Society are publishing this joint statement on the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cardiovascular diseases in Japanese patients with impaired glucose metabolism, including impaired glucose tolerance.

This statement has 3 major sections: (I) diagnosis, (II) prevention and treatment, and (III) criteria of patient referral. It is a consensus statement that was developed independently in Japan based on the latest evidence and clinical practice guidelines. This statement assumes its use and application in a wide range of clinical settings such as in guidelines for routine clinical practice of general practitioners, in guidelines for information sharing among specialists and for their mutual understanding, and in criteria involving patient referrals between departments.

We hope that this statement will be helpful in providing evidence-based high-quality care and achieving the preventive and therapeutic goals of cardiovascular disease management in patients with impaired glucose metabolism.

#### I. Diagnosis

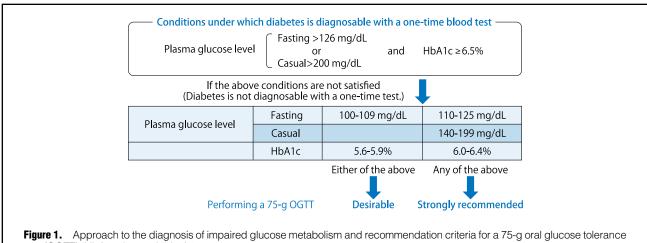
#### 1. Impaired Glucose Metabolism

## ■ 1.1 Significance of Early Diagnosis of Impaired Glucose Metabolism

## 1.1.1 Glycemic Control and Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes

The United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) was conducted in patients with a short history of type 2 diabetes and showed that each 1% reduction in hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) was associated with a 14% risk reduction of myocardial infarction. The post-trial, 10-year observational study examined patients who had received intensive sulfonylurea (SU) or insulin therapy during the trial and those who received conventional glucose control (dietary therapy). The intensive SU or insulin therapy group had a signifi-

cantly reduced risk of microangiopathy, myocardial infarction, diabetes-related death, and death from any cause compared with the conventional therapy group, even though both groups had similar post-trial HbA1c.<sup>2</sup> The Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) showed that strict glycemic control was effective in preventing the onset and progression of complications of diabetes in young patients aged 13-39 years with type 1 diabetes. In the DCCT post-trial observational study, all-cause death was not reduced until 15 years after intervention (cause of death: cardiovascular disease in 22.4% of all deaths) but subsequently reduced significantly.3 These results of largescale clinical studies indicate that the effect of maintaining a good glycemic control is sustained over the long term even after the intervention ends. The term "metabolic memory" or "legacy effect" is used to describe prolonged benefits of good glycemic control because a long time period



test (OGTT). HbA1c, hemoglobin A1c.

is required for its effect to become evident, suggesting the importance of early intervention of glycemic control. In contrast, strict glycemic control increases the risk of hypoglycemia. Although strict glycemic control reduces cardiovascular events, multiple reports have indicated that it does not reduce or can actually increase cardiovascular death or all-cause death in patients with a long history.<sup>4-7</sup> In particular, caution is required in glycemic control methods and goal settings in elderly patients with diabetes who are vulnerable to hypoglycemia. However, in order to prevent the development and progression of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases, it is important to diagnose diabetes early after onset and maintain proper glycemic control.

### 1.1.2 Postprandial Hyperglycemia and Cardiovascular

The Diabetes Epidemiology Collaborative analysis Of Diagnostic criteria in Europe (DECODE),8 Diabetes Epidemiology Collaborative analysis Of Diagnostic criteria in Asia (DECODA),9 and the Funagata study10 examined the relationship between cardiovascular risks and impaired glucose metabolism using a 75-g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). The results of these studies showed that impaired fasting glucose (IFG) was not associated with an increased cardiovascular risk. However, the impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) group with high 2-h plasma glucose level in a 75-g OGTT had a significantly increased risk of cardiovascular death. At present, the meal tolerance test has not been standardized and there is no clear evidence that directly shows a relationship between actual postprandial hyperglycemia and cardiovascular risk. However, the Study to Prevent Non-Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (STOP-NIDDM) demonstrated that an intervention for postprandial hyperglycemia using an  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor reduced the development of cardiovascular events in an IGT group.<sup>11</sup> It is considered to be of great importance to diagnose and begin an intervention in patients at the stage of IGT.

#### 1.2 Approach to Diagnosis (Figure 1)

#### 1.2.1 When Diabetes is Diagnosable With a One-Time **Blood Test Without an OGTT**

An OGTT is useful in the diagnosis of diabetes but not

required. Diabetes can be definitively diagnosed from the results of a one-time blood test if the plasma glucose level satisfies the criteria of "early-morning fasting glucose ≥126 mg/dL" or "casual glucose ≥200 mg/dL", and "HbA1c ≥6.5%." Caution is required when performing glucose tolerance tests in a patient with marked hyperglycemia, which may further increase the glucose levels.

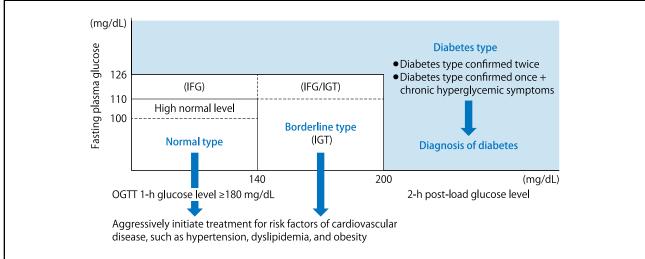
#### 1.2.2 When the 75-g OGTT Is Recommended

If the patient cannot be diagnosed with diabetes from plasma glucose and HbA1c levels, it is recommended to determine a more detailed metabolic state by performing a 75-g OGTT. The reason for performing this test is that such patients might include those with IGT and at a high-risk for cardiovascular events, those in whom the present suspicion of diabetes cannot be denied, and those with a high-risk of future diabetes. It is particularly desirable to perform this test in patients with high arteriosclerosis risk factors such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, and obesity.

- (i) When the test is strongly recommended (present suspicion of diabetes cannot be denied)
  - A 75-g OGTT is strongly recommended if the patient satisfies any 1 of the following:
  - (1) Fasting plasma glucose level of 110–125 mg/dL
  - (2) Casual plasma glucose level of 140–199 mg/dL
  - (3) HbA1c level of 6.0–6.4% (excluding those with clear symptoms of diabetes).
- (ii) When the test is desirable (high-risk for future diabetes) A 75-g OGTT is desirable if the patient satisfies 1 of the following:
  - (1) Fasting plasma glucose level of 100–109 mg/dL (high normal)
  - (2) HbA1c level of 5.6–5.9%
  - (3) Strong family history of diabetes and/or obesity.

#### 1.2.3 Procedure for a 75-g OGTT

- (1) The patient fasts at least 10h from the day before the test until the morning of the test. A blood sample is collected while fasting and the plasma glucose level is measured.
- (2) After blood collection while fasting, the patient drinks a glucose solution (75 g anhydrous glucose dissolved in water or the equivalent amount of partially hydrolyzed starch (e.g., Trelan-G®)).



**Figure 2.** Decision criteria based on fasting plasma glucose and a 75-g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). IFG, impaired fasting glucose; IGT, impaired glucose tolerance.

(3) A blood sample is collected at 30 min, 1 h, and 2 h after glucose loading and the blood glucose levels are measured.

Although the plasma glucose levels at 30 min and 1 h after loading are not included in the diagnostic criteria of diabetes, these levels are useful in detecting the high-risk group for diabetes. The measurement of insulin levels in a 75-g OGTT makes it possible to examine the early insulin secretion and patterns of insulin secretion and is useful for evaluation of pathology and risk of diabetes.

#### ■ 1.2.4 Classification of Glucose Metabolic State by 75-g OGTT Result

Glucose tolerance of patients can be classified as normal type, borderline type, or diabetic type based on the 75-g OGTT results – a combination of the fasting glucose level and the 2-h level in the 75-g OGTT (**Figure 2**).

- (a) "Diabetic type": (1) or (2) below
  - (1) Early-morning fasting plasma glucose level ≥126mg/dL
- (2) 2-h plasma glucose level ≥200 mg/dL in a 75-g OGTT If patients have the diabetic type of glucose metabolism and satisfy the following conditions, they are diagnosed as having diabetes.
- Two confirmations of diabetic type:
  - Once indicating "diabetic type," and
  - Result of a test performed on another day is (1) or (2) above, or a casual glucose level ≥200 mg/dL, or HbA1c ≥6.5%.

A diagnosis of diabetes can be made.

- One confirmation of diabetic type + symptoms of chronic hyperglycemia:
  - Result of a 75-g OGTT indicating "diabetic type" and
  - Chronic hyperglycemic symptoms such as dipsia, polydipsia, weight loss, and diabetic retinopathy.

A diagnosis of diabetes can be made.

- (b) "Normal type": (3) and (4) below
  - (3) Early-morning fasting plasma glucose level ≤110 mg/dL
- (4) 2-h plasma glucose level <140 mg/dL in a 75-g OGTT Even in patients with the normal type, if the 1-h plasma glucose level in a 75-g OGTT is ≥180 mg/dL, the risk of transition to diabetes is higher than that in patients with a

glucose level <180 mg/dL.<sup>12,13</sup> Such normal type patients should be managed as borderline type patients.

(c) "Borderline type": patients who do not have a "diabetic type" or "normal type"

IFG is defined as 2-h plasma glucose level in 75-g OGTT of <140 mg/dL and fasting plasma glucose level of 110–125 mg/dL. Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) is defined as 2-h plasma glucose levels in 75-g OGTT of 140–199 mg/dL. Thus, the patients can be distinguished. IGT can be a risk factor for heart disease, <sup>10</sup> as mentioned before. Thus, if patients have risk factors such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, and obesity, then intervention for these factors is also aggressively implemented.

If the urinary glucose is positive in a medical examination (e.g., at school), measurement of fasting or casual plasma glucose level and HbA1c level should be performed. If the diagnosis cannot be confirmed by these results, then a 75-g OGTT should be considered as an additional test using the aforementioned recommendation criteria as the reference.

## 1.3 Indices of Insulin Secretory Ability and Insulin Resistance

Diabetes is defined as a "group of metabolic diseases with a cardinal symptom of chronic hyperglycemia, which is caused by insufficient insulin action". In type 1 diabetes, the causes of hyperglycemia and metabolic failure are pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell destruction, and impaired or depleted insulin secretion. The majority of these patients require insulin injections to sustain life (insulin-dependent). In type 2 diabetes, insufficient insulin secretion results from genetic factors combined with environmental factors. The genetic factors cause decreased insulin secretion and insulin resistance (IR) and the environmental factors include overeating, physical inactivity, obesity, and stress. Many patients with type 2 diabetes do not require insulin therapy to sustain life (non-insulin-dependent). To maintain good glycemic control, some patients need insulin therapy combined with dietary therapy, exercise therapy, and oral pharmacotherapy. In patients with impaired glucose metabolism, it is important to evaluate insulin secretory

Table 1. Reference for Insulin-Dependent States and Non-Insulin-Dependent States and Points of Caution								
	Insulin-dependent state	Non-insulin-dependent state						
Characteristics	Insulin secretion is absolutely deficient, and insulin therapy is required to sustain life.	Insulin secretion is not absolutely deficient. Therefore, insulin therapy is not required to sustain life but might be selected for glycemic control in some cases.						
Reference values	Fasting blood C-peptide <0.6 ng/mL 24-h urinary C-peptide ≤20 µg/day							
Points of caution	Insulin-dependent state cannot be ruled out even if the values exceed the above reference values. Comprehensive determination should be made based on performance status and metabolic conditions.  Evaluation of insulin secretory ability is difficult in patients with reduced renal function due to delayed C-peptide excretion, causing its increased blood level and decreased urinary level.	Insulin secretory ability might become decreased over time even in non-insulin-dependent patients with ongoing treatment. Insulin secretory ability should be evaluated if decline in glycemic control is observed, and when insulin dose reduction or withdrawal is considered.						

Adapted from Japan Diabetes Society (author/editor). Treatment guide for diabetes 2018–2019. Tokyo: Bunkodo, 2018<sup>14</sup> (in Japanese).

ability and IR for selection of treatment strategy. The indices described below can be calculated using information such as the results of a fasting blood test and a 75-g OGTT.

#### 1.3.1 Indices of Insulin Secretory Ability

Insulin secretion consists of basal secretion and bolus secretion. The former occurs continuously, even in the fasting state, and the latter elevates with an increase in blood glucose levels and digestive hormones due to food intake. Both basal secretion and bolus secretion are decreased or absent in type 1 diabetes, an insulin-dependent state. Decreased or delayed bolus secretion occurs first in type 2 diabetes.

#### (a) Insulinogenic Index

The insulinogenic index is the ratio of plasma insulin increase to plasma glucose increase at 30 min after loading in a 75-g OGTT (see equation below). This index is a marker of early secretory ability after loading (early-phase secretory ability) in insulin bolus secretion. Patients with diabetes have an insulinogenic index of  $\le 0.4$ . Even if individuals have a borderline type, they have a high rate of progression to diabetes if their insulinogenic index is  $\le 0.4$ .

Insulinogenic index =

[ $\Delta$  plasma insulin value (30 min post-load value – 0 min value) ( $\mu$ U/mL)] /

[\Delta plasma glucose value (30min post-load value - 0min value) (mg/dL)]

#### (b) C-Peptide

In patients with diabetes, a 75-g OGTT is not usually performed after definitive diagnosis. The measurement of plasma insulin levels cannot be used to evaluate insulin secretory ability during insulin therapy because plasma insulin levels are affected by the injected insulin. C-peptide is produced by the cleavage of proinsulin in the pancreatic  $\beta$  cells and is secreted in equimolar concentrations with insulin. Serum and urinary C-peptide levels are used to evaluate insulin secretory ability, particularly its changes over time, and to estimate insulin dependence. If the fasting serum C-peptide level is <0.6 ng/mL and the 24-h urinary C-peptide level is <20  $\mu$ g/day, it is highly probable that the patient is insulin-dependent (**Table 1**). If patients have IR due to obesity or metabolic failure due to soft-drink overconsumption, some of them will be insulin-dependent even

if they do not satisfy the above criteria of C-peptide levels. The C-peptide level is only an estimate of insulin dependence. It is important to note that the C-peptide level is only a reference and a comprehensive evaluation is necessary to determine insulin dependence. Excretion of C-peptide is delayed in patients with reduced renal function. As a result, its blood level increases and its urinary level decreases, making the evaluation of insulin secretory ability difficult.

#### (c) Slowly Progressive Type 1 Diabetes

Patients with acute-onset type 1 diabetes generally develop ketosis or ketoacidosis within 3 months after the appearance of hyperglycemic symptoms and become insulin-dependent. In contrast, if patients have slowly progressive type 1 diabetes (or slowly progressive insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus [SPIDDM]), insulin secretion is not markedly decreased at the time of diabetes diagnosis. However, the insulin secretory ability gradually reduces over a few months to a few years, resulting in insulin-dependent diabetes. As SPIDDM progresses, patients become positive for islet cellspecific autoantibodies, such as glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD) antibody and islet cell cytoplasmic antibody (ICA). If worsening of glycemic control occurs without particular cause in patients with type 2 diabetes and ongoing treatment, then C-peptide and GAD antibody levels should be measured and the possibility of SPIDDM needs to be considered.

## ■ 1.3.2 Index of Insulin Resistance Homeostasis Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance (HOMA-IR)

HOMA-IR is a simple index of IR. It is calculated from the early-morning fasting plasma insulin level and plasma glucose level. If the fasting plasma glucose level is ≤140 mg/dL, the HOMA-IR value correlates well with the values of IR obtained using other methods.

#### HOMA-IR =

(fasting insulin ( $\mu$ U/mL)×fasting plasma glucose (mg/dL)) / 405

A HOMA-IR value of  $\leq$ 1.6 is determined to be normal and  $\geq$ 2.5 signifies IR. If patients have a plasma glucose level  $\geq$ 140 mg/dL or have ongoing insulin therapy, IR cannot be evaluated accurately.

Table 2. Characteristics of a Discrepancy Between Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) and Average Plasma Glucose								
HbA1c level is higher HbAc1c level is lower								
Rapidly improved diabetes     Iron-deficient state	Rapid onset and exacerbation of diabetes     Recovery phase of iron deficiency anemia     Hemolysis (decreased lifespan of red blood cells)     After blood loss (increased erythropoiesis), and after blood transfusion     Renal anemia with ongoing erythropoietin treatment     Liver cirrhosis	Hemoglobinopathy						

Adapted from Japan Diabetes Society (author/editor). Treatment guide for diabetes 2018–2019. Tokyo: Bunkodo, 2018<sup>14</sup> (in Japanese).

#### ■ 1.4 Indices Other Than HbA1c Reflecting Mean Plasma Glucose

HbA1c reflects the mean plasma glucose level of the patient during the previous 1–2 months and shows very little variation in the same patient. It is included in the diagnostic criteria because of its great importance as an index of glycemic control and in the determination of impaired glucose metabolism. On the other hand, the HbA1c value sometimes does not accurately reflect the mean plasma glucose level, such as when there is a rapid improvement or decline in glycemic control and when there is anemia (Table 2).<sup>14</sup> In such situations, it is necessary to diagnose impaired glucose metabolism by comprehensive evaluation of fasting and casual plasma glucose levels and the results of a 75-g OGTT.

Although not used in the diagnosis of impaired glucose metabolism, glycated albumin and 1,5-anhydroglucitol (described below) are indices that mainly reflect plasma glucose changes after therapeutic intervention. Caution is required in the interpretation of the results because each of these indices has conditions under which they do not accurately reflect plasma glucose changes.

## 1.4.1 Glycated Albumin (GA) (Reference Range: 11–16%)

Plasma GA reflects the mean plasma glucose level of approximately the past 2 weeks. It is useful in determining short-term therapeutic effect when treatment has changed, and in evaluating the mean plasma glucose level in patients with anemia or hemoglobinopathy whose HbA1c value deviates from the mean plasma glucose level. The GA level decreases when the albumin half-life is shortened, such as in patients with nephrotic syndrome or hyperthyroidism, causing the GA value to deviate from the actual average plasma glucose level.

## **1.4.2** 1,5-Anhydroglucitol (1,5-AG) (Reference Range: ≥14.0 μg/mL)

The blood concentration of 1,5-AG decreases as urinary glucose excretion increases. Thus, the 1,5-AG level decreases in the hyperglycemic state, which is opposite to HbA1c and GA. It also decreases when there is a transient increase in blood glucose, and its increase is gradual once the value becomes low. Thus, patients become positive for 1,5-AG (low value) from the stage of IGT, in which patients only show postprandial hyperglycemia. On the other hand, changes in glycemic control are not well reflected by the 1,5-AG value in patients with a large amount of urinary glucose excretion. Sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2)-inhibitors, which have been used in clinical

practice in recent years, selectively inhibit SGLT2 in the proximal renal tubules, inhibiting the reabsorption and promoting the excretion of urinary glucose. Thus, 1,5-AG cannot be used to evaluate the mean blood glucose level in patients taking SGLT2-inhibitors.

