

Majority of Type 2 Diabetes Patients in China Yet to Benefit from Latest Generations of Oral Treatment

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Majority of Type 2 Diabetes Patients in China Yet to Benefit from Latest Generations of Oral Treatment

New York, NY, March 1, 2013 - As China's incidence of type 2 diabetes (T2D) continues to climb, research reveals that the country's treating physicians are still prescribing first-generation products in second-line treatment – mainly from the Alpha-Glycosidase Inhibitors (AGI) and Glinides classes. This is in spite of the existence and availability of new-generation treatments such as DPP-IV inhibitors and GLP-1 agonists, which are regularly prescribed for T2D patients in the US. These findings come from the Ipsos Healthcare Global Diabetes Monitor, which tracks usage of diabetes drug treatments in 7 markets.

The research confirms that, although Metformin remains the most-prescribed first-line drug in both markets, a significant disparity arises in second-line treatments; in the US, first-generation drugs from the AGI and Glinides classes have a patient penetration of just 1.3%, yet in China this figure climbs to 37.6%. US patients are instead regularly prescribed the new-generation DPP-IV inhibitors and GLP-1 agonists (49.2% patient penetration for specialists, 34.4% for GPs) – either after, or instead of, Metformin. By contrast, the uptake of these products in China is limited to a small percentage of early adopters (2.7% patient penetration).

Commented Dr Federico Gallo, Director at Ipsos Healthcare:

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“The data clearly reflects a financial reality in China – that whilst first-generation products are likely to be subsidized by the government, newer molecules are not reimbursed. However, action needs to be taken because assessment and acceptance of new-generation drugs is pivotal, offering major advances for patients and reducing longer-term risks. There is also huge opportunity for the pharmaceutical companies that seek to capitalize in this area.”

Ipsos Healthcare’s Monitor also shows that 35.9% of Chinese T2D patients are additionally receiving one or more insulin products, in comparison to 20% of patients in the US (where such products are typically reserved for later-line, harder-to-control patients).

Commenting on the reasons behind this variance, Gallo added:

“AGIs’ and Glinides’ inadequate ability to control the blood sugar content of Chinese patients could be an important contributing factor to the significantly higher prescribing of insulin products, even at early lines of therapy, which are necessary to complement these oral anti-diabetics.”

Ipsos Healthcare’s data also shows that, on average, Chinese diabetes specialists manage c400 T2D patients visiting 14 times per year, versus US endocrinologists who see c1000 T2D patients visiting 5 times per year.

Explained Gallo,

“In all likelihood, Chinese T2D patients are visiting their healthcare professionals more frequently because Chinese reimbursement policy limits the amount of drugs per individual prescription. However, this creates a time burden on specialists treating this chronic disease; renewing prescriptions



for existing patients hinders their ability to diagnose and treat more patients earlier.

“Overall, the opportunities for both early diagnosis and optimally effective treatment of type 2 diabetes in China are being limited. For a disease of such enormous proportions, which also carries the risk of life-threatening complications and associated healthcare expenditure, there is a clear need to modernize the treatment infrastructure. The Chinese authorities are taking steps to introduce a primary care type model, which could help alleviate the former issue, but indications are that completion of this is a long way off.”

About the research

The US research was conducted online in June and July 2012 among 70 Endocrinologists, 200 Primary Care Practitioners and Internal Medicine Specialists, and 1527 type 2 diabetes patients; this sample is representative of the US according to diabetes prevalence. The Chinese research was conducted in May-July 2012, by pen and paper, among 205 Endocrinologists and 3025 type 2 diabetes patients in the 8 major Chinese cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Xi'an, Chengdu, Shenyang and Hangzhou); this sample captures a segment of physicians that tend to be most involved in the treatment of diabetes.

About Ipsos Healthcare's Global Therapy Monitors

Ipsos Healthcare's Global Therapy Monitors comprise the industry's largest portfolio of syndicated patient chart audit data. The suite of global studies tracks usage of treatments across 20+ disease areas, including Metabolics, Oncology, Virology, Autoimmune, Cardiovascular and more. Together, they encompass 4000 physicians reporting on 200,000



patients in 34 markets worldwide. Subscribers to the Global Therapy Monitors can track product usage and maintain a comprehensive understanding of their ever-evolving markets.

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