Product Monograph

Including Patient Medication Information

PrKOMBOGLYZE®

Saxagliptin / Metformin Hydrochloride Tablets

For Oral use

2.5 mg of saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 500 mg of metformin hydrochloride

2.5 mg of saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 850 mg of metformin hydrochloride

2.5 mg of saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 1000 mg of metformin hydrochloride

Combination of oral blood glucose lowering drugs

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Recent Major Label Changes

7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism	2026-04

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Certain sections or subsections that are not applicable at the time of the preparation of the most recent authorized product monograph are not listed.

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Part 1: Healthcare Professional Information

1. Indications

KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets) is indicated to improve glycemic control as an adjunct to diet and exercise in adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who are inadequately controlled on:

- metformin alone
- metformin and a sulfonylurea alone
- metformin and premixed or long/intermediate acting insulin alone

Or in patients already treated with:

- saxagliptin and metformin as separate tablets
- a sulfonylurea in combination with saxagliptin and metformin as separate tablets
- a premixed or long/intermediate acting insulin in combination with saxagliptin and metformin as separate tablets

Note: for additional information on saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride, consult the individual Product Monographs.

1.1. Pediatrics

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

1.2. Geriatrics

Geriatrics (≥65 years of age): Saxagliptin and metformin are eliminated in part by the kidney, and because the risk of serious adverse reactions to the drug is greater in patients with impaired renal function, KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment [estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m^2)] (see 2 Contraindications). As geriatric patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, KOMBOGLYZE should be used with caution as age increases. KOMBOGLYZE treatment should not be initiated in patients ≥80 years of age unless renal function is not reduced. More careful and frequent monitoring of renal function is necessary to aid in prevention of metformin-associated lactic acidosis. See 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism and 10 Clinical Pharmacology.

2. Contraindications

KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets) is contraindicated in:

- unstable and/or insulin-dependent (Type 1) diabetes mellitus.
- acute or chronic metabolic acidosis, including diabetic ketoacidosis, with or without coma, history of ketoacidosis with or without coma. Diabetic ketoacidosis should be treated with insulin.
- patients with a history of lactic acidosis, irrespective of precipitating factors.
- patients with severe renal impairment (eGFR < 30 mL/min/1.73 m^2), end-stage renal disease or in patients on dialysis (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Renal).
- excessive alcohol intake, acute or chronic.

- patients with moderate and severe hepatic impairment. Severe hepatic dysfunction has been associated with some cases of lactic acidosis, KOMBOGLYZE should generally be avoided in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic.
- cases of cardiovascular collapse and in disease states associated with hypoxemia such as cardiorespiratory insufficiency, which are often associated with hyperlactacidemia.
- during stress