#### 2. Cardiovascular Disease

## 2.1 Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (Particularly, Coronary Artery Disease)

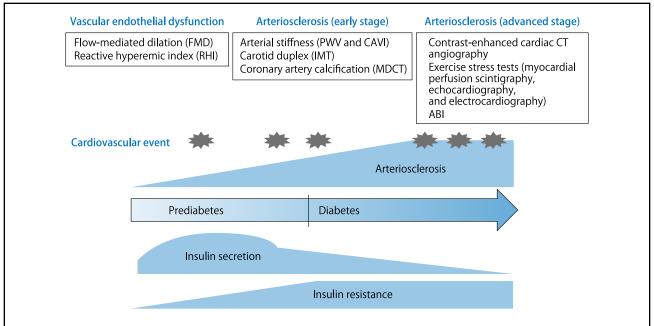
Patients with diabetes are a high-risk group for coronary artery disease (CAD), stroke, and peripheral artery disease (PAD). A Finnish study reported that patients with type 2 diabetes without previous myocardial infarction had the same risk for coronary events as patients without diabetes but with previous myocardial infarction. Is A meta-analysis has shown that patients with type 2 diabetes had a 1.5–3.6-fold increase in CAD and stroke compared with healthy subjects. If These cardiovascular events can be the cause of death in patients with diabetes. If patients can be diagnosed as having a high-risk for arteriosclerotic lesions before the occurrence of acute myocardial infarction or sudden cardiac death, such an occurrence can be prevented by promoting improvement of lifestyle habits and implementing aggressive pharmacotherapeutic intervention.

Presently, exercise ECG is used widely for screening of CAD. This test induces myocardial ischemia to diagnose coronary stenosis but is not without problems. Even if there is coronary arteriosclerosis, patients are sometimes diagnosed as being normal if the stenosis is not significant. Many coronary events occur due to occlusion by a thrombus or rupture of a stenotic lesion that was not sufficiently severe to cause myocardial ischemia. 17,18 Consequently, the focus is now on the individual's risk stratification for coronary events and being identified as high-risk.

#### 2.1.1 Screening Tests

#### (a) Relationship Between Test Results and Progression of Arteriosclerosis Determined by Prediabetic Condition

Figure 3 shows the relationship between various tests and progression of arteriosclerosis over time. Although IR can be observed 10 years or more before diabetes onset, the plasma glucose level is normal because of increased insulin secretion. Endothelial dysfunction develops from this stage. When insulin secretion is decreased, the plasma glucose level increases and diabetes develops. Vascular stiffness increases at approximately this time, and systolic blood pressure increases in particular. If the duration of diabetes is prolonged or if diabetes becomes severe, an atheroma forms and the risk of cardiovascular events further increases.



**Figure 3.** Significance of arteriosclerosis tests and their relationships with diabetes stages. Vascular endothelial function decline starts in the prediabetic stage, and vascular stiffness increases (sclerosis). When diabetes develops, a patient becomes prone to vascular occlusion due to atheroma formation. Cardiovascular events can occur starting in the prediabetic stage. The risk becomes higher as the duration of diabetes becomes longer. ABI, ankle-brachial index; CAVI, cardio-ankle vascular index; CT, computed tomography; IMT, intima-media thickness; MDCT, multidetector row CT; PWV, pulse wave velocity.

#### (b) Blood Tests

Coronary events increase with increasing HbA1c, but there are 2 points of caution regarding the relationship between them. First, even if the HbA1c is within the normal range, a cardiovascular event can occur. Second, even if diabetes treatment reduces the HbA1c, the risk of a cardiovascular event does not necessarily decrease. 19 The risk factors for cardiovascular events are considered to be dyslipidemia (fasting hyperlipidemia and low high-density lipoprotein cholesterolemia), elevated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), and progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD: elevated serum creatinine, reduced estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), and amount of urinary albumin).<sup>20</sup> A few scoring systems have been proposed to predict coronary event occurrence from these factors (e.g., SCORE risk chart, Framingham (coronary artery disease) risk score, and ACC/AHA ASCVD risk calculator).21-23 For example, the Framingham risk score estimates the 10-year risk of CAD and is calculated based on sex, age, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), systolic blood pressure, and a history of smoking.<sup>22</sup> This score is useful in medical care because it can be calculated easily using the internet.

Arteriosclerosis is also an inflammatory disease. If there is an unstable plaque, it has been shown that the level of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP), which reflects vascular microinflammation, increases. An increase in hsCRP is associated with increased risk of a cardiovascular event and death.<sup>24</sup> It has been shown that patients with hsCRP ≥0.2 mg/L have an increased risk of cardiovascular events compared with patients with lower values.<sup>25</sup>

#### (c) 12-Lead ECG

Recording the 12-lead ECG is the simplest test. If it is

normal, then past myocardial infarction can be almost ruled out. On the other hand, even if patients are asymptomatic, they can be suspected of having myocardial infarction if there are pathologic Q-waves and negative T-waves. In some cases, non-specific ECG changes occur due to conditions such as left ventricular hypertrophy, and this test is not necessarily highly sensitive. However, a 12-lead ECG should be recorded annually because it enables diagnosis of arrhythmia, such as atrial fibrillation, left ventricular hypertrophy, and abnormalities associated with heart failure (HF), such as left atrial overload. Holter ECG increases the diagnostic efficiency for myocardial infarction but the diagnostic sensitivity of CAD is not high (19–62%).<sup>26</sup>

#### (d) Vascular Endothelial Function Test

A decrease in endothelial function is a change that is observed at the earliest stage of arteriosclerosis. Endothelial function quantifies, as vascular smooth muscle relaxation, the endothelial nitric oxide (NO) production in response to the shear stress of blood flow.<sup>27</sup> At present, endothelial function can be assessed by flow-mediated dilation (FMD) and the reactive hyperemic index (RHI) using endothelial pulse amplitude testing (EndoPAT). For FMD, ultrasound is used to measure the brachial arterial diameter at rest and during reactive hyperemia. This hyperemia occurs after inducing ischemia in the forearm for 5 min using a cuff balloon followed by its rapid deflation. FMD is the change in diameter divided by the diameter at rest. For RHI, a PAT probe is placed on a fingertip of each hand and then the arterial flow in one upper arm is interrupted for 5 min. The RHI compares the pulse wave of the fingertip on each side after reperfusion. Both FMD and RHI decrease as the risk for cardiovascular events increases. They have been reported to predict future cardiovascular events in high-risk

patients.<sup>28</sup> The benefit of FMD and RHI is that their use might prevent the progression of arteriosclerosis because their decrease is reversible if early therapeutic intervention is implemented.

#### (e) Carotid Ultrasound

This test can be performed easily and inexpensively. The intima—media thickness (IMT) of the carotid artery is used widely as a marker for atherosclerosis. The IMT measurement methods are as follows.

- (1) IMT measurements of the common carotid artery, carotid bifurcation, and internal carotid body.
- (2) Automatic IMT measurement of the common carotid artery.

IMT has been reported to be significantly thickened at 0.71–0.98 mm in patients with type 2 diabetes compared with 0.66–0.85 mm in patients without diabetes.<sup>29</sup> Increased IMT is an independent predictor of coronary event, stroke, and PAD.<sup>30,31</sup> IMT measurement has been recommended as a screening test for cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes.<sup>32</sup> In cardiovascular risk stratification, IMT measurement is considered useful for calculating carotid total plaque area and to add to the Framingham risk score.<sup>33</sup>

The limitations of carotid ultrasound are measurement error among examiners and reproducibility, and evaluation difficulty due to large individual differences in the shape of the carotid body and bifurcation. Therefore, it is presently difficult to establish standardized values for risk stratification.

#### (f) Evaluation of Coronary Artery Calcification Using Unenhanced MDCT

Arterial wall calcification develops only during arteriosclerosis and does not occur with the degeneration of aging.<sup>34</sup> That is, coronary artery calcification suggests the presence of an arteriosclerotic lesion. Coronary artery calcification can be easily evaluated using unenhanced multidetector row computed tomography (MDCT). The imaging is performed during a breath-hold for a few seconds and results in low radiation exposure (<1 mSv). Quantitative scores are calculated automatically. Quantitative evaluation of coronary artery calcification is often performed using the Agatston score based on the extent of the calcified lesion and CT score.<sup>35</sup> Other methods of evaluation include the use of volume score and mass score.

An Agatston score for normal is "0". If the score is 0, then CAD is ruled out and the subsequent 10-year risk of cardiovascular events is very low even in patients with diabetes.<sup>36</sup> There is abundant data on the relationships between Agatston score and vital prognosis, and between the score and cardiovascular events. This score is considered to have a higher predictive ability of future cardiovascular events when compared with the Framingham risk score or compared with coronary risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, history of smoking, and family history. The Agatston score may be considered an index of the level of arteriosclerosis in the overall coronary artery.<sup>37</sup> A higher score indicates a higher probability of coronary artery stenosis and occlusion, providing a reason to consider an exercise stress test and contrast-enhanced cardiac CT. An Agatston score <100 is considered to indicate a low-risk (coronary event risk of 2.1-fold more than that of a 0 score (95% confidence interval (CI): 1.6– 2.9)); a score of 100–400 indicates a moderate risk (coronary event risk of 4.2-fold more than that of a 0 score (95% CI: 2.5–7.2)); and a score >400 indicates a high-risk (coronary event risk of 7.2-fold more than that of a 0 score (95% CI: 3.9–13.0)). Similar relationships are also seen in patients with diabetes, \$8.39 but patients with diabetes have a higher incidence of cardiovascular events than patients without diabetes with the same score. The 2016 American Diabetes Association's Standards of Care did not recommend routine testing of coronary artery calcification in view of cost and effectiveness. However, it should be considered for ruling out CAD in moderate-risk patients or for risk stratification.

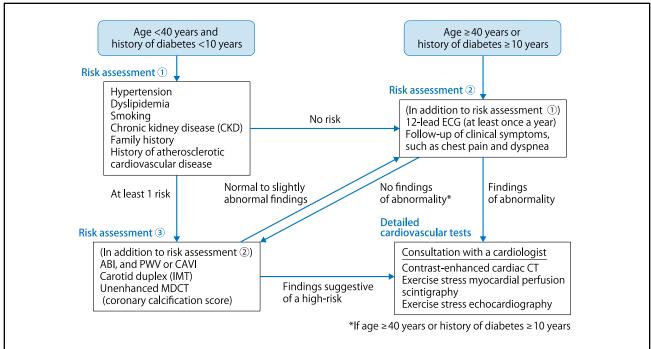
Another index is the change in coronary artery calcification score over time. A higher rate of Agatston score increase has been indicated to result in a higher risk of cardiovascular event.  $^{42,43}$  In particular, patients with an increase  $\geq 30\%$  per year have a high-risk of cardiovascular events.

#### (g) Pulse Wave Velocity

The pathological change of vascular "stiffening" is the foundation of arteriosclerosis. Vascular stiffness increases with age, so the term "vascular age" is sometimes used. Such stiffness is affected by arteriosclerosis risk factors. 44.45 When the ankle–brachial pressure index (ABI) is measured, an index of vascular stiffness is also measured (i.e., pulse wave velocity (PWV) or cardio-ankle vascular index (CAVI)). The CAVI is considered an index that is unaffected by blood pressure. An increase in vascular stiffness means an increase in the risk of cardiovascular events and is the cause of systolic hypertension. 46.47 If vascular age is estimated at screening of patients with diabetes, their understanding of the disease can be improved and the level of vascular age can trigger therapeutic intervention. Thus, a test for PWV is recommended.

#### (h) Ankle-Brachial Pressure Index

The ABI is calculated as ankle systolic blood pressure/ upper-arm systolic blood pressure. It is used for screening of PAD. ABI measurement is indicated with a Class I recommendation in patients with symptoms such as intermittent claudication. It is indicated with a Class IIa recommendation in patients aged 50–64 years with risk factors for atherosclerosis (e.g., diabetes, history of smoking, dyslipidemia, and hypertension) or with a family history of PAD, and in patients aged <50 years with diabetes and 1 additional risk factor for atherosclerosis. 48 An ABI value of 1.00–1.40 is normal and the cutoff is often < 0.90.49,50 It is considered a biomarker for "atherosclerosis extending to the peripheral arteries" when <0.9, thereby becoming an index of high risk. It has been reported that coronary events increase as the ABI decreases and that its predictive accuracy is higher than that of the Framingham risk score.<sup>37</sup> In a meta-analysis study, low ABI had a sensitivity and specificity of 16.5% and 92.7%, respectively, for predicting a coronary event, and 41.0% and 87.9%, respectively, for predicting cardiovascular death.<sup>51</sup> Although sensitivity was low, specificity was high. In the ACC/AHA guidelines based on expert opinion, ABI < 0.9 is recommended for risk evaluation of patients with moderate risk. 23,52 An ABI < 0.40 suggests the presence of severe arteriosclerosis of the lower leg. An ABI ≥1.4 is also abnormal, suggesting abnormally increased vascular stiffness, such as in patients with chronic kidney failure or a stenotic lesion in the brachial artery. The disadvantage of ABI is that it cannot be measured if the systolic blood pressure is ≤40 mmHg



**Figure 4.** Flowchart for diagnosis of coronary artery disease and risk stratification in patients with diabetes. Refer to the main text for details. ABI, ankle-brachial index; CAVI, cardio-ankle vascular index; CT, computed tomography; IMT, intima-media thickness; MDCT, multidetector row CT; PWV, pulse wave velocity.

because of a peripheral artery occlusion.

#### (i) Exercise and Pharmacologic Stress Tests

Exercise ECG is often performed for screening of CAD using the Master two-step, treadmill or bicycle ergometer test. However, its sensitivity, specificity, and diagnostic accuracy are not high. It is difficult to make a determination using the stress test in patients with an ECG abnormality, such as non-specific ST-T wave changes or left bundle branch block. In such patients, it is useful to perform exercise or pharmacologic (adenosine) myocardial perfusion scintigraphy, or exercise or dobutamine stress echocardiography.

Stress myocardial perfusion scintigraphy and exercise stress echocardiography have much higher diagnostic accuracy for CAD compared with exercise ECG. In addition, these tests provide information on stenotic coronary arteries. Diagnostic accuracy and specificity are 80–90% and 75–90%, 53 respectively, for pharmacologic myocardial perfusion scintigraphy, and 81% and 85%, respectively, for dobutamine stress echocardiography, indicating their diagnostic similarity. 54

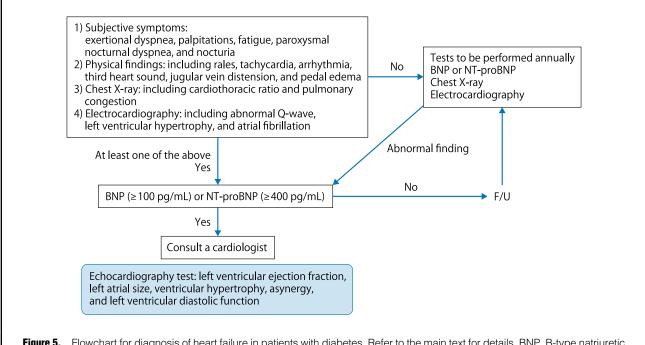
A point of caution is that negative findings of these stress tests do not rule out coronary atherosclerosis. Such findings simply mean that there is no stenotic lesion that induces myocardial ischemia. It should be understood that a diagnosis of "normal" cannot be made based on such negative findings.

## 2.1.2 Flowchart for Diagnosis of CAD and Risk Stratification (Figure 4)

The "Treatment Guide for Diabetes 2016" lists non-invasive screening tests for macrovascular diseases.<sup>55</sup> These tests are carotid ultrasound, FMD, echocardiography, exercise

ECG, stress myocardial perfusion scintigraphy, and coronary artery CT. However, the guide indicated the lack of consensus on performing these tests in individuals who are asymptomatic or have no ECG abnormality. It is necessary to be selective in testing patients so that excessive testing can be avoided. If the duration of type 2 diabetes is short or if patients are less than 40 years old, the risk of cardiovascular events is known to be low.<sup>56</sup> A screening test for arteriosclerosis is appropriate for patients with diabetes who are at least 40 years old or have at least a 10-year history of diabetes; and in patients with a comorbidity such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, or CKD (eGFR <60 mL/ min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> or microalbuminuria). It is appropriate to use, as a reference, a risk score such as the Framingham, ACC/ AHA ASCVD or SCORE risk score. Physical findings and symptoms of patients are also important. Physicians should listen carefully to patients regarding atypical cardiac-related symptoms (e.g., exertional dyspnea and chest discomfort) and vascular symptoms such as carotid bruit, transient ischemic attack, and intermittent claudication. Screening for CAD is recommended if wall motion abnormalities appear in the echocardiographic examination.

For arteriosclerosis screening, it is reasonable to perform PWV, CAVI, ABI or carotid ultrasound. Evaluation of coronary artery calcification is recommended using unenhanced MDCT for patients with an ABI <0.9 (or ≥1.40) even without subjective symptoms, or for patients with high PWV or CAVI for their age, or patients with increased IMT or plaque on carotid duplex. If patients have accumulated risks or if the hospital can perform MDCT imaging, the evaluation of coronary artery calcification can be prioritized by performing unenhanced MDCT as the first step. In such cases, radiation exposure risk should be considered, even if the dose is very low, and unenhanced



**Figure 5.** Flowchart for diagnosis of heart failure in patients with diabetes. Refer to the main text for details. BNP, B-type natriuretic peptide; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

MDCT is appropriate for patients with any of the following: a moderate risk based on the Framingham score, long-standing poor glycemic control, multiple risk factors or chest symptoms. If patients have an Agatston score >400 based on unenhanced MDCT, they are considered to be at high-risk. A two-step approach is advisable to screen for the presence/absence of silent myocardial ischemia using stress myocardial perfusion scintigraphy, or exercise or dobutamine stress echocardiography.

If patients are suspected of having CAD from the results of these tests, then contrast-enhanced cardiac CT is recommended. Because the negative predictive value is very high, unnecessary coronary angiography can be avoided if CAD is ruled out using cardiac CT.<sup>57,58</sup> If there is significant coronary stenosis, revascularization is considered using a procedure such as percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). Contrast-enhanced cardiac CT also enables determination of the characteristics of coronary plaques. An unstable plaque is suspected if there is enlargement of the coronary artery and microcalcification in soft plaques.<sup>59</sup> If there is an unstable plaque, even more rigorous therapeutic intervention is required.

Patients with diabetes also need to be monitored over time. It is recommended to perform annual echocardiography as well as ABI (vascular stiffness) or carotid ultrasound to evaluate the progression of a lesion and to determine therapeutic effectiveness. If progression is evident, evaluation of coronary artery calcification is considered using unenhanced MDCT or contrast-enhanced cardiac CT. Annual contrast-enhanced cardiac CT is not recommended in consideration of radiation exposure and the effects of contrast agents.

