

Title: Sitagliptin in patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis: A randomized, placebo-controlled trial

Tisha R. Joy, Charles A. McKenzie, Rommel G. Tirona, Kelly Summers, Shannon Seney, Subrata Chakrabarti, Neel Malhotra, Melanie D. Beaton

Correspondence to: Dr. Melanie D. Beaton, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, London Health Sciences Centre, 339 Windermere Road, London, ON, N6A 5A5, Canada. melanie.beaton@lhsc.on.ca

Telephone: +1-519-663-3344

Fax: +1-519-663-3220

Scientific Research Process

1 What did this study explore?

Presently, there is no approved medical therapy for NASH. In this randomized placebo-controlled trial, the effect of sitagliptin on liver fibrosis in patients with NASH after 24 weeks was evaluated. There was no significant improvement with the use of sitagliptin on liver fibrosis, total NAS or its individual components. Similarly, there were no significant improvements in liver enzymes, adipocytokines, lipid profile, thrombosis parameters, or adipose distribution. There was a strong correlation between hepatic fat % measured using the MRI IDEAL technique and hepatic steatosis on liver biopsy.

2 How did the authors perform all experiments?

Experiments were performed in the laboratories of Kelly Summers and Rommel Tirona using recognized and validated experimental techniques.

3 How did the authors process all experimental data?

All experimental data was processed and reviewed by a biostatistician; Larry Stitt of *LW Stitt Statistical Services*, MSc (Statistics)

4 How did the authors deal with the pre-study hypothesis?

The authors evaluated the pre-study hypothesis that sitagliptin would improve liver disease in patients with NAFLD, by randomizing NAFLD patients to treatment with active sitagliptin vs. placebo.

5 What are the novel findings of this study?

This study showed a good correlation between the noninvasive measurement of hepatic steatosis using the MRI IDEAL technique and liver biopsy histology.