#### ■ 2.2 Heart Failure

Patients with diabetes often have coexisting HF. In the epidemiological Framingham Study, the risk of HF was more than twice as high in men with diabetes than in those without and more than 5-fold higher in women with diabetes than in those without.<sup>60</sup> Another epidemiological study showed that patients with diabetes had a higher prevalence of HF than patients without diabetes (11.8 vs. 4.5%).<sup>61</sup> The risk of HF was 1.2–1.7-fold higher even in patients at the stage of IGT compared with individuals with normal glucose regulation. 62,63 In patients with diabetes, HF has also been reported as the most frequent cause for initial hospitalization.<sup>64</sup> Diabetes is also an independent risk factor for HF. In patients with diabetes, the risk factors for HF have been reported to be advanced age, long duration of diabetes, insulin use, history of CAD, presence of CKD (increased serum creatinine level and microalbuminuria), and poor glycemic control.61,65-67 On the other hand, patients with HF often have coexisting diabetes. The prevalence of diabetes is 25% in patients with chronic HF and 42% in patients with acute HF.1,68,69

As mentioned, patients with diabetes often have coexisting HF. One reason is that diabetes is a coronary risk factor and left ventricular systolic function can decrease due to myocardial infarction (HF with reduced ejection fraction: HFrEF). HF with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) is even more prevalent. The mechanism of HFpEF involves an accumulation of glycation products in cardiomyocytes, overproduction of collagen, interstitial necrosis, impaired calcium homeostasis, myocardial microangiopathy, and impaired insulin signaling associated with myocardial hypertrophy and caused by hyperinsulinemia. <sup>70–73</sup> Left ventricular diastolic function also decreases due to an increase in left ventricular afterload caused by increased

vascular stiffness. When the condition progresses, the pathology is known as "diabetic cardiomyopathy".

#### 2.2.1 Flowchart for Diagnosis (Figure 5)

For the diagnosis of HF, it is appropriate to refer to the "JCS 2017/JHFS 2017 Guideline on Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute and Chronic Heart Failure (2017 revised edition)".74 Diagnosis of HF is made by a combination of clinical symptoms and test results. With an awareness that patients with diabetes are in a high-risk group for HF, physicians should listen to the patients for detailed symptoms while suspecting HF. Patients with HF often restrain themselves from activities, including exercising, to avoid symptoms. Patients can claim to be asymptomatic, but it is important for physicians to confirm that they are actually asymptomatic. At a periodic examination, physicians should check for symptoms such as exertional dyspnea, palpitation, fatigue, pedal edema, nocturia, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, and orthopnea. It is appropriate to ask about these symptoms during history taking about the patient's daily activities. HF is sometimes discovered from physical examination. It is important not to overlook abnormal physical findings (including elevated heart rate, arrhythmia, rales, heart murmur, third heart sound, and jugular vein distension). If there are any findings suspicious of HF, further examinations are performed using chest X-ray (checking for conditions such as increased cardiothoracic ratio and pulmonary congestion) and 12-lead ECG (checking for conditions such as atrial fibrillation, left ventricular hypertrophy, abnormal Q-wave, and ST-T changes). If the suspicion of HF persists, then further screening tests are performed.

The first screening test involves the measurement of B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) or N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP). If BNP ≥40 pg/mL (or NT-proBNP ≥125 pg/mL), there is a possibility of HF. If BNP ≥100 pg/mL (NT-proBNP ≥400 pg/mL), then there is a high possibility of HF that is a therapeutic target and a cardiologist should be consulted. Patients could be asymptomatic because they are restraining themselves from activities, such as exercising, or they could have convinced themselves that the HF symptoms are due to their age. It is also not uncommon that patients are unaware of the symptoms that are associated with HF. Annual measurement of BNP or NT-proBNP is recommended in patients with diabetes.

If HF is suspected from the BNP or NT-proBNP level, echocardiography is performed to make the diagnosis of the underlying heart disease and to evaluate the pathology. Tests are necessary to measure left ventricular dimension (volume) and the left ventricular ejection fraction in order to distinguish between HFpEF and HFrEF. There is much evidence that measurements of left ventricular mass index and left atrial size (left atrial volume index) are useful for risk stratification. Thus, it is appropriate to make these measurements. In HFrEF patients, it should be determined whether the reduction in left ventricular wall motion is localized or circumferential, and then the involvement of CAD should be examined. Evaluation of left ventricular diastolic function is necessary in HFrEF patients. It is essential to measure transmitral flow velocity waveforms for sinus rhythm patients. If left ventricular diastolic function deteriorates, an abnormal waveform occurs in which the E-wave amplitude decreases more than the A-wave amplitude. If it further deteriorates, the reverse occurs in which the E-wave amplitude increases more than the A-wave amplitude, resulting in a pseudonormal waveform. Early diastolic mitral annular velocity (e') is regarded as a rate at which the left ventricle lengthens in the long-axis direction during diastole and reflects left ventricular relaxation. Its normal rate is ≥8 cm/s. If less than this rate, left ventricular diastolic dysfunction becomes more severe as the rate further decreases. The ratio of early transmitral flow velocity (E) to e' (E/e') is an index of left ventricular filling pressure. HF symptoms becomes more intense as E/e' increases, resulting in a poor vital prognosis.

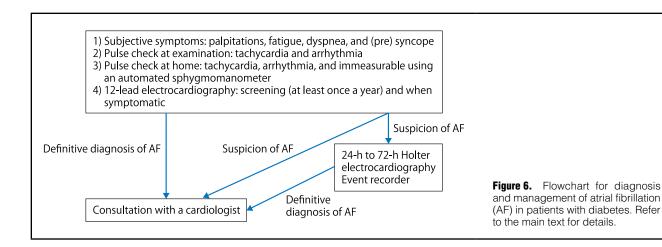
The BNP or NT-proBNP level and echocardiographic findings can be used to make a diagnosis of HF, to evaluate the pathology, and to determine the effectiveness of HF treatment. Treatment is considered to be effective if the left ventricular myocardial infarction mass index and left atrial volume index are reduced and if the BNP or NT-proBNP levels are reduced by lifestyle improvement and pharmacotherapeutic intervention.

#### 2.3 Arrhythmia (Atrial Fibrillation)

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common and the most clinically problematic arrhythmia in patients with diabetes. In general, AF is more commonly seen in patients with diabetes than in the general population,75 and the incidence of AF increases with advanced age.76 Epidemiological studies have shown that diabetes is an independent risk factor for AF and reported that AF occurrence is increased 1.4–1.6-fold that of individuals without diabetes.<sup>77–79</sup> Hypertension and diabetes are the common underlying diseases in AF patients.80 Diabetes with underlying IR is involved in the onset of AF through various mechanisms, including IGT, increased inflammation and oxidative stress, hypercoagulability, increased platelet activity, hypertension, and myocardial fibrosis.81,82 If HFpEF or HFrEF coexists with diabetes, left atrial load increases, promoting AF onset. In contrast, sporadic arrhythmias, such as premature atrial and premature ventricular contractions, seldom become a clinical problem. Ventricular tachycardia is a dangerous arrhythmia, but is rare. It is necessary to be cautious of ventricular tachycardia in patients with hypoglycemia risk and those with organic heart disease.

Diabetes increases the incidence of stroke in AF patients. The CHADS2 score<sup>83</sup> stratifies the risk of stroke in AF patients. This scoring system uses stroke risk factors: hypertension, age ≥75 years, presence of HF, previous stroke/transient ischemic attack, and diabetes. The CHA2DS2-VASc<sup>84</sup> score also uses diabetes as a risk factor. In the era of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs), AF patients just by having diabetes are considered a group that could benefit from stroke prevention using DOACs.

AF can be a trigger for both stroke and HF. If patients have both type 2 diabetes and AF, they have higher rates of all-cause death, myocardial infarction, HF, and cardio-vascular events compared with non-AF patients. 85,86 That is, AF is not merely an arrhythmia but is a biomarker of high-risk among patients with diabetes. In other words, if AF is observed in patients with diabetes, the cardiovascular risk is high. Such patients might be considered as a group that could highly benefit from comprehensive management using lifestyle improvement and pharmacotherapy. In reality, the awareness is low among physicians regarding AF in patients with diabetes, which presents a problem.



#### 2.3.1 Flowchart for Diagnosis of AF (Figure 6)

When patients with diabetes complain of palpitations, it is important to approach with suspicion of AF. In particular, if patients complain of palpitations due to tachycardia at the initial onset of AF, they often stop complaining when the symptoms transition to persistent AF. Therefore, AF is often considered asymptomatic. Even if there are symptoms, it is not uncommon to see non-specific symptoms such as lethargy, easy fatigability, exertional dyspnea, and (pre) syncope. Thus, both physicians and patients tend to shift their attention away from AF. Even if patients are asymptomatic, it is important to proactively diagnose AF because AF itself increases the risk of stroke, HF, cardiovascular events, and death.

It is important to take a history related to arrhythmia and perform a pulse check at each medical examination. Patients are advised to measure their blood pressure daily using an automated sphygmomanometer. Physicians might be able to obtain information on AF by merely asking if patients saw a measurement error message on their sphygmomanometer. It is also recommended to record 12-lead ECG at least once a year. If patients complain of palpitations during an outpatient visit, they should be aggressively evaluated using 12-lead ECG. If the symptoms had already resolved, Holter ECG should be considered. However, the results of 24-h Holter monitoring often do not lead to diagnosis. The usefulness of 72-h Holter ECG is also being examined in studies. The use of a non-looping event recorder should be considered in which an electrocardiogram is recorded by the patient pushing a button whenever symptoms are noticed. It is very important to have a mindset that AF is difficult to detect in patients with diabetes.

#### **II. Prevention and Treatment**

# 1. Prevention and Treatment of Macroangiopathies (Coronary Artery Disease and Peripheral Artery Disease) in Patients With Impaired Glucose Metabolism

#### 1.1 Lifestyle Intervention

#### ■ 1.1.1 Physical Activity/Exercise

#### (a) Physical Activity/Exercise as Primary Prevention

#### i. Introduction

In patients with type 2 diabetes, physical activity/exercise improves glycemic control and reduces risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Such exercise includes aerobic exercise, resistance exercise, and their combination. In patients with type 2 diabetes, aerobic exercise and resistance exercise are independently effective for glycemic control and their effectiveness increases when used together.

#### ii. Effectiveness of Exercise Therapy

Physical activity/exercise for type 2 diabetes improves glycemic control<sup>87–92</sup> and reduces cardiovascular disease risk factors, which are obesity,<sup>93</sup> accumulation of visceral

fat, 94.95 IR, 96 dyslipidemia, 94.97-101 hypertension, 93.99.100.102 and chronic inflammation. 101.103 The level of glycemic improvement differs according to intervention duration, intensity, frequency, and type of exercise. When a meta-analysis study was performed on physical activity/exercise of at least 8 weeks (average 3.4 times/week for 18 weeks), significant weight loss was not observed but HbA1c was significantly improved (-0.66%).88

In another meta-analysis study, the effects of physical activity/exercise on cardiopulmonary function in patients with type 2 diabetes were examined. Maximal oxygen consumption significantly increased (11.8%), when individuals performed exercise with average characteristics of approximately 50 min/session, 3–4 sessions/week for 20 weeks. The exercise intensity range was 50–75% of maximal oxygen consumption.<sup>104</sup>

The usefulness of high-intensity interval training is beginning to be shown. A meta-analysis study examined the effectiveness of 2–16-week, high-intensity interval training against metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. The training better improved fasting plasma glucose and HbA1c levels in patients with such disease than in the control group. However, these levels did not significantly improve in the

high-intensity interval training patients compared with patients performing continuous exercise training. The effects of shorter period of high-intensity interval training on longer term glycemic control and safety are unknown, and there is insufficient evidence to clinically implement this therapy.

At present, moderate- to high-intensity aerobic exercise is recommended for at least 150 min/week (at least 3 days/ week with no more than 2 consecutive days between exercise). High-intensity or interval training exercise might be able to produce similar effects within a shorter time (75 min/week) for young individuals or patients with high cardiopulmonary function. 106.107

Evidence has been accumulating on the effectiveness of resistance exercise, which increases muscle mass and strength, and improves IR and glycemic control.87,88,91,92,94 In general, it is recommended that the individual begins with 8–10 types of resistance exercise, involving major muscle groups, with 10–15 repetitions (1 set) performed 2–3 days per week. It is also recommended that the individual gradually increases the intensity or number of sets.<sup>106</sup> A study has compared aerobic exercise, resistance exercise, and their combination and showed that the combination had a more enhanced effect on HbA1c reduction.97,108 Resistance exercise has also been shown to have a noninferior effect on HbA1c reduction compared with aerobic exercise. 109,110 Thus, resistance exercise can be an option for patients such as the elderly, who have difficulty with aerobic exercise. There is evidence of its effectiveness in the elderly, 111 and its more proactive implementation is anticipated.

It has been indicated that weight loss and prognostic improvement can be promoted by not only exercise but also increasing routine daily physical activities (non-exercise activities). There is a large difference in non-exercise activity thermogenesis (NEAT) between obese individuals and individuals with ideal body weight, and this difference has been suggested to have a great effect on the development

of obesity. In addition, mortality rate and cardiovascular disease have been indicated to increase with increasing duration of being seated in daily living. 112 When patients with type 2 diabetes perform light exercise once every 30 min, their postprandial hyperglycemia improves compared with when they remain seated. 113 Individuals are recommended to stand up and engage in light exercise after 30 min in a seated position. Epidemiologically, it has been shown that when patients with diabetes have a higher level of physical activity, including exercise and daily physical activities (non-exercise activities), both the onset of cardiovascular disease onset and all-cause death are lower. 114

#### iii. Medical Evaluation Before Beginning Physical Activity/ Exercise (Medical Checkup)

Before patients start physical activity/exercise, it is important to examine the necessity of restrictions on physical activity/exercise based on their physical condition, including orthopedic disorders and complications such as retinopathy, nephropathy, and neuropathy. 107

Screening for cardiovascular disease is generally unnecessary if patients are asymptomatic and the exercises are of low to moderate intensity (within the extent of non-exercise activities, such as brisk walking). If they are performing exercise of a higher intensity than routine activity or at high-risk of cardiovascular disease, then their primary care physicians should consider screening and exercise stress testing as needed.<sup>115</sup>

If patients have diabetic retinopathy that is or more severe than pre-proliferative retinopathy, they should refrain from activities that involve jumping, have a high impact on their bodies, lowering of the head, and straining and stopping of breath (e.g., Valsalva maneuver). <sup>107</sup> In patients with microalbuminuria, urinary protein levels can transiently increase after exercise but the progression of nephropathy is thought to be unaffected. Instead it has been suggested that a certain level of physical activity can

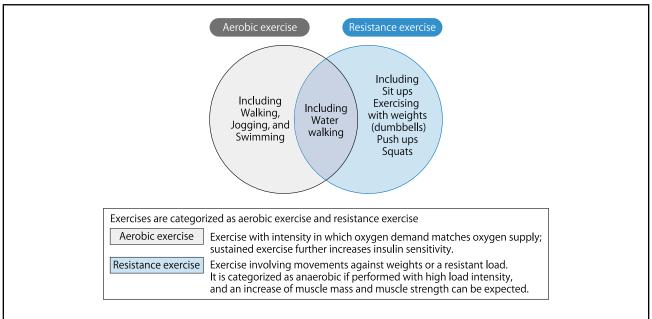


Figure 7. Aerobic exercise and resistance exercise. Reproduced from Essence of diabetes treatment. Japan Council for Promotion of Countermeasures against Diabetes, editor. 2017 edn (in Japanese). http://dl.med.or.jp/dl-med/tounyoubyou/essence2017.pdf

inhibit the onset and progression of nephropathy. Patient guidance to increase physical activities is generally recommended, even in patients with a condition more severe than overt nephropathy. The aim of such guidance is to improve physical function and QOL with exercise, but implementation is based on consideration of each individual. In patients with peripheral neuropathy, caution is required regarding the development of foot ulcer due to physical activities, and proper foot care is needed. Patients with autonomic neuropathy commonly have exercise-induced adverse events for reasons such as reduced circulatory response to exercise stress, orthostatic hypotension, impaired thermoregulation, and impaired vision. Cardiovascular autonomic neuropathy is an independent risk factor of cardiovascular death and silent myocardial infarction, and the implementation of physical activity/exercise depends on its severity.107 If patients have bone or joint disease, there should be coordination with an orthopedic department for appropriate exercises that include flexibility and resistance exercise for affected joints and do not place excessive load.107

#### iv. Specific Types of Physical Activity/Exercise

Physical activity/exercise is divided into aerobic exercise and resistance exercise. Each type of exercise is effective in improving IR and glycemic control. When both types of exercise are performed, glycemic control is expected to further improve. Aerobic exercise is expected to improve endurance, and resistance exercise is expected to increase muscle strength and skeletal muscle mass. Thus, it is advisable to perform both types of exercises (**Figure 7**). <sup>106</sup>

The recommended aerobic exercise is moderate intensity, and the amount is at least 150 min/week and at least 3 days/ week with no more than 2 consecutive days between exercise. The recommended amount of resistance exercise is 2–3 times/week with no consecutive days of exercise. Patients are advised to perform both exercises unless contraindicated, to avoid being routinely in a prolonged seated position, and to engage in light activity at 30-min breaks. <sup>106,107</sup>

#### (1) Aerobic Exercise

The recommended target intensity of aerobic exercise is moderate (40–60% of maximal oxygen consumption) based on risk and effectiveness. The common indices of exercise intensity are heart rate and rating of perceived exertion (RPE), which is represented by a Borg index score (**Table 3**). It is advisable to first implement low-intensity physical activity/exercise and gradually increase the intensity over time. For example, if patients are newly implementing aerobic exercise, they should aim for less intense exercise even within moderate-intensity exercise (50–60% of maximal heart rate; Borg index of 11–12 (approximate intensity=fairly light)). HbA1c is expected to become lower with increasing intensity of exercise. Therefore, as patients

become accustomed to the exercises, a slight increase in intensity can be considered (60–70% of maximal heart rate; Borg index of 12–13 (approximate intensity=somewhat hard); approximately 4–6 metabolic equivalents (METs)) (**Table 4**). However, it is difficult to determine the appropriate exercise intensity using pulse rates in some patients such as those with autonomic neuropathy, the elderly, and patients using an antihypertensive drug ( $\beta$ -blocker).

A meta-analysis of supervised aerobic exercise training showed that HbA1c was reduced more in the group doing at least 150 min/week of exercise compared with the group doing less exercise.<sup>87</sup> Thus, 150 min/week is used as a standard minimum goal for the duration of aerobic exercise. Because insulin sensitivity is increased not only during exercise but for approximately 24–48 h after exercise, the exercise frequency should be at least 3 times per week with no more than 2 consecutive days between exercise. It is desirable to perform exercises for at least 10 min/session but to eventually increase to approximately 10–30 min or more.

Postprandial hyperglycemia has been reported to improve when light aerobic exercise (walking) of 3 min is performed every 30 min after a meal.<sup>113</sup> In addition to incorporating aerobic exercise, patients are advised to minimize as much as possible being seated, to engage in light activity at least once every 30 min, and to increase daily physical activities (non-exercise activities).

#### (2) Resistance Exercise

Generally, a resistance exercise program is first implemented

Table 3. Borg Index and Rating of Perceived Exertion (RPE)								
Index (scale)	RPE Exercise intensi							
20	Maximal exertion	100						
19	Very very hard	95						
18								
17	Very hard	85						
16								
15	Hard	70						
14								
13	Somewhat hard	55 (corresponds to AT)						
12								
11	Fairly light	40						
10								
9	Very light	20						
8								
7	Very very light	5						
6								

AT, anaerobic threshold.

Table 4. Physical Activities Equivalent to 1 Exercise Unit (Ex)									
Exercise Intensity Daily activities (non-exercise)									
Light weight lifting: 20 min	Playing volleyball: 20 min	3 METs	Walking: 20 min						
Golfing: 15 min	Brisk walking: 15 min	4 METs	Bicycling: 15 min	Playing with a child: 15 min					
Light jogging: 10 min	Aerobic exercising: 10 min	6 METs	Walking up and down the stairs: 10 min						
Running: 7–8 min	Swimming: 7–8 min	8 METs	Moving a heavy load: 7-8 min						

with a frequency of 2–3 non-consecutive days per week and 8–10 types of exercise that involve muscles of the upper and lower body. The patients begin with 1 set with a load permitting 10–15 repetitions. The load is gradually increased thereafter and the target is 1–3 sets with a load permitting 8–12 repetitions per set.

#### (3) Practical Physical Activity/Exercise Prescription

Physical activity/exercise is prescribed according to each individual's physical fitness level (endurance and muscle strength), age, complications, and lifestyle. Walking is the most commonly performed aerobic exercise, and a metaanalysis has shown that walking exercise alone improves glycemic control.<sup>93</sup> A pulse rate of 100–120 pulses/min is used as a reference for exercise intensity in individuals aged less than 50 years and less than 100 pulses/min in individuals aged 50 years or older. The perceived intensity should be at the level of "fairly light" when the therapy is first implemented. When a patient becomes used to the exercise, a physician should consider increasing the intensity to the level of "somewhat hard" depending on the patient's condition. The first and last 5 min of the exercise program are warm-up and cool-down periods during which the load is gradually increased and decreased, respectively.

Aerobic exercise is performed with a goal of approximately 150 min/week. A recent study has compared patients who underwent a supervised exercise program using time as a goal and patients who self-managed using pedometer-based steps as a goal. The study showed that physical

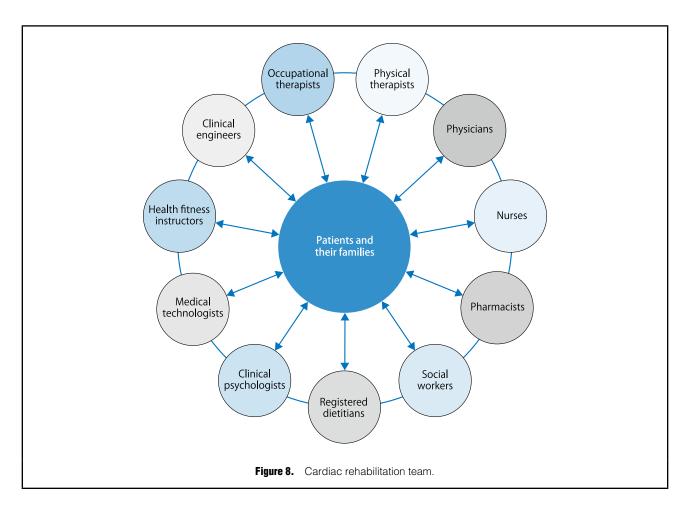
activity/exercise adherence and plasma glucose reduction were superior in the latter patients. <sup>117</sup> A meta-analysis study also showed that the use of a pedometer and an activity tracker was effective in increasing the amount of activity. <sup>118</sup> If the number of steps is used as an index, approximately 15,000 walking steps are equivalent to 150 min of aerobic exercise/week. If the number of steps is equally distributed per day, then the rate of 2,000+ steps/day can be used a goal. Eventually, patients should use a daily total of approximately 8,000 steps as a reference. <sup>119</sup>

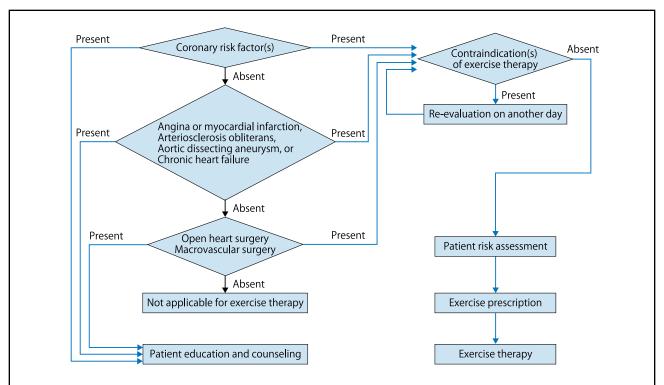
Caution is required in patients using pharmacotherapy, such as insulin or SU, because they are prone to hypoglycemia if they exercise while fasting. Patients are instructed to take a snack for nutritional supplementation if their blood glucose is low before exercising.

For resistance exercise, patients are recommended to use weight machines, free weights, elastic resistance bands (rubber and silicone), or body weight based on their goals. <sup>107</sup> Elderly patients with diabetes are more susceptible to muscle mass loss than patients without diabetes. <sup>120</sup> Thus, resistance exercise is likely be emphasized in aging societies in the future.

## (b) Exercise Therapy as Secondary Prevention i. What Is Cardiac Rehabilitation?

Cardiac rehabilitation is a comprehensive activity program performed with the goals of helping heart disease patients recover their physical fitness, regain their confidence, return to comfortable family and social lives, and prevent





**Figure 9.** Flowchart for exercise therapy prescription. Reproduced from The Japanese Circulation Society guidelines for rehabilitation in patients with cardiovascular disease. 2012 revised edn (in Japanese). p. 23 (figure 1). http://www.j-circ.or.jp/guideline/pdf/JCS2012\_nohara\_h.pdf (accessed Jan. 27, 2020).

recurrence and rehospitalization. The program includes exercise therapy, educational activities, lifestyle guidance, and counseling. When patients have/had HF, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, or heart surgery, the patients' cardiac function has been reduced, or their exercise capacity and their body's regulatory function are decreased due to prolonged rest. They are, therefore, unable to engage in intense activities soon after hospital discharge and can be apprehensive about the safe level of activity.

It is useful to implement appropriate exercise therapy through cardiac rehabilitation to address the aforementioned issues. Cardiac rehabilitation also aims to prevent the progression of atherosclerosis, which causes heart disease, through dietary counseling and smoking cessation intervention. In cardiac rehabilitation, multidisciplinary health professionals are involved, such as physicians with specialized knowledge, physical therapists, nurses, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, medical technologists, occupational therapists, and health fitness instructors. These professionals plan and implement an effective rehabilitation program for an individual patient depending on his/her condition (Figure 8).

#### ii. Evidence for the Effectiveness of Cardiac Rehabilitation

Many reports have shown that cardiac rehabilitation, focusing on exercise therapy, is effective for secondary prevention of ischemic heart disease. <sup>121,122</sup> In 1982, May et al published a meta-analysis of 6 large-scale randomized trials and reported that cardiac rehabilitation can be expected to reduce the mortality rate by 21–32%. <sup>123</sup> In 2011, Heran et al published a systematic review on secondary prevention of CAD, involving 10,794 subjects from 47

studies in the Cochrane database. 124 Cardiac rehabilitation with exercise as the core component reduced all-cause death by 18% in 6–12 months and by 13% in 1 year or more. Cardiac rehabilitation also reduced cardiovascular death by 26% in 1 year or more and rehospitalization by 31% within 12 months.124 After treatment for acute coronary syndrome had greatly advanced, van Halewijn et al<sup>125</sup> performed a meta-analysis of 18 randomized controlled trials on cardiovascular prevention and rehabilitation, involving 7,691 individuals and published between 2010 and 2015. Although all-cause death was not reduced, cardiovascular death was reduced by 58%, myocardial infarction by 30%, and cerebrovascular disease by 60%. All-cause death was reduced by 37% in patients who underwent comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation, which included the management of at least 6 risk factors. 125 Dibben et al performed a meta-analysis of 40 randomized controlled trials and reported that cardiac rehabilitation increased physical activity.126 Therefore, comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation is considered essential to prolong the healthy lifespan of patients with heart disease.

Comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation, which improves various coronary risk factors, is particularly effective as secondary prevention in patients with type 2 diabetes. Exercise therapy has been reported to improve IR, IGT, and postprandial hypoglycemia. <sup>127–129</sup> A retrospective study of PCI from 1994 to 2010 in Olmsted County (Minnesota) in the USA with a median follow-up of 8.1 years showed that via cardiac rehabilitation patients with diabetes were able to reduce all-cause death by 44% and the composite endpoint of death, myocardial infarction, or revascularization by 23%. The patients without diabetes were able to

reduce all-cause death by 33% and cardiac death by 33% via cardiac rehabilitation. 130 Therefore, patients with diabetes can expect a reduction in mortality rate similar to that of patients without diabetes. However, in that study there was a significantly lower percentage of patients with diabetes who participated in cardiac rehabilitation (38%) compared with patients without diabetes (45%). 130 Cardiac rehabilitation is said to be less prevalent in Japan than in Europe or the USA. Thus, in Japan, it is necessary to increase its prevalence to improve vital prognosis and QOL of patients with diabetes and heart disease.

#### iii. Practical Cardiac Rehabilitation

In Japan, the "Guidelines for rehabilitation in patients with cardiovascular disease" were first developed in 2012 and they include basic strategies and outline their implementation. <sup>122</sup> The Japanese Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation has released on its website a standard program for myocardial infarction in the acute and recovery phases (2013), and one for HF (2017) to maintain the quality of care in cardiac rehabilitation. Each institution is encouraged to refer to the guidelines and implement standard programs to promote cardiac rehabilitation.

Figure 9 is a flowchart of implementing exercise therapy after evaluation of its indications, contraindications, and risks in healthy individuals and patients with cardiovascular disease. For specific exercise prescriptions, the "Exercise Standards for Health Promotion 2006" were developed by the Study Group for the Formulation of Recommended Exercise Allowance and Exercise Guide funded by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The "Exercise Guidelines for Health Promotion 2006" promote the widespread use of such exercises. The Exercise Guide 2006 established a unit for the amount of exercise, "exercise: Ex (METs×exercise duration)". In the guide, the goal is to perform exercise of at least 23 Ex per week to prevent lifestyle-related disease. At least 4 Ex should be active exercising, such as playing sports. **Table 4** shows the amount of exercise equivalent to 1 Ex.

It is generally necessary to have an exercise prescription for exercise therapy in heart disease patients. The 5 components of an exercise prescription are (1) exercise type, (2) exercise intensity, (3) exercise duration, (4) exercise frequency, and (5) repeat prescription based on increased physical activity level.<sup>121</sup> Training comprises warm-up, endurance exercise, resistance training, additional exercises such as recreational activities, and cool-down. It is recommended that endurance training be performed 3–5 times/week and complementary resistance training be performed 2–3 times/week.<sup>122,131</sup>

Exercise prescription is based on the results of a symptom-limited, multistage stress test using a treadmill or bicycle ergometer. It is also useful to measure anaerobic threshold (AT) and maximal oxygen consumption assessed by expiratory gas analysis as well as ECG, heart rate, blood pressure response. 121 The exercise intensity used for aerobic exercise is at the AT or less and 50–70% of maximal oxygen consumption (equivalent to 40–60% of maximal heart rate). 132 In Japan, an exercise stress test with expiratory gas analysis (cardiopulmonary stress test) is widely used, and exercise prescription is commonly based on the heart rate when the AT is reached (AT prescription). 121 Exercise intensity equivalent to a Borg index of 11–13 is recommended in prescriptions that are not based on heart rate (Table 3). 121,122 Recently, the effectiveness of resistance

training in addition to aerobic exercise has attracted attention. Muscle training is safe and effective when performed repeatedly using 60–80% of the maximum muscle strength. Exercise therapy is recommended in which resistance training is added to aerobic exercise and is performed as a part of comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation. <sup>121,122</sup>

## 1.1.2 Smoking Cessation and Nutritional, Dietary, and Weight Management

#### (a) Smoking Cessation

Many epidemiological studies have shown the causal relationship between smoking and macroangiopathies. Many studies in Japan and other countries have indicated their causal relationship in patients with diabetes alone. 133,134 A recent meta-analysis study<sup>135</sup> of prospective cohort studies showed that smoking is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease even when based only on patients with diabetes. The relative risk was particularly high in patients with PAD (relative risk for total cardiovascular diseases: 1.44, 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.34–1.54; for CAD: 1.51, 95% CI: 1.41–1.62; PAD: 2.15, 95% CI: 1.62–2.85). Many cohort studies and their meta-analyses have indicated that smoking cessation subsequently lowers the cardiovascular risk. 136,137 Past smokers have been shown to have a higher risk of CAD. However, the point estimate of hazard ratio did not change after adjusting for weight change before and after smoking cessation in individuals who recently stopped smoking (within the past 4 years). Thus, even if individuals temporarily gain weight due to smoking cessation, it does not mean that this weight gain causes an increase in the risk of CAD.137 Smoking cessation should be prioritized despite the temporary weight-gain risk.

A meta-analysis of Japanese epidemiological studies showed that smoking is associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes. <sup>138</sup> Patients with prediabetes are strongly recommended to avoid smoking also from the standpoint of preventing the macroangiopathy risk increased by diabetes onset.

Although there is no clear evidence on the hazard of e-cigarettes (including heated tobacco), their use is not recommended, at least in non-smokers.

#### (b) Nutrition and Diet

Diabetes and prediabetes are both risk factors for macroangiopathy. The Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) studies have shown that a program focusing on weight loss reduced the risk of diabetes in individuals with prediabetes. 15,139 In the Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) study, glycemic control improved in patients with diabetes who underwent an intervention focusing on weight loss. 140 Based on these results, patients with diabetes and prediabetes are recommended to practice proper weight management via exercise and diet. Specifically, for obese patients in Japan, a 3% loss from the current weight is thought to be appropriate as the target weight loss. In the aforementioned Look AHEAD study, a weight-loss focused intervention was performed in adult patients with type 2 diabetes who were overweight or obese (intervention group). However, the intervention group and the control group did not differ in the rate of cardiovascular events (cardiovascular death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, and hospitalization for angina). This trial was stopped at the interim analysis (hazard ratio: 0.95, 95% CI: 0.83–1.09).<sup>140</sup> One of the reported reasons for the lack of difference was that the intervention group had poor adherence to weight

management.

The Steno-2<sup>141</sup> trial and the Japan Diabetes Complications Study<sup>142</sup> were randomized controlled trials in patients with type 2 diabetes that compared comprehensive therapeutic intervention and conventional therapy on modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease. They found that in the comprehensive therapeutic intervention group the incidence of cardiovascular events was lowered compared with the conventional therapy group. However, in the Japan Diabetes Optimal Integrated Treatment study for 3 major risk factors of cardiovascular diseases (J-DOIT3), patients with type 2 diabetes and conventional therapy and those with comprehensive therapeutic intervention showed no significant difference in the frequency of the primary outcome (myocardial infarction, stroke, revascularization, or all-cause death) (hazard ratio: 0.81, 95% CI: 0.63–1.04, P=0.094).143 The comprehensive intervention group had significantly more smokers than the conventional therapy group at baseline. When analysis was performed adjusting for predetermined factors, including smoking, the comprehensive intervention group had a significantly lower frequency of the primary outcome (hazard ratio: 0.76, 95% CI: 0.59–0.99, P=0.042). Another reason for the insignificant difference in the primary analysis could have been a statistical power that was lower than expected. There has been a yearly decline in complication frequencies among patients with diabetes as a whole, which could have resulted in the lower statistical power.

A significant relationship has been reported between reduction of cardiovascular events and several dietary patterns, including the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet144 and the Mediterranean diet.145 Although these diets were not designed as antidiabetic measures, their effectiveness has been reported in patients with pre-diabetes146 and diabetes.147 However, there has been no agreement of opinion on the recommended percentages of macronutrients in patients with diabetes. In particular, there is conflicting information on the effectiveness of a low carbohydrate diet. Although a low carbohydrate diet is thought to improve glycemic control, at least in the short term, this diet might not be beneficial in the long term. A recent study has shown that a low carbohydrate diet is associated with increased mortality, an association similar to that of a high carbohydrate diet.148

Intakes of fats and saturated fatty acids are lower in Japan than in Europe or the USA. The Dietary Reference Intakes for Japanese (2020 edn)<sup>149</sup> has established a total fat intake of 20–30 energy percent as appropriate in adults, which is lower than that in the US dietary guidelines (25– 35 energy percent). 150 There is insufficient basis for a stricter intake level in patients with diabetes. As with other nutrients, the intake level of fats should be based on the individual's pathological condition and preferences. However, one should be mindful about the quality of fats when increasing the percentage of dietary fat. The target intake of saturated fatty acids is recommended to be ≤7 energy percent. There is insufficient evidence that a large intake of n-3 fatty acids (such as EPA and DHA) reduces the risk of diabetes or the risk of cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes. Thus, a target intake has not been established for n-3 fatty acids.

In elderly patients with diabetes, sarcopenia prevention needs to be considered when their nutritional intake is examined. Sarcopenia is defined by the loss of skeletal muscle mass related to advancing age and either loss of muscle strength or decline in physical function.<sup>151</sup> Studies have suggested an association between cardiovascular disease and sarcopenia. In the UK, it has been reported that sarcopenia, particularly sarcopenia obesity (sarcopenia combined with obesity or high body fat), increased the risk of death from cardiovascular disease and the risk of allcause death. 152 A cross-sectional study in South Korea has shown relationships between a high Framingham risk score and sarcopenia, and between a high score and sarcopenia obesity.<sup>153</sup> For prevention and inhibition of sarcopenia development, the "Guidelines for the Management of Sarcopenia 2017" recommended, in addition to exercise, appropriate nutritional intakes - in particular, a daily protein intake of at least 1.0 g/1 kg (ideal body weight). This intake amount has been indicated to be potentially effective for sarcopenia prevention.<sup>151</sup> If patients also have kidney disease, then the aforementioned intake obviously conflicts with management recommendations for kidney disease. Thus, the individual patient's condition should be considered when setting priorities.

Evidence from the Japan Diabetes Complications Study indicated that excessive intake of dietary sodium increases the risk for cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes, particularly those with poor glycemic control,<sup>154</sup> but another study had a contradictory result.<sup>155</sup> Therefore, there is no clear basis to establish a special reference for dietary sodium intake for patients with diabetes. The target sodium intakes in the Dietary Reference Intakes for Japanese are used: <7.5 g/day for men, <6.5 g/day for women, and <6.0 g/day for patients with hypertension or with nephropathy more severe than overt nephropathy.

Guidelines are being revised based on new findings, including those mentioned above. The "Japanese clinical practice guidelines for diabetes 2019" includes revised methods for establishing total energy intake, macronutrient intake amounts, and percentages of energy from macronutrient intakes. For long-term sustainable and effective dietary therapy, it is necessary to flexibly establish total energy intake and the percentage of energy from each macronutrient intake and to change them as needed. Such an approach can be based on the patient's physical activity level, pathological condition, and complications, or based on test results, body weight/composition changes, and the patient's preferences.

#### (c) Summary

This chapter outlined lifestyle management to prevent macroangiopathies in patients with impaired glucose metabolism. Such lifestyle management includes smoking cessation and nutritional, dietary, and weight management. **Table 5** presents a summary.

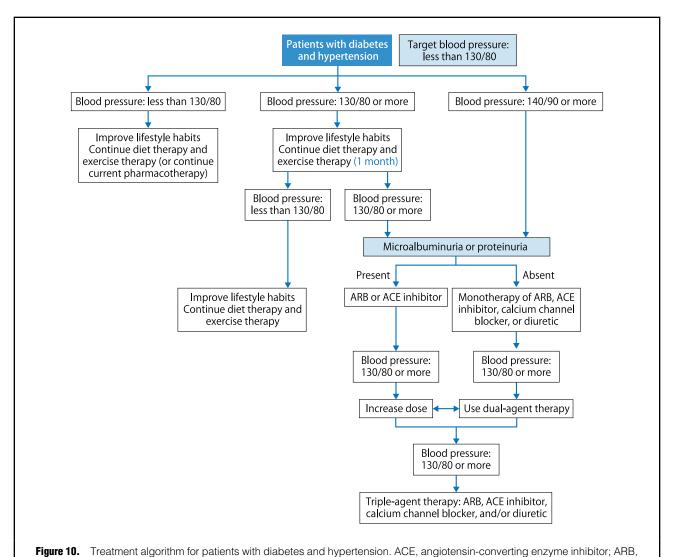
#### 1.2 Pharmacotherapies

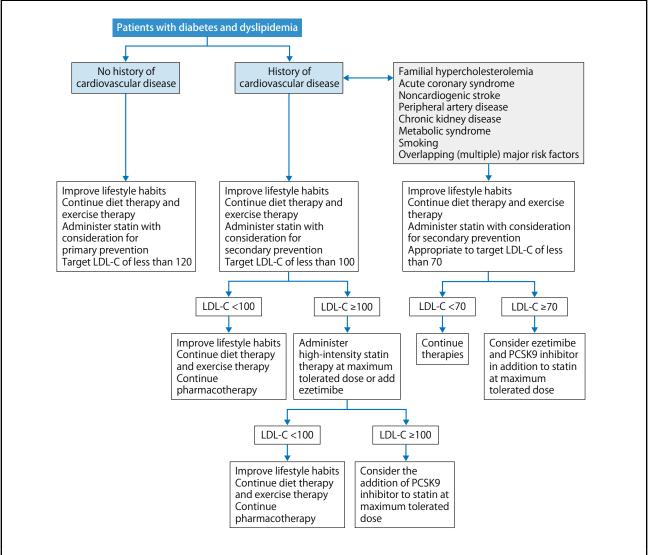
#### 1.2.1 Antidyslipidemic, Antihypertensive, and Antiplatelet Drugs

#### (a) Pharmacotherapy for Hypertension

Hypertension is more frequently seen in patients with diabetes than patients without diabetes. When patients with diabetes also have hypertension, the risks of macroangiopathy and death have been shown to increase. <sup>156</sup> In addition, the risk of diabetic microangiopathy increases with hypertension. <sup>157</sup> Therefore, management and treatment of hypertension are very important in patients with diabetes. Treatment of hypertension is begun at blood pressures of

Table 5. Lifestyle Management (Smoking Cessation and Dietary Management) for Macroangiopathy Prevention in Patients With Impaired Glucose Metabolism							
Smoking		Smoking cessation is strongly recommended.     New use of e-cigarettes (including heated tobacco) is not recommended, at least in non-smokers.					
Dietary therapy Body weight		<ul> <li>In obese patients, the immediate target weight loss is 3% of the current weight, which is achieved through exercise and diet.</li> <li>Caution is required for sarcopenia and sarcopenia obesity.</li> <li>Target weight and total energy intake are established with consideration of various factors, including age, obesity level, physical activity level, and pathological condition.</li> </ul>					
	Dietary pattern	DASH diet and Mediterranean diet have been reported to be effective in patients with diabetes.     There is no conclusion on the recommended percent energy intakes from macronutrients.					
	Fats	Although there is insufficient evidence, the following can be used as a reference:     Percent energy intake from fat: 20–30%     From saturated fatty acids: ≤7%     If the percent energy intake from fat exceeds 25%, then consideration is made about the fatty acid composition.					
	Dietary salt	Patients with hypertension and patients with nephropathy more severe than overt nephropathy: <6.0 g/day Other patients: <7.5 g/day for men and <6.5 g/day for women.					





**Figure 11.** Treatment algorithm for patients with diabetes and dyslipidemia (hyper-low-density lipoprotein cholesterolemia). LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

≥130/80 mmHg in patients with diabetes. Hypertension is initially addressed by weight control through nutritional and dietary counseling, exercise therapy focusing on aerobic exercise, sodium intake reduction to 6g/day, and improvement of lifestyle habits such as smoking cessation. If the target blood pressure of less than 130/80 mmHg is not achieved after 1 month, then pharmacotherapy is considered. There is a higher risk for stroke in Japan than Europe or the USA. Thus, the target systolic blood pressure of less than 130 mmHg has been established, based on the results of the ACCORD-BP trial.¹58

Patients with diabetes are first tested for microalbuminuria (≥30 mg/g Cr) or proteinuria before the selection of the antihypertensive drug. If present, an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor (which is a renin–angiotensin system (RAS) inhibitor) or angiotensin-receptor blocker (ARB) is first considered. If absent, then a RAS inhibitor, calcium-channel blocker (CCB), or low-dose thiazide diuretic is considered as monotherapy. RAS inhibitors have been demonstrated in many studies to have not only

an antihypertensive effect, but also a renoprotective effect, insulin-sensitizing effect, and inhibitory effect on new-onset diabetes<sup>159–162</sup> (Figure 10). If the antihypertensive effect of these first-line drugs is insufficient, dual therapy is used, consisting of a RAS inhibitor, CCB, and/or low-dose thiazide diuretic. 163-165 If there is still inadequate blood pressure control, triple therapy is used. If the patient has renal dysfunction, there is the option of RAS monotherapy with an increased dose. However, hypertension is insufficiently controlled by antihypertensive monotherapy in many patients with diabetes and hypertension. A combination of ACE inhibitor and ARB is not recommended because it does not reduce cardiovascular events compared with an ACE inhibitor or ARB alone. Instead, this combination therapy increases adverse events such as hypotension and hyperkalemia.<sup>166</sup> Aliskiren, a direct renin inhibitor, causes excessive hypotension, hyperkalemia, and renal dysfunction. Therefore, it is contraindicated in patients with diabetes currently using an ACE inhibitor or ARB. 167 Organ protective effects are not as clear with  $\alpha$ -blockers as

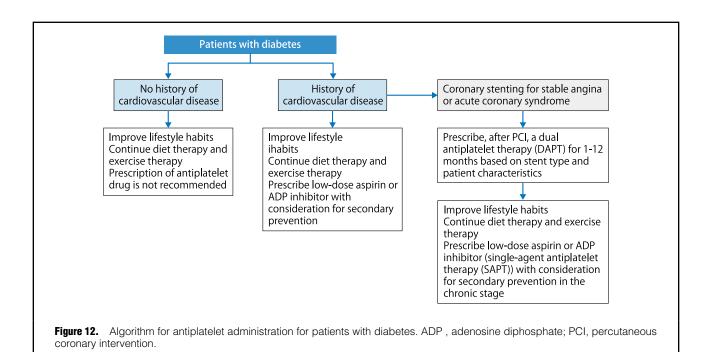
with other drugs, and  $\beta$ -blockers increase IR and elevate triglycerides. These agents are not first-line drugs for patients with diabetes, except in special cases where they also have tachycardia or HF.

#### (b) Pharmacotherapy for Dyslipidemia

Patients with diabetes are prone to dyslipidemia, such as hyper-LDL-cholesterolemia, hypo-HDL-cholesterolemia, and hypertriglyceridemia. 168 LDL-C is the strongest risk factor for macrovascular diseases in patients with diabetes. 169,170 When Japanese patients with type 2 diabetes without a history of cardiovascular disease were analyzed in the Japan Diabetes Complications Study, LDL-C was the strongest risk factor for CAD. 170 Others have examined the relationship between cardiovascular disease onset and HDL-C and between the onset and triglycerides, reporting that hypo-HDL-cholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia increased the onset of macroangiopathy.<sup>171</sup> These results, however, are not in agreement with other results,169 and there is no consensus. Hypertriglyceridemia and hypo-HDLcholesterolemia can be risk factors for microvascular diseases, including retinopathy, nephropathy, and neuropathy. 172,173

The "Japan Atherosclerosis Society guidelines for prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases 2017" have established therapeutic target levels for lipid control in patients with diabetes based on the presence/absence of a history of CAD (Figure 11). Such patients receive lifestyle guidance, including dietary guidance, exercise therapy, and smoking cessation guidance, after which pharmacotherapy is considered.<sup>174</sup> If individuals are primary prevention patients with diabetes but without a history of CAD, they are considered high-risk and their therapeutic target of LDL-C is <120 mg/dL. On the other hand, if individuals are secondary prevention patients with a history of CAD, their target of LDL-C is <100 mg/dL. However, the target of LDL-C can be <70 mg/dL, if the individual has familial hypercholesterolemia, has had onset of acute coronary syndrome or has diabetes and a high-risk condition such as noncardiogenic stroke, PAD, CKD, metabolic syndrome, overlapping (multiple) major risk factors, and smoking.

The standard treatment is a statin.<sup>175</sup> The meta-analysis in the CTT Collaboration study showed that statin administration for dyslipidemia reduced LDL-C by 39 mg/dL, resulting in s reduction of major cardiovascular events by 21%.176 The LDL-C reduction via statin resulted in a significant risk reduction of CAD even in patients with diabetes without high LDL-C.<sup>177</sup> When statin therapy is used for dyslipidemia in patients with diabetes, it is effective in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and improving vital prognosis regardless of age, CAD history, and type of diabetes (1 or 2). Therefore, statins are recommended as the first-line drug for such patients. The FIELD trial was conducted with patients with type 2 diabetes and showed that fenofibrate administration significantly reduced nonfatal myocardial infarction by 24%.<sup>178</sup> In addition, fenofibrate was associated with significantly less progression of diabetic retinopathy and diabetic nephropathy. In a meta-analysis, fibrates were associated with a significant 16% reduction of cardiovascular events.<sup>179</sup> In the SHARP trial, ezetimibe was administered to patients who had renal dysfunction and were using statins. It found that cardiovascular events were reduced regardless of whether or not the patients had diabetes. 180 In the IMPROVE-IT trial, ezetimibe was added to simvastatin therapy in high-risk patients, including those with diabetes, and major cardiovascular events were reduced by approximately 6.4%. These events were reduced by 14.4% in the subanalysis of patients with diabetes. 181 In a high-risk group with target LDL-C level <70 mg/dL, PCSK9 inhibitors should be used to aggressively reduce LDL-C. This high-risk group includes patients with diabetes and familial hypercholesterolemia. 182 In such cases, it is necessary to prescribe the maximum tolerated dose of statin beforehand, except when contraindicated. It should be noted that PCSK9 inhibitors have recently been found to exacerbate diabetes. 182



#### (c) Antiplatelet Drugs

Low-dose aspirin reduces cardiovascular events by 20–30% in patients at high risk for cardiovascular disease. 183 In Japan, low-dose aspirin has also been shown to reduce CAD in a secondary prevention trial of CAD. 184 Antiplatelet therapy, including low-dose aspirin therapy, has been established as effective in secondary prevention of CAD in patients with type 2 diabetes. For primary prevention, however, it has not been shown to be effective for significant risk reduction of cardiovascular events based on the results of large-scale clinical trials and their meta-analysis. 185 The Japanese Primary Prevention of Atherosclerosis with Aspirin for Diabetes (JPAD) trial found that cardiovascular death was significantly reduced in a group with low-dose aspirin use than without, but low-dose aspirin did not significantly reduce the risk of other cardiovascular events. 186 The group with low-dose aspirin use also tended to have a higher occurrence of serious bleeding events. Thus, low-dose aspirin use has not been recommended for patients with type 2 diabetes without a history of cardiovascular disease. However, it can be useful for primary prevention of cardiovascular events in a subgroup of patients with type 2 diabetes<sup>186–188</sup> (Figure 12).

It has been reported that clopidogrel is more effective in secondary prevention of cardiovascular events in patients with type 2 diabetes compared with low-dose aspirin. <sup>189</sup> However, future studies are necessary to establish the maintenance dose. Cilostazol has been reported to significantly increase the walking distance in patients with diabetes and PAD, and to be effective in secondary prevention of stroke in Japanese patients with type 2 diabetes. <sup>190,191</sup>

#### 1.2.2 Antidiabetic Drugs

Microangiopathy incidence is reduced by decreased blood glucose (HbA1c), but there is no consensus on the relationship between the reduction in macroangiopathy incidence and blood glucose (HbA1c) reduction.<sup>4,192–195</sup> There is consensus on avoiding hypoglycemia and implementing long-term, comprehensive therapeutic interventions for prevention of macroangiopathies in patients with impaired glucose metabolism.<sup>2,196–198</sup> When physicians examine the options for antidiabetic therapy for primary and secondary prevention of macroangiopathies, they should evaluate the patient's age, duration of diabetes, comorbidities, and complications. In addition, they should carefully consider the drug's pharmacological characteristics and cardiovascular effects, as well as the results of clinical trials (**Table 6**).

This section will describe the evaluation indices for intervention effectiveness, focusing on the prevention of hard endpoints (noted as 3P-MACE or cardiovascular events). These endpoints consist of cardiovascular death, stroke, and myocardial infarction.

#### (a) Biguanide

In Europe and the USA, biguanide (metformin) is recognized as a first-line drug to treat diabetes. One reason is that it is medically economical. Metformin can be expected to reduce macroangiopathy risk in obese patients with diabetes. It is important to note that results for metformin are from trials in Europe and the USA, where the pathophysiology of diabetes and metformin doses differ from those in Japan.

In recent years, several cardiovascular outcome trials have been conducted for antidiabetic drugs and have demonstrated that the addition of some novel antidiabetic drugs to metformin therapy is effective in the high-risk group for cardiovascular events. However, it is unknown whether metformin monotherapy is more effective in the reduction of macroangiopathy risk compared with novel antidiabetic drugs. A meta-analysis study has been conducted on past clinical trials from which subgroups of metformin and placebo (or non-pharmacotherapy) groups were extracted. There tended to be reduced risks of cardiovascular outcomes (all-cause death, cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, and PAD), excluding stroke. However, no significant difference in risk reduction was observed between the metformin and placebo groups. 199

#### (b) Thiazolidinediones

There is certain evidence that pioglitazone prevents macroangiopathies in patients with impaired glucose metabolism who also have high IR and a high cardiovascular risk. When pioglitazone and SU were compared, pioglitazone showed a significantly higher rate of regression and a significantly lower rate of progression of surrogate markers for arteriosclerosis, such as coronary artery plaque and carotid IMT.<sup>200,201</sup> Pioglitazone is thought to be an antidiabetic drug with an anti-arteriosclerotic effect, but caution is required as it can exacerbate HF.

#### (c) Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors

Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors regulate postprandial hyperglycemia, and are useful in the prevention of macroangiopathies, including myocardial infarction, in patients with IGT (mainly in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease group). However, in patients with type 2 diabetes, no evidence has been established that  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors reduce macroangiopathies, improve vital prognosis,  $^{202,203}$ are effective in a secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease, or have a class effect.

#### (d) DPP-4 Inhibitors

At present, DPP-4 inhibitors have not been demonstrated to reduce the macroangiopathy risk in patients with type 2 diabetes and a high-risk for cardiovascular disease, but because their safety has been shown, they can be useful for early intervention for long-term prevention of macroangiopathy in the primary prevention group.

#### (e) GLP-1 Receptor Agonists

Cardiovascular outcome trials of GLP-1 receptor agonists have had differences in study design, such as drug characteristic differences (e.g., short-acting vs. long-acting and once a day vs. once a week). Thus, GLP-1 receptor agonists have not shown consistent results, including by individual outcome type (**Table 6**). When meta-analysis results are examined, including results as of June 2019, <sup>204,205</sup> GLP-1 receptor agonists can be useful in the reduction of 3P MACE in high-risk patients with type 2 diabetes for cardiovascular disease (particularly patients with previous cardiovascular disease) and in the reduction of individual types of cardiovascular outcomes (cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, and stroke).

#### (f) SGLT2 Inhibitors

It has been suggested that SGLT2 inhibitors can be useful to prevent 3P-MACE in patients with type 2 diabetes and a high-risk for cardiovascular disease (particularly patients with previous cardiovascular disease).

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	STOP- NIDDM (Acar- bose)	ACE (Acar- bose)	PROactive (Piogli- tazone)	IRIS (Piogli- tazone)	SAVOR- TIMI 53 (Saxa- gliptin)	EXAMINE (Alogliptin)	TECOS (Sita- gliptin)	CARME- LINA (Lina- gliptin)	ELIXA (Lixisena- tide)	LEADER (Liraglu- tide)	PIONEER 6 (Oral Semaglu- tide*)
No. of patients	1,429	6,522	5,238	3,876	16,492	5,380	14,671	6,979	6,068	9,340	3,183
Median follow-up duration, years	3.3 (mean)	5.0	2.9 (mean)	4.8	2.1	1.5	3.0	2.2	2.1	3.8	1.3
Key eligibility	IGT	IGT and CAD	T2D with previous CVD	IR and recent stroke/TIA	T2D with high-risk for CVD	T2D with recent ACS	T2D with previous CVD	T2D with high-risk for CVD and kidney events	T2D with recent ACS	T2D with high-risk for CVD	T2D with high-risk for CVD
Mean age, years	55	64	62	64	65	61 (median)	66	66	60	64	66
Prior CVD, %	5	100	100	100	79	100	100	57	100	81	85
Prior heart failure, %	-	4	_	_	13	28	18	27	22	14	12
Mean eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	-	88 (median)	_	ı	73 (mL/min)	71 (median)	75	55	76	80	74
Mean baseline HbA1c, %	_	5.9	7.8	5.8	8.0	8.0	7.2	7.9	7.7	8.7	8.2
Insulin use, %	0	0	34	_	41	30	23	58	39	45	61
Metformin use, %	0	0	62	_	70	66	82	55	66	76	77
Statin use, %	-	93	45	82	78	90	80	72	93	72	_
RAAS inhibitor use, %	-	59	_	55	54 (ACEi) 28 (ARB)	82	79	81	85	83	_
Outcomes (HR [95%CI])											
MACE**	0.51 [0.28– 0.95]	0.95 [0.81– 1.19]	0.84 [0.72– 0.98]	0.76 [0.62– 0.93]	1.00 [0.89– 1.12]	0.96 [1.16] <sup>††</sup>	0.99 [0.89– 1.11]	1.02 [0.89– 1.17]	1.02 [0.89– 1.17]	0.87 [0.78– 0.97]	0.79 [0.57– 1.11]
CV death	0.55 [0.05– 6.11]	0.89 [0.71– 1.11]	_	-	1.03 [0.87– 1.22]	0.85 [0.66– 1.10]	1.03 [0.89– 1.19]	0.96 [0.81– 1.14]	0.98 [0.78– 1.22]	0.78 [0.66– 0.93]	0.49 [0.27– 0.92]
Myocardial infarction	0.09 [0.01– 0.72]	1.12 [0.87– 1.46]	0.83 [0.65– 1.06]	0.75 [0.52– 1.07]‡‡	0.95 [0.80– 1.12]	1.08 [0.88– 1.33]	0.95 [0.81– 1.11]	1.12 [0.90– 1.40]	1.03 [0.87– 1.22]	0.86 [0.73– 1.00]	1.18 [0.73– 1.90]
Stroke	0.56 [0.10– 3.07]	0.97 [0.70– 1.33]	0.81 [0.61– 1.07]	0.82 [0.61– 1.10]	1.11 [0.88– 1.39]	0.91 [0.55– 1.50]	0.97 [0.79– 1.19]	0.91 [0.67– 1.23]	1.12 [0.79– 1.58]	0.86 [0.71– 1.06]	0.74 [0.35– 1.57]
All-cause death	-	0.98 [0.81– 1.19]	0.96 [0.78– 1.18]	0.93 [0.73– 1.17]	1.11 [0.96– 1.27]	0.88 [0.71– 1.09]	1.01 [0.90– 1.14]	0.98 [0.84– 1.13]	0.94 [0.78– 1.13]	0.85 [0.74– 0.97]	0.51 [0.31– 0.84]
Hospitalization for heart failure	-	0.89 [0.63– 1.24]	1.41 [1.10– 1.80]§§	_!!!!	1.27 [1.07– 1.51]	1.07 [0.79– 1.46]	1.00 [0.83– 1.20]	0.90 [0.74– 1.08]	0.96 [0.75– 1.23]	0.87 [0.73– 1.05]	0.86 [0.48– 1.55]
Composite renal endpoints	-	0.81 [0.54– 1.23]	_	_	1.08 [0.88– 1.32]	_	_	0.98 [0.82– 1.18]	_	0.78 [0.67– 0.92]	-

\*Unapproved in Japan as of June 2019. †Pooled data from CANVAS and CANVAS-R. ‡eGFR 30–90 mL/min/1.73 m² and UACR 300–5,000 mg/g. \$lschemic etiology for heart failure. "Statin or ezetimibe. ¶lncluding sacubitril/valsartan. \*\*Composite (CAD, CV death, heart failure, cerebrovascular event, and peripheral vascular disease) in STOP-NIDDM, stroke or myocardial infaction in IRIS, 4-point MACE in ELIXA, and 3-point MACE in other trials. ††Upper boundary of the one-sided repeated CI. ‡Effect on ACS including myocardial infarction and unstable angina. \$\$Serious heart failure including hospitalization for heart failure. \*\*\*Hospitalization for heart failure or urgent visit. ACEi, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ACS, acute coronary syndrome; ARB, angiotensin II receptor blocker; CI, confidence interval; CAD coronary artery disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; GI, glucosidase inhibitor; GLP-1RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; IR, insulin resistance; HFrEF, heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; HR, hazard ratio; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events; NT-proBNP, NT N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide; RAAS, renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system; SGLT2, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2; TIA, transient ischemic attack; T2D, type 2 diabetes; UACR, urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio.

(Table 6 continued the next page.)

	GLP-1RA	0				s	GLT2 inhibit	or	
	SUSTAIN-6 (Semaglu- tide*)	EXSCEL (Exenatide)	HARMONY (Albiglu- tide*)	REWIND (Dulaglutide)	EMPA-REG OUTCOME (Empa- gliflozin)	CANVAS Program <sup>†</sup> (Cana- gliflozin)	DECLARE- TIMI 58 (Dapa- gliflozin)	CREDENCE (Cana- gliflozin)	DAPA-HF (Dapa- gliflozin)
No. of patients	3,297	14,752	9,463	9,901	7,020	10,142	17,160	4,401	4,774
Median follow-up duration, years	2.1	3.2	1.6	5.4	3.1	2.4	4.2	2.6	1.5
Key eligibility	T2D with high-risk for CVD	T2D with high-risk for CVD	T2D with previous CVD	T2D with high-risk for CVD	T2D with previous CVD	T2D with high-risk for CVD	T2D with high-risk for CVD	T2D with CKD‡	HFrEF with elevated NT-proBNP
Mean age, years	65	62 (median)	64	66	63	63	64	63	66
Prior CVD, %	83	73	100	31	99	66	41	50	56§
Prior heart failure, %	24	16	20	9	10	14	10	15	100
Mean eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	71	76 (median)	79	75 (median)	74	77	85	56	66
Mean baseline HbA1c, %	8.7	8.0	8.7	7.3	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.3	_
Insulin use, %	58	46	59	24	48	50	41	66	_
Metformin use, %	73	77	74	81	74	77	82	58	-
Statin use, %	73	74	84	66	77	75	75 <sup>  </sup>	69	_
RAAS inhibitor use, %	84	80	49 (ACEi) 33 (ARB)	81	81	80	81	>99	941
Outcomes (HR [95%CI])									
MACE**	0.74 [0.58– 0.95]	0.91 [0.83– 1.00]	0.78 [0.68– 0.90]	0.88 [0.79– 0.99]	0.86 [0.74– 0.99]	0.86 [0.75– 0.97]	0.93 [0.84– 1.03]	0.80 [0.67– 0.95]	_
CV death	0.98 [0.65– 1.48]	0.88 [0.76– 1.02]	0.93 [0.73– 1.19]	0.91 [0.78– 1.06]	0.62 [0.49– 0.77]	0.87 [0.72– 1.06]	0.98 [0.82– 1.17]	0.78 [0.61– 1.00]	0.82 [0.69– 0.98]
Myocardial infarction	0.74 [0.51– 1.08]	0.97 [0.85– 1.10]	0.75 [0.61– 0.90]	0.96 [0.79– 1.15]	0.87 [0.70– 1.09]	0.85 [0.69– 1.05]	0.89 [0.77– 1.01]	_	_
Stroke	0.61 [0.38– 0.99]	0.85 [0.70– 1.03]	0.86 [0.66– 1.14]	0.76 [0.62- 0.94]	1.18 [0.89– 1.56]	0.90 [0.71– 1.15]	1.01 [0.84– 1.21]	_	-
All-cause death	1.05 [0.74– 1.50]	0.86 [0.77– 0.97]	0.95 [0.79– 1.16]	0.90 [0.80– 1.01]	0.68 [0.57– 0.82]	0.87 [0.74– 1.01]	0.93 [0.82– 1.04]	0.83 [0.68– 1.02]	0.83 [0.71– 0.97]
Hospitalization for heart failure	1.11 [0.77– 1.61]	0.94 [0.78– 1.13]	0.85 [0.70– 1.04] <sup>¶¶</sup>	0.93 [0.77– 1.12]***	0.65 [0.50– 0.85]	0.67 [0.52– 0.87]	0.73 [0.61– 0.88]	0.61 [0.47– 0.80]	0.70 [0.59– 0.83]
Composite renal endpoints	0.64 [0.46– 0.88]	-	-	0.85 [0.77– 0.93]	0.61 [0.53– 0.70]	0.60 [0.47– 0.77]	0.53 [0.43– 0.66]	0.66 [0.53– 0.81]	0.71 [0.44– 1.16]

#### (g) Summary

When selecting an antidiabetic drug, physicians need to examine the results accumulated from clinical trials to determine whether the drug's action is appropriate for an individual patient's pathophysiology, and to carefully consider the risk of hypoglycemia and the evidence on prevention of complications.

In recent years, based on the results of cardiovascular outcome trials, GLP-1 receptor agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors have become second-line drugs after metformin in patients with diabetes at high risk for arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease in the USA.  $^{\!206}$  In Europe, these drugs are also recommended in the aforementioned high-risk patients as second-line drugs after metformin and as firstline drugs in patients naïve to any antidiabetic drugs.<sup>207</sup> Because there are racial and pathophysiological differences between Japanese patients and European or American patients, there is insufficient evidence on the effects of these drugs on cardiovascular events in Japanese patients. Thus, no conclusion has been reached on whether these 2 drugs should be similarly recommended in Japan. Further evidence needs to be accumulated to determine which antidiabetic drug should be selected in which type of patient and with what timing, and whether they are effective in preventing cardiovascular events in Japanese patients.

#### 1.3 Coronary Revascularization

Approximately two-thirds of patients with CAD also have impaired glucose metabolism. In the CREDO-Kyoto study in Japan,<sup>208</sup> diabetes was found in over 40% of the patients who underwent PCI. The mortality rate is high in patients with diabetes and CAD.

In the Finnish 7-year follow-up study, 15 the incidence of myocardial infarction was approximately 3.5% and 18.8%, respectively, in patients without and with diabetes, without previous myocardial infarction. The incidence of myocardial infarction was approximately 20.2\% and 45.0\%, respectively, in patients without and with diabetes, with previous myocardial infarction. The shocking result in that study was that coronary death occurred in approximately half of the patients with diabetes and previous myocardial infarction during the 7-year period. A subsequent 18-year follow-up study showed a similar trend.<sup>209</sup> In Japan, there are not many observational studies of prognosis after PCI. However, one follow-up study examined the clinical outcomes after PCI for an average of 12 years.<sup>210</sup> Cardiovascular death occurred in 4.2% and 9.4% of patients without and with diabetes, respectively. When an analysis was performed with corrections involving inclusion of other risk factors, the difference was still significant at P=0.016. When another study examined patients with and without diabetes after CABG, the odds ratio for operative and 30-day mortality was 1.19 (95% CI: 1.03-1.3) in patients with diabetes compared with patients without diabetes.<sup>211</sup>

As described above, prognosis is poor in patients with diabetes who undergo coronary revascularization. Some possible explanations are: patients with diabetes have other risk factors such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, and CKD, and that they often have vascular disease other than CAD. In patients with diabetes, common coexisting coronary lesions are diffuse lesions and calcified lesions, based on their characteristics, and comprise left main CAD and multivessel disease based on the affected vessel(s). Thus, difficulty in treatment is thought to be another factor for

poor prognosis.

### 1.3.1 Coronary Revascularization in Patients With Stable Angina: PCI vs. CABG

As mentioned earlier, the characteristics of patients with diabetes vary and the lesions are often complex. Thus, caution is required when selecting the method of revascularization. Special consideration is necessary because many patients also have CKD, lifestyle disease, and/or low cardiac function.

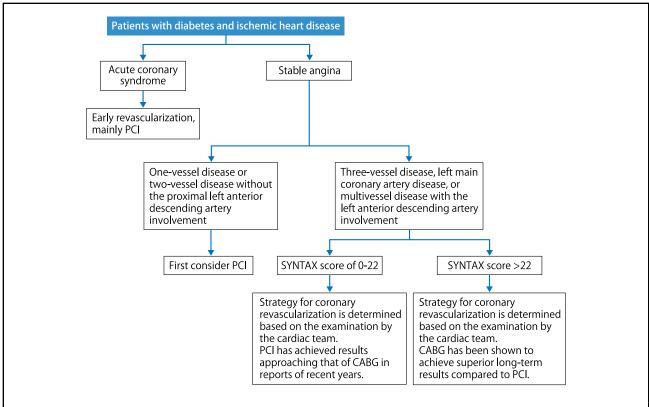
It is appropriate to first consider PCI for 1- or 2-vessel disease without the involvement of the proximal left anterior descending artery. However, CABG has been shown to be useful for 3-vessel disease, left main CAD, and multivessel disease with involvement of the proximal left anterior descending artery.

The BARI study,<sup>212</sup> a 10-year follow-up study, was conducted during the bare metal stent era and examined the 10-year survival after coronary revascularization for multivessel disease. In patients without diabetes, the post-PCI and post-CABG survival did not differ, at slightly less than 80%. In patients with diabetes, the post-PCI and post-CABG survival was approximately 46% and 58%, respectively. This study made evident that patients with coexisting diabetes have worse prognoses when PCI is performed. The subgroup analysis results of the BARI study indicated that the aforementioned trend is marked in patients using insulin.<sup>213</sup>

The FREEDOM study<sup>214</sup> compared coronary revascularization via CABG and that via PCI with a drug-eluting stent (DES) in 1,900 patients with diabetes and multivessel disease. The incidence of the composite endpoint of allcause death, myocardial infarction, or stroke was 26.6% and 18.7% for the PCI group and CABG group, respectively, over a 5-year period (average follow-up: 3.8 years). Thus, CABG yielded a significantly better result. At the 2018 annual meeting, the American Heart Association presented the results of a long-term (8-year) follow-up of the FREEDOM study.<sup>215</sup> The aforementioned trend remained unchanged. When subgroup analysis was performed by age with 63.3 years as the cut off (young and advanced age subgroups), there was a significant difference between PCI and CABG, indicating that the young subgroup was more likely to benefit from CABG over PCI.

The SYNTAX trial<sup>216</sup> compared CABG and PCI using the first-generation paclitaxel DES in patients with 3-vessel disease or left main CAD. Compared with the patients who underwent PCI, the patients who had CABG had significantly (i) reduced all-cause death; (ii) reduced major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events, which is a composite of all-cause death, myocardial infarction, and cerebrovascular disease; and (iii) reduced repeat revascularization during a 1-year follow-up. A subgroup analysis<sup>217</sup> was subsequently performed on patients with diabetes in the SYNTAX trial. There was no significant difference in deaths between the PCI and CABG groups at 1 year after revascularization when the SYNTAX score was ≤32 (lowand moderate-score groups). However, the PCI group had significantly higher mortality compared with the CABG group when the SYNTAX score was ≥33 (high score group), which indicated the presence of complex lesions.

In 2018, the European Society of Cardiology and the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery published their "Guidelines on myocardial revascularization".<sup>218</sup> These indicated the following for patients with



**Figure 13.** Flowchart for coronary revascularization in patients with diabetes. CABG, coronary artery bypass grafting; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention.

diabetes and multivessel disease based on the aforementioned studies and based on comparison between CABG and stenting with everolimus DES.

- (1) Patients with a SYNTAX score of 0–22: CABG with a Class I recommendation (evidence level A), PCI with a Class IIb recommendation (evidence level A)
- (2) Patients with a SYNTAX score >22: CABG with a Class I recommendation (evidence level A), PCI with a Class III recommendation (evidence level A). It should be noted that, in their 2014 guidelines, the recommendation for PCI was Class IIa in patients with a SYNTAX score of 0–22, indicating a downgrading of PCI in the current guidelines.

PCI has long been established as a localized treatment of lesion sites and thought to be ineffective in preventing progression of lesions other than the treated lesion. In contrast, CABG connects a bypass to the distal portion of the normal coronary artery. Therefore, if the bypass can maintain its patency long term, myocardium supplied by that coronary artery should not be prone to progression of myocardial ischemia, even if postoperative progression of stenosis or occlusion occurs in the proximal coronary artery. On the other hand, perioperative complications of CABG have been considered to contribute to worsening of prognosis and it has been thought important to pay particular attention to these complications.

The incidence of cardiovascular events has declined in the current era because of (i) innovation in PCI, including stents, and innovation in CABG; (ii) prevalent use of optimal pharmacotherapy; (iii) use of aggressive lipid-lowering treatment such as with statins, ezetimibe, and PCSK9 inhibitors; and (iv) use of antidiabetic drugs such as pioglitazone, SGLT2 inhibitors, and GLP-1 receptor agonists. However, there still remain issues that need to be examined, including what type of repeat revascularization should be performed on what type of patients and on what type of lesions. In particular, thorough discussion is necessary in cardiac teams, centering around cardiac surgery and cardiology departments (**Figure 13**).

### 1.3.2 Points of Caution Regarding PCI in Patients With Diabetes

Patients with diabetes are more likely to have unstable plaques compared with patients without diabetes,<sup>219</sup> and lipid-rich plaques (portending unstable plaques) have been associated with IR.<sup>220</sup> These results indicate that these patients are more prone to not only acute coronary syndrome but also adverse events such as perioperative myocardial damage in elective cases.<sup>221</sup>

Many patients with diabetes have coexisting CKD, and prevention of contrast-induced nephropathy is important. When patients are using a biguanide antidiabetic drug, discontinuance of this drug should be considered if a contrast agent is to be used.

## 1.3.3 Points of Caution When Performing PCI in Acute Coronary Syndrome Patients With Hyperglycemia at Hospitalization

In acute coronary syndrome, early revascularization of the target vessel(s) is important even for multivessel disease. It is important to note that prognosis has been shown to be negatively affected by hyperglycemia at admission.<sup>222</sup> A

point of caution is that such prognostic decline is seen in not only patients with diabetes but also patients without diabetes. The mechanism is thought to involve abolishment of ischemic preconditioning by hyperglycemia.<sup>223</sup> Prognosis has been shown to improve with nicorandil administration, resulting in K-ATP channel opening, which is considered to cause ischemic preconditioning.<sup>224</sup>

## 2. Prevention and Treatment of Heart Failure in Patients With Impaired Glucose Metabolism

#### 2.1 Lifestyle Intervention

Obesity and diabetes are closely associated with the onset of HF, and HF is one of the important factors in determining the vital prognosis in patients with impaired glucose metabolism.<sup>225-227</sup> In general, the risk of HF is positively correlated with body mass index.<sup>228</sup> This correlation is stronger for HFpEF than HFrEF<sup>229</sup> and is more marked in women than men.<sup>230</sup> Heart failure negatively correlates with the intensity of physical activity.<sup>231,232</sup> Regardless of whether or not individuals have impaired glucose metabolism, preventive effects on HF can be expected from weight loss, exercise therapy, and improved lifestyle habits such as smoking cessation. The use of the "JCS 2017/JHFS 2017 Guideline on Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute and Chronic Heart Failure"<sup>74</sup> is appropriate as a reference for general HF prevention.

The Look AHEAD study examined the effects of intensive lifestyle intervention on cardiovascular events and death in obese patients with type 2 diabetes. This intensive lifestyle intervention aimed for weight loss through calorie intake restriction and increased physical activity. The incidence was not reduced for the composite primary endpoint (cardiovascular death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, or hospitalization for angina), any of these cardiovascular events, or death. However, the hazard ratio for HF was 0.80 (95% CI: 0.62–1.04, P=0.10) for patients with intensive lifestyle intervention compared with those with a conventional intervention. This result was the most improved one among all outcomes. 140 In the same study, subgroup analysis was performed by change in weight and by change in fitness level from baseline to 1 year thereafter. Patients with ≥10% weight loss had a 21% reduced risk of the primary composite endpoint than patients with weight gain or stable weight. Examination was also performed of a secondary composite endpoint consisting of the composite primary endpoint plus CABG, carotid endarterectomy, PCI, hospitalization for congestive HF, PAD, or all-cause death. The patients with weight loss had a 24% reduced risk of the secondary outcome compared with patients with weight gain or stable weight. There was a significant association of increased fitness with risk reduction of the primary and secondary endpoints. In particular, patients whose fitness level improved by ≥2 METs had a 23% risk reduction of the secondary endpoint compared with patients whose fitness declined or was unchanged.233

The Steno-2 trial examined the long-term effectiveness of an intensive multifactorial intervention on cardiovascular events and microvascular events in patients with type 2 diabetes and microalbuminuria. The intervention consisted of improvement of lifestyle habits and stepwise intensified pharmacotherapy for blood pressure, lipid, and blood glucose (HbA1c) control. The Steno-2 trial is a representative study that showed the importance of comprehensive

intervention in patients with diabetes. 141,234,235 Until recently, the effectiveness of intensified multifactorial intervention had not been demonstrated for HF in patients with diabetes. In 2018, a report on the Steno-2 trial showed a 70% reduction in HF hospitalization in patients with type 2 diabetes and microalbuminuria who received an intensive multifactorial intervention for 7.8 years, compared with those who received conventional therapy, during an average follow-up of 21.2 years.<sup>236</sup> The long-term risk for HF has also been shown to increase more with greater increase in the NT-proBNP level in the 2 years after the intervention began. Thus, the importance of biomarker measurement needs to be also emphasized from the standpoint of predicting HF. A clinical trial, J-DOIT3,143 has been conducted on a similar intensive multifactorial intervention but its results did not show a significant difference in the HF incidence between patients with the intervention and those with conventional therapy.

In summary, appropriate weight loss, focusing on improved fitness level and portion control of food, is effective in the risk reduction of cardiovascular events in obese patients with type 2 diabetes. However, direct evidence has not yet been sufficiently established on the effectiveness of such interventions on HF prevention. For treatment of diabetes, a comprehensive intervention needs to be implemented which includes lifestyle intervention and pharmacotherapy for blood pressure, lipid, and blood glucose control. It is highly likely that such comprehensive interventions are also effective in HF prevention.

#### 2.2 Pharmacotherapies

#### 2.2.1 Drugs for Heart Failure

A clinical trial has not yet been reported with only patients with HF and diabetes as the subjects in whom the effectiveness was examined of evidence-based HF therapies using ACE inhibitors, ARBs, and  $\beta$ -blockers. In subgroup analyses of large-scale trials, however, ACE inhibitors and ARB are reported to have similar effectiveness in patients with and without diabetes.<sup>237–239</sup> Beta-blockers have also been reported to have similar effectiveness in patients with and without diabetes.240,241 There are concerns that  $\beta$ -blockers negatively affect glucose metabolism and mask hypoglycemic symptoms. Because  $\beta$ -blockers reduce mortality effectively, they should not be discontinued as a treatment for symptomatic chronic HF (particularly with coexisting myocardial infarction) in patients with diabetes. In addition, the effect on glucose metabolism is not the same for all  $\beta$ -blockers. For example, hypertensive patients with carvedilol administration were reported to have more improved IR and reduced microalbuminuria than those with metoprolol tartrate administration.<sup>242</sup> Thus, drugs that have a small effect on glucose metabolism should be appropriately selected. Such drugs include carvedilol and bisoprolol, which are currently widely used for HF treatment.<sup>243</sup> Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists have also been reported to be effective in patients with diabetes and those without.<sup>244,245</sup> Collectively, there is currently no specific treatment for HF patients with diabetes that differs from the treatment given to those without diabetes. For HF patients with diabetes, drugs with the least effect on glucose metabolism are selected from among the general HF drugs.

#### 2.2.2 Antidiabetic Drugs

#### (a) Therapeutic Goals for Diabetes

There is still debate on whether or not strict glycemic control is effective for preventing/slowing the development/ worsening of HF.<sup>66,195,246,247</sup> Hypoglycemia has been shown to negatively affect the cardiovascular system via various pathways, including inflammation and sympathetic nervous system activation.<sup>248</sup> Therefore, it is appropriate to avoid hypoglycemia and to establish a target for HbA1c control for each drug based on evidence of the drug's effect on HF. In the USA, the target for HbA1c control has been established as <7% in nonpregnant adults with diabetes and HF.<sup>249</sup> This target is the same as in the "Management goals for prevention of complications in patients with diabetes" in the "Treatment guide for diabetes in Japan".<sup>14</sup>

#### (b) Antidiabetic Drugs and Heart Failure

There has been much attention on HF-related outcomes, focusing on hospitalization for HF, in cardiovascular outcome trials using antidiabetic drugs. Described below are the major antidiabetic drugs for which a relationship with HF has been indicated, regardless of whether it be of risk or benefit; and opinions by class based mainly on the results of cardiovascular outcome trials (**Table 6**).

#### i. Thiazolidinediones

Thiazolidinediones are contraindicated in Stage-C symptomatic HF. The main reason is fluid retention due to increased sodium reabsorption in the kidneys, but there has been no report that thiazolidinediones have caused myocardial damage or deterioration of cardiac function. There is limited evidence to restrict the use of thiazolidinediones in Stage-A or B asymptomatic HF. However, their doses need to be adjusted according to fluid retention, including edema, and fluid management needs to be implemented, such as by sodium restriction and diuretic use. Reduction of HF risk can be expected when a thiazolidinedione is used in combination with a SGLT2 inhibitor, <sup>250</sup> but further evaluation is necessary.

#### ii. Biguanide

Biguanide is contraindicated in patients with severe cardio-vascular disorder or severely impaired pulmonary function because of a concern of lactic acidosis. In recent years, a study has shown that a biguanide significantly reduced HF hospitalization and all-cause death in patients with diabetes and HF.<sup>251–255</sup> Therefore, such contraindication has been rescinded in Europe and the USA, and biguanide is considered a first-line drug in patients with diabetes, chronic HF, and stable renal function (eGFR >30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>).<sup>207</sup> However, it is contraindicated in HF with hemodynamic instability, such as acute HF. In Japan, biguanide is, in principle, contraindicated in HF patients because of limited evidence showing its effectiveness in such patients. Its primary prevention effect in HF is a topic for future studies in Japan.

#### iii. Incretin Modulators

The SAVOR-TIMI 53 trial was a cardiovascular outcome trial using a DDP-4 inhibitor, saxagliptin, and showed significantly more hospitalization for HF among patients with type 2 diabetes using saxagliptin than among those using placebo.<sup>256</sup> The EXAMINE trial was conducted in patients with type 2 diabetes and recent acute coronary syndrome and found that more patients using alogliptin

tended to be hospitalized for HF than in the placebo group.<sup>257</sup> In contrast, the TECOS trial found no significant increase in HF hospitalization with sitagliptin use compared with placebo use.<sup>258</sup> The CARMELINA trial also showed that linagliptin did not increase the risk for HF hospitalization compared with a placebo, even in the patient group with high cardiovascular and renal risks,<sup>259</sup> suggesting its safety in this patient population.

GLP-1 receptor agonists did not show a significant effect on HF hospitalization in cardiovascular outcome trials.<sup>260-266</sup> The FIGHT trial examined the use of liraglutide in acute HF patients with HFrEF, and it tended to increase the risk of another episode of HF compared with placebo in patients with coexisting diabetes.<sup>267</sup>

Incretin modulators have little effect on HF, as described above. However, it should be noted that some of these drugs increase the HF risk depending on the patient's pathological conditions. Thus, the use of the drug needs to be examined on an individual basis.

#### iv. SGLT2 Inhibitors

Cardiovascular outcome trials showed the effectiveness of SGLT2 inhibitors (empagliflozin, canagliflozin, and dapagliflozin) for HF prevention in patients with diabetes and a high-risk for cardiovascular disease.<sup>205,268,269</sup> However, 10–15% of the subjects had coexisting HF and there are still many unanswered questions, such as for which HF pathology and at what stage are SGLT2 inhibitors effective and what is their mechanism of action.<sup>270,271</sup>

The DAPA-HF trial was conducted on patients with HF and reduced left ventricular ejection fraction regardless of type 2 diabetes. In the trial, dapagliflozin significantly reduced the worsening of HF, including hospitalization, and cardiovascular death compared with placebo in both patients with and without diabetes. These results suggest the usefulness of SGLT2 inhibitors in HF patients.<sup>272</sup>

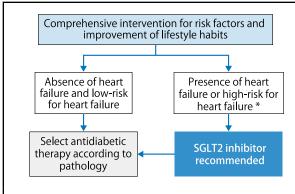
#### v. Other Antidiabetic Drugs

The effectiveness and adverse effects of insulin, SUs, glinides, and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors have not been clearly shown for HF, and thus there are generally no clinical restrictions on their use.

#### 2.2.3 **Summary**

Standard HF drugs are recommended to be used in HF patients with diabetes in a similar way to how they are used in patients without diabetes.

To prevent HF in patients with type 2 diabetes, the use of an SGLT2 inhibitor is recommended in the following cases in addition to comprehensive intervention to reduce risk factors and to improve lifestyle habits: patients with Stage-C or -D symptomatic HF and patients with Stage-B latent HF who have a high-risk for HF (e.g., elevated BNP or NT-proBNP, history of myocardial infarction, or CKD excluding eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m²) (Figure 14). For concomitant use of diuretics, its dose should be adjusted to prevent dehydration. Based on the patient's pathological condition, physicians should select drugs with limited adverse effects on cardiac function and HF for patients with limited indications for SGLT2 inhibitors (due to severe renal dysfunction and concerns of adverse events), and for patients requiring the addition of an antidiabetic drug.



**Figure 14.** Heart failure prevention in patients with diabetes. \*High-risk for heart failure include BNP ≥100 pg/mL or NT-proBNP ≥400 pg/mL; history of myocardial infarction; and chronic kidney disease with estimated glomerular filtration rate ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m². SGLT2, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2.

## 3. Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation in Patients With Impaired Glucose Metabolism

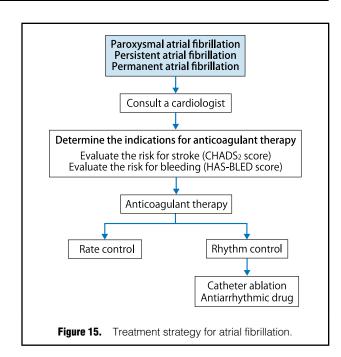
At present, there is insufficient evidence of effective prevention and treatment of AF in patients with diabetes. Atrial fibrillation has been reported to coexist at a high rate in patients with type 2 diabetes.<sup>273</sup> It can cause cardiogenic cerebral embolism and congestive HF, and its coexistence in patients with diabetes is thought to greatly affect both vital prognosis and QOL. Great advances in the treatment of AF have been made in recent years and efforts should be made in early detection AF in patients with diabetes and for implementation of proper treatment.

## 3.1 Treatment Strategy Planning for Atrial Fibrillation

The important point in AF treatment is to prioritize the improvement of correctable pathologies besides the arrhythmia. Such pathologies include hypertension, reduced cardiac function, and ischemia. Until the turn of this century, the goal of AF treatment had been maintenance of sinus rhythm. Since 2000, the results of large-scale clinical trials<sup>274</sup> have been successively published in Europe and the USA and indicated that sinus rhythm maintenance (rhythm control and recurrence prevention) using antiarrhythmic drugs is non-superior to rate control.<sup>275</sup>

In the management of AF, coexistence of cerebral embolism (cardiogenic stroke) requires the most caution. First, determination needs to be made on the implementation of anticoagulant therapy to reduce the risk of cerebral embolism. If anticoagulant therapy is indicated and no contraindication exists, then the therapy can be initiated (**Figure 15**).<sup>275</sup> Thereafter either rhythm or rate control is selected. Even if sinus rhythm is maintained in patients with AF, they will need to continue anticoagulant therapy for life if they have a high-risk for embolism.<sup>276</sup>

The use of rate control does not produce a noninferior prognosis to rhythm control. In fact, rate control is a safer treatment when the side effects of antiarrhythmic drugs are considered. In most cases, paroxysmal AF can change to a persistent or chronic condition, and many patients with



chronic AF achieve satisfactory QOL using only rate control and anticoagulant therapy. However, it is also a fact that there are patients who suffer from uncomfortable subjective symptoms with each recurrent attack of AF.<sup>275</sup> In Japan, the J-RHYTHM study<sup>277</sup> was conducted on patients with paroxysmal AF or persistent AF who were randomly assigned to a rhythm control group or a rate control group and followed up for 3 years. The primary endpoint was a composite of death, symptomatic stroke, systemic embolism, major bleeding, hospitalization for HF, and physical/psychological disability requiring alteration of treatment strategy. Physical/psychological disability requiring alteration of treatment strategy was found to be the most important outcome measure in the treatment of paroxysmal AF, but there was no difference between the 2 groups for deaths and cardiovascular morbidity.<sup>277</sup>

There are serious side effects of the antiarrhythmic drugs used in rhythm control, limiting the long-term outlook of that strategy. Recently, the use of catheter ablation has become more prevalent. There are many specialized institutions in Japan that perform this procedure safely and effectively, due in part to improved tools and techniques. This procedure can be expected to achieve rhythm control not only in paroxysmal but also persistent AF, and reduction of stroke risk and improvement of vital prognosis can be expected.<sup>278</sup> If a diagnosis of AFis made, it is desirable to proactively consult a cardiologist on the indications for catheter ablation before cerebral embolism occurs or the left atrium enlarges.

## **3.2** Indications for and Methods of Anticoagulant Therapy

It is necessary to properly evaluate the risk for bleeding and stroke to determine the indications for and methods of anticoagulant therapy.<sup>275</sup>

#### 3.2.1 Evaluation of Risk for Stroke

In nonvalvular AF patients, it is advisable to evaluate the

Table 7. CHADS₂ Score					
	Risk factor	Score			
С	Congestive heart failure/LV dysfunction	1			
Н	Hypertension	1			
Α	Age ≥75 years	1			
D	Diabetes mellitus	1			
S <sub>2</sub>	Stroke/TIA	2			
	Total	0–6			

LV, left ventricular; TIA, transient ischemic attack. Reproduced from Gage et al. $^{83}$ 

risk for stroke before the selection of antithrombotic therapy. CHADS2 scoring is commonly used in Japan to evaluate the risk for stroke. Valvular AF refers to AF in patients with rheumatic mitral valve disease (mainly stenosis) or an artificial valve (mechanical or bioprosthetic valve). Nonvalvular AF increases the incidence of stroke with the accumulation of stroke risk factors, and CHADS2 scoring (0–6 points) was proposed for the estimation of the stroke risk (Table 7).83 The acronym for this scoring system comes from the first letters of congestive heart failure, hypertension, age ≥75 years, diabetes mellitus, and stroke/transient ischemic attack (TIA) (double weight). One point is given for each of the first 4 conditions, which moderately increase the risk for subsequent stroke. The annual incidence of stroke in patients with 1 of these 4 conditions is 5–8%. Two points are given for a history of stroke/TIA, which highly increases the risk for subsequent stroke. The annual incidence of stroke in patients with a history of stroke/TIA reaches 12%. The CHADS2 score is the sum of the points of these 4 conditions.

This scoring system is simple and useful and should be used first to evaluate the risk for stroke. Half of the patients with nonvalvular AF have a score of 0 or 1 point, and the effectiveness of warfarin has not been established in patients with these scores. The incidence of stroke is lower for patients with 1 point or less than for patients with 2 points or more. However, because the absolute number of patients who score 1 point is large, the absolute incidence of stroke is considerable. This scoring system is good for extracting the high-risk group, but it has a low ability to extract the true low-risk patients. Thus, the problem with this system is that there is a non-negligible number of patients with a score of 0 or 1 point who will have a stroke. The CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc scoring system was developed to extract the low-risk patients, but it is a complicated system and difficult to use. In clinical practice, it is more realistic to use the simpler CHADS2 score while using the CHA2DS2-VASc score as a complementary tool.

#### 3.2.2 Evaluation of Bleeding Risk During Anticoagulant Therapy and Measures for Risk Reduction

The relatively simple HAS-BLED scoring system was proposed to predict bleeding based on various risk factors (**Table 8**).<sup>279</sup> The HAS-BLED score ranges from 0 to 9 points: 0 points for low risk (1-year risk for major bleeding: 1%), 1-2 points for moderate risk (2-4%), and  $\ge 3$  points for high risk (4-6%).<sup>280</sup>

#### 3.2.3 Practical Anticoagulant Therapy

With anticoagulant therapy, if the benefit of reducing stroke risk outweighs the bleeding risk, the therapy should

Table 8. HAS-BLED Score						
	Clinical presentation Points					
Н	Hypertension*1	1				
Α	Abnormal renal/liver function (1 point each)*2	2				
S	Stroke	1				
В	Bleeding*3	1				
L	Labile INR*4	1				
E	Elderly (>65 years)	1				
D	Drugs/alcohol (1 point each)*5	2				
	Total	9				

<sup>\*1</sup>Systolic blood pressure >160 mmHg.

be aggressively used.<sup>275</sup> Patients with diabetes score at least 1 point in the CHADS<sub>2</sub> scoring system due to the presence of diabetes alone, and anticoagulant therapy is indicated in most cases. In clinical practice, some patients with AF are found using an antiplatelet drug, such as aspirin, instead of an anticoagulant. However, aspirin has no preventive effect on stroke in patients with AF and has been shown to increase serious bleeding complications.<sup>281</sup> Antiplatelet drugs should not be used to prevent cerebral embolism in patients with AF.

#### (a) Warfarin

With warfarin therapy, it is recommended that the PT-INR is controlled in the range of 2.0–3.0 in patients aged <70 years and 1.6–2.6 in patients aged ≥70 years. A meta-analysis was performed on 6 randomized controlled clinical trials conducted in Europe and the USA, and showed that warfarin therapy reduced the incidence of stroke by 68% in patients with nonvalvular AF. <sup>282</sup> If warfarin therapy is selected for patients with a CHADS2 score of 0 or 1 point, the therapy cannot be considered appropriate because the stroke prevention benefit does not outweigh the bleeding complication risk. Therefore, warfarin therapy is limited to a "may be considered" category in patients with a CHADS2 score of 1 point (Figure 16).

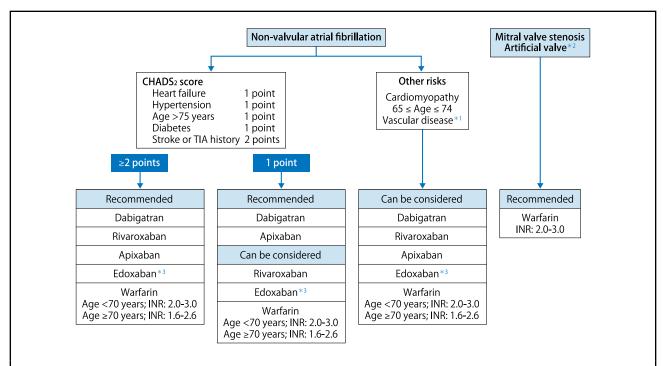
#### (b) Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)

Warfarin had been the only oral anticoagulant in use for nearly 50 years, but dabigatran, a DOAC, came on the market in 2011. There are presently 4 types of DOACs available (**Table 9**). All have shown noninferior safety and effectiveness to warfarin in multiregional phase III clinical trials.<sup>283–287</sup> Because the anticoagulant effect of DOACs is through selective inhibition of thrombin or factor Xa, their effect is minimally or not affected by food. Compared with warfarin, the advantages of the novel DOACs are that they do not require a routine blood test to monitor the effect, do not require frequent dosing adjustment in some patients, have considerably lower rates of intracranial hemorrhage,

<sup>\*2</sup>Abnormal renal function: chronic dialysis or renal transplant; serum creatinine >200 µmol/L (or >2.26 mg/dL). Abnormal liver function: chronic liver disease (such as cirrhosis) or abnormal test results (bilirubin >twice normal upper limit, AST/ALT/ATP >3-fold normal upper limit).

<sup>\*3</sup>History of bleeding or predisposition to bleeding (such as hemorrhagic diathesis or anemia).

<sup>\*4</sup>Labile INR, high INR or time in therapeutic range (TTR) <60%. \*5Concurrent use of antiplatelet or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or alcohol dependence. INR, international normalized ratio. (Reproduced from Pisters et al. *Chest* 2010; **138**: 1093–1100.<sup>279</sup> Copyright (2010) American College of Chest Physicians, with permission from Elsevier.)



**Figure 16.** Anticoagulant therapy for atrial fibrillation. The novel oral anticoagulants are preferable to warfarin if the indications are the same. \*¹History of myocardial infarction, aortic plaque, and peripheral artery disease. \*²Includes mechanical and bioprosthetic valves. \*³Indications not approved by Japanese health insurance as of December 2013. Reproduced from the Guidelines for pharmacotherapy of atrial fibrillation (2013 revised edn), p. 21 (Figure 7). Revised on March 2020 as "JCS/JHRS 2020 guideline on pharmacotherapy of cardiac arrhythmias", and not available now. INR, international normalized ratio; TIA, transient ischemic attack.

have fewer drug interactions, show faster effects, and do not require or require only short-term preoperative bridging with heparin due to their short half-lives. The disadvantages are that they cannot be administered in patients with severely reduced renal function, they rapidly lose their effect if a dose is missed, owing to their short half-lives, they have no fully established measures against major bleeding, and they cost more, placing a higher financial burden on patients. It is important to note that each DOAC has criteria for reduced doses. They are contraindicated in patients with reduced renal function (**Table 9**).

Dabigatran and apixaban are "recommended" even in patients with a CHADS<sub>2</sub> score of 1 point because they have clearly resulted in lower rates of major bleeding and intracranial hemorrhage than warfarin (**Figure 16**).<sup>275,283,286</sup> The ROCKET AF trial<sup>285</sup> and J-ROCKET AF trial<sup>287</sup> were conducted on rivaroxaban, and the ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48 trial<sup>284</sup> on edoxaban. Patients with a CHADS<sub>2</sub> score of 1 were not enrolled in these trials and there are no data for them. Therefore, rivaroxaban and edoxaban "may be considered"<sup>275</sup> in such patients.

#### (c) Anticoagulant Therapy for Dental Extraction and Surgery

The safety for dental extraction under continued antithrombotic therapy has been reported in randomized controlled trials and observational studies. In 2010, 3 Japanese dental societies jointly published the "Scientific Evidence-Based Guidelines for Dental Extraction in Patients with Antithrombotic Therapy". The guidelines recommended that the PT-INR be measured within 72h before dental

extraction and be confirmed to be ≤3.0, with dental extraction subsequently performed under continued warfarin therapy.<sup>289</sup> Although sufficient evidence has not been established for DOACs, it is advisable to perform dental extraction under their continued use following the aforementioned recommendation for warfarin.<sup>275</sup>

For superficial minor surgery, postoperative hemorrhage control is desirable similar to that in dental extraction if such control can be easily performed. Many ophthalmologists perform cataract surgery under continued antithrombotic therapy because a lens is avascular and a patient is not prone to bleeding.<sup>275</sup>

For major surgery, warfarin is discontinued after the patient is hospitalized, and heparin administration is started.<sup>275</sup> The heparin dose is adjusted to an activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) of 1.5-2.5-fold of the control. Heparin is discontinued 4–6h preoperatively, or protamine is used to reverse heparin's effect, which is confirmed preoperatively by APTT measurement. Heparin and warfarin are resumed as soon as possible after surgery, and heparin is subsequently discontinued when the PT-INR is in the therapeutic range. For dabigatran, its use is discontinued 1-2 days preoperatively in patients with creatinine clearance (CCr) of at least 50 mL/min and 2-4 days preoperatively in those with CCr 30-49 mL/min. Preoperative bridging with heparin is used, as needed, 12 h after dabigatran discontinuation. Rivaroxaban and edoxaban are discontinued 24h preoperatively and preoperative bridging with heparin is used, as needed. Apixaban is discontinued 24-48h preoperatively, depending on the bleeding risk, and preoperative bridging with heparin is

Table 9. Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)				
Product name	Pradaxa	Xarelto	Eliquis	Lixiana
Generic name	Dabigatran	Rivaroxaban	Apixaban	Edoxaban
Target factor	Thrombin	Factor Xa	Factor Xa	Factor Xa
Dosage forms	75 mg/110 mg	10 mg/15 mg	2.5 mg/5 mg	15 mg/30 mg/60 mg
Normal daily dose (for nonvalvular atrial fibrillation)	300 mg or 220 mg	15 mg	10 mg	60 mg
Dosing frequency	BID	OD	BID	OD
Criteria for reduced dose	As needed (careful administration with consideration for 110 mg/day BID in the following patients)  • 30≤CCr≤50 mL/min  • Concomitant use of P-glycoprotein inhibitor  • Age ≥70 years  • History of gastrointestinal bleeding	30≤CCr<50 mL/min (except careful administration for patients with 15≤CCr<30 mL/min)	≥2 of the following criteria apply (age ≥80 years, weight ≤60 kg, and/or CCr ≥1.5 mg/dL)	≥1 of the following criteria apply (weight ≤60 kg, 30≤CCr<50 mL/min, and/or concomitant use of P-glycoprotein, except careful administration for patients with 15≤CCr<30 mL/min)
Daily dose for reduced dose	220 mg	10 mg	5 mg	30 mg
Contraindications	CCr <30 mL/min	CCr <15 mL/min	CCr <15 mL/min	CCr <15 mL/min
Other dosage form		Granules		OD tablets
Antidote	Available	None	None	None

CCr (creatinine clearance) is calculated using the Cockcroft-Gault equation.

considered.

With discontinuance of an antithrombotic drug, bridging with heparin is frequently performed due to the short half-life of heparin. Thus, this bridging enables the antithrombotic drug to be continued as long as possible. The heparin dose is adjusted to an APTT of 1.5–2.5-fold of the control. The effectiveness has not been established for bridging with heparin, and dose management should be performed carefully if bridging with heparin.<sup>275</sup>

In 2012, the Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society revised its "Guidelines for Gastroenterological Endoscopy in Patients Undergoing Antithrombotic Treatment".290 The revisions included the following 4 classifications of endoscopic practice by bleeding risk: (1) conventional gastroenterological endoscopy (observation), (2) endoscopic mucosal biopsy (excluding endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration), (3) gastroenterological endoscopy with a low-risk for bleeding (balloon endoscopy; marking; gastrointestinal, pancreatic, and biliary stenting; and endoscopic papillary balloon dilation); and (4) gastroenterological endoscopy with a high-risk for bleeding (including polypectomy and endoscopic mucosal resection). If patients are undergoing endoscopic mucosal biopsy or endoscopy with a low-risk for bleeding and if they are using an anticoagulant or antiplatelet drug, then cessation of the drug is not necessary for the procedure. In 2017, the "Guidelines for Gastroenterological Endoscopy in Patients Undergoing Antithrombotic Treatment: 2017 Appendix on Anticoagulants Including Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)"291 was published. For gastroenterological endoscopy with a high-risk for bleeding, the guidelines stated that DOAC users should continue the drug's use until the day before the procedure and then discontinue it on the morning of the procedure. The guidelines recommended that DOAC use be resumed the morning following the procedure.

If patients using warfarin are to undergo biopsy, PT-INR is measured to confirm that it is in the normal therapeutic

range and then the biopsy is performed. If patients are using a combination of  $\geq 2$  drugs, careful management is necessary depending on the patient, and bridging anticoagulation with heparin is used as a general rule. In gastroenterological endoscopy with a high-risk for bleeding, the drug is temporarily discontinued as for major surgery, and bridging with heparin is performed as needed.

#### 3.3 Indications for and Methods of Rate Control

There is a concern of HF if AF with a high heart rate continues, even without organic heart disease. It is important to maintain a heart rate of ≤130 beats/min during AF to prevent HF. For rate control, a  $\beta$ -blocker, non-dihydropyridine CCB (verapamil or diltiazem), or digitalis is selected. However, rate control using digitalis has been suggested to result in high mortality rates in various studies. Therefore, its use is thought to be limited to cases where the patient's heart rate cannot be controlled using other drugs.<sup>292</sup> A combination of catheter ablation of the atrioventricular node and a pacemaker is selected to achieve rate control in rare cases, such as patients with unsatisfactory rate control using multiple drugs, or patients with unsatisfactory rhythm control using antiarrhythmic drugs or pulmonary vein isolation with catheter ablation. It is desirable to consult a cardiologist on the indications for the combination of catheter ablation of the atrioventricular node and a pacemaker.

#### 3.4 Rhythm Control Using Drugs

Sinus rhythm is preferable to AF because discomfort caused by irregular heartbeat and abnormal tachycardia can be avoided in the former and because a booster effect of atrial contraction on cardiac pumping function can be expected.<sup>275</sup> Its major advantage is that it prevents intra-atrial thrombus formation. However, serious life-threatening side effects can

occur when preventing its recurrence using simple chemical defibrillation, electrical defibrillation, or antiarrhythmic drugs. Thus, a careful examination is necessary.<sup>277</sup> If rhythm control is desirable, it is appropriate to consult a cardiologist and determine the long-term treatment strategy (**Figure 15**). The success rate of catheter ablation for AF has improved and its safety has increased over the years. Therefore, it is thought important to proactively recommend catheter ablation to improve long-term prognosis.

#### **■** 3.5 Catheter Ablation

The success rate of catheter ablation has improved for paroxysmal and persistent AF, and this procedure is rapidly becoming widely used. The "Guidelines for pharmacotherapy of atrial fibrillation (2013 revised edition)" were published by the Japanese Circulation Society. In the guidelines, catheter ablation for paroxysmal AF is given a Class I recommendation in certain patients when the procedure is done at institutions performing at least 50 cases/year of AF ablation. These patients are those with symptoms, AF that is uncontrollable by antiarrhythmic drugs, preserved left ventricular function, left atrial dimension of ≤45 mm, no left intra-atrial thrombus, and aged ≤75 years.<sup>275</sup> Today, a satisfactory outcome can be expected

using catheter ablation not only in patients with paroxysmal AF but also those with a certain level of left atrial enlargement and those with persistent AF.<sup>278</sup> A randomized controlled trial has not yet been conducted that compares catheter ablation and pharmacotherapy alone. However, a number of non-randomized trials have reported that catheter ablation reduced death and stroke.<sup>293</sup> If AF occurs in a patient with diabetes, appropriate anticoagulant therapy should be started and then a timely consultation with a cardiologist on the indications of catheter ablation is desirable.

## 3.6 Points of Caution on Treatment in Patients With Diabetes and AF

Caution is required for the use of cibenzoline among the antiarrhythmic drugs because it can induce a serious hypoglycemic attack. Caution is also required for SU, biguanide, and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor, among the antidiabetic drugs, because they have been reported to potentiate the effect of warfarin. P-glycoprotein inhibitors, associated with the DOAC dose reduction criteria, are not included among the antidiabetic drugs. For rate control, a  $\beta$ -blocker, such as carvedilol or bisoprolol, is selected because it will have a small effect on glucose metabolism.

#### **III. Criteria for Patient Referral**

## 1. Criteria for Patient Referral From a Diabetologist to a Cardiologist

#### **■ 1.1 Criteria for Referral of Asymptomatic Patients**

- (a) Depending on the patient's age and the duration of diabetes, evaluate the coronary risk factors (e.g., smoking, hypertension, dyslipidemia, CKD, family history, and history of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease); and, to the extent they are available at the institution, perform tests such as chest X-ray, ECG, BNP or NT-proBNP measurement, vascular function test, carotid duplex, echocardiography, and unenhanced MDCT (evaluation of coronary artery calcification). Then comprehensively determine whether to refer the patient to a cardiologist using the results or changes over time as a reference. In this process, use as a reference the diagnostic criteria flowcharts for various cardiovascular diseases in this consensus statement. In particular, because patients with diabetes are highly likely to have silent myocardial ischemia, proactively consider a detailed examination by a cardiologist, especially for patients with a long history of diabetes and patients with an accumulation of coronary risk factors.
- (b) Consider a referral to a cardiologist if the aforementioned tests are difficult to perform or unavailable at the institution or the results are difficult to interpret.

#### 1.2 Referral of Symptomatic Patients

(a) Patients with hypertension who have difficulty achieving the target blood pressure

- (b) Patients with ECG changes or chest symptoms suspicious of CAD
- (c) Patients with AF (including asymptomatic) or other arrhythmia (frequent premature ventricular contractions)
- (d) Patients with HF symptoms such as dyspnea and pedal edema; increased cardiothoracic ratio on chest X-ray or pulmonary congestion; or elevated BNP (≥100 pg/mL) or NT-proBNP (≥400 pg/mL)
- (e) Patients with lower limb ischemic symptoms suspicious of arteriosclerosis obliterans or decreased ABI (<0.9) Using the aforementioned criteria as a reference, determine flexibly whether to refer a patient to a cardiologist after considering the patient's characteristics/circumstances, including institutional or regional medical care, and social resource and support systems. After referral, the patient is cotreated by the cardiologist and diabetologist based on the diagnostic results and will continue to undergo treatment for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. If the patient requires a reverse referral from a cardiologist to a diabetologist based on subsequent treatment progress, the cardiologist provides information on relevant cardiovascular disease, including information on necessary subsequent measures.

## 2. Criteria for Patient Referral From a Cardiologist to a Diabetologist

- 2.1 Criteria for Referral of Patients Who Newly Develop Diabetes (Cotreat After Referral or Consider Continuing Diabetes Treatment With a Cardiologist After a Certain Time Period)
- (a) Patients with markedly poor glycemic control (e.g.,

patients with symptoms such as thirst, polyuria, or weight loss; fasting blood glucose ≥250 mg/dL; or casual blood glucose ≥350 mg/dL); or a suspicion of type 1 diabetes (using measures for type 1 diabetes onset such as being positive for urinary ketone bodies; being positive for anti-GAD antibodies; and fasting blood C-peptide ≤0.5 ng/mL)

- (b) Patients who require education on diabetes (information on basic disease concept of diabetes and on other complications of diabetes (nephropathy, retinopathy, and neuropathy))
- (c) Other: test and treatment strategies are unknown

#### 2.2 Criteria for Referral of Patients in Whom Substantial Changes in Diabetes Treatment Are Desirable (Cotreat After Referral or Consider Continuing Diabetes Treatment With a Cardiologist After a Certain Time Period)

- (a) Patients in whom poor glycemic control continues for a certain time period (reference values are HbA1c ≥8.0% in the nonelderly and HbA1c ≥8.5% in the elderly for at least 3 months)
- (b) Patients requiring re-evaluation of diabetes treatment (such as when considering beginning the use of a drug (SU or insulin) with a risk for severe hypoglycemia)
- (c) Patients with acute exacerbation of diabetes or acute complications (steroid use, pancreatic disease/conditions (pancreatic cancer or post-pancreatectomy), rapid exacerbation of blood glucose level due to infection, or acute metabolic failure such as lactic acidosis, hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state, and diabetic ketoacidosis\*)
- (d) Patients who require glycemic control peri- or preoperatively
- (e) Patients who require re-education on diabetes (i.e., basic disease concept of diabetes and other complications of diabetes (nephropathy, retinopathy, and neuropathy)) \*Caution is required in patients using an SGLT2 inhibitor, because even if their blood glucose level is near normal, they can have ketoacidosis (euglycemic ketoacidosis).

#### 2.3 Criteria for Referral of Patients in Whom Continued Diabetes Management by a Diabetologist is Desirable (Also With Consideration of Continued Cotreatment by Both Specialists)

Patients who might have severely depleted endogenous insulin secretion (patients with type 1 diabetes; frequently repeated hypoglycemic episodes; brittle diabetes (marked blood glucose fluctuations); or fasting blood C-peptide ≤0.5 ng/mL; or post-pancreatectomy patients).

Using the aforementioned criteria as a reference, determine flexibly whether to refer a patient to a diabetologist after considering the patient's characteristics/circumstances, institutional and regional medical care, and social resource and support systems.

#### **Acknowledgments**

We appreciate the special assistance given by Mr. Takashi Itakiyo and Ms. Koko Okuda, as well as the office staff of the Japanese Circulation Society and the Japan Diabetes Society in support of this work.

#### Sources of Funding

None.

#### **Disclosures**

H. Ito., T.M., I.K., K.N. are members of the *Circulation Journal*'s Editorial Team.

Disclosure of individual potential conflicts of interest

- (1) Compensation (officers and advisors) 1 million yen or more
- (2) Stock profit 1 million yen or more or holding 5% or more
- (3) Patent fee 1 million yen or more
- (4) Lecturer's fee 500,000 yen or more
- (5) Manuscript fee 500,000 yen or more
- (6) Research expenses and grants 1 million yen or more(7) Scholarship (encouragement) donation 1 million yen or more
- (8) Endowed course 1 million ven or more
- (9) Travel expenses, gifts 50,000 yen or more

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Kenjiro Imai: None to disclose.

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**Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest as Organization**Companies that funded the activities of the Japanese Circulation

Society from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019

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Research Grant

None

Honoring Program
Japan Heart Foundation

Companies that funded the activities of the Japan Diabetes Society from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019

#### **Co-Sponsored Seminar**

ARKRAY, Inc., ARKRAY Marketing, Inc., Asahi Kasei Pharma Corporation., Ajinomoto Co., Inc., ASKA Pharmaceutical Co.,Ltd., Astellas Pharma Inc., AstraZeneca K.K., Abbott Japan LLC., Abbott Vascular Japan Co., Ltd., Alere Medical Co., Ltd., InBody Japan Inc., Welbe, Inc., ARBROWN CO., LTD., EIKEN CHEMICAL CO.,LTD., Eisai Co., Ltd., AEGERION PHARMACEUTICALS K.K., SRL, Inc., MSD K.K., LSI Medience Corporation, OTSUKA PHARMACEUTICAL Co., Ltd., ONO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., KAKEN PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., KISSEI PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., Kyowa Kirin Co., Ltd., Kyowa Medex Co., Ltd, Gilead Sciences, Inc., Kracie Pharmaceutical, Ltd., Covidien Japan Inc., Kowa Company, Ltd., Cosmic Corporation Co., Ltd., Kotobuki pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Sanofi K.K, SANWA KAGAKU KENKŶUSHO CO., LTD., Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Johnson & Johnson K.K., DAIICHI SANKYO CO., LTD, TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., TAISHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, TAKEDA PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY LIMITED, Terumo Corporation, Nikkiso Co., Ltd., Nipro Corporation, ELI LILLY JAPAN K.K., NIPPON BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM CO., LTD., Nippon Becton Dickinson Company, Ltd., Medtronic Japan Co., Ltd., NOVARTIS PHARMA K.K., NOVO NORDISK PHARMA LTD., BAYER YAKUHIN, LTD., Hakubaku Co., Ltd., PFIZER JAPAN INC., FUKUDA COLIN Co.,Ltd., FUKUDA DENSHI CO., LTD., FUJIFILM Pharma Co., Ltd., FUJIFILM Toyama Chemical Co., Ltd., Healthy Network, HORIBA, Ltd., MYLAN EPD G.K., MOCHIDA PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., UNEX corporation, LifeScan Japan, RIZAP GROUP, Inc., Roche DC Japan K.K.

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#### Research Grant

Abbott Japan LLC., MSD K.K., Sanofi K.K, TAKEDA PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY LIMITED, ELI LILLY JAPAN K.K., NIPPON BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM CO., LTD., NOVO NORDISK PHARMA LTD.

#### **Honoring Program**

Sanofi K.K, ELI LILLY JAPAN K.K., NOVO NORDISK PHARMA LTD.

(The company name is as of December 2019.)

#### **Ethical Statement**

This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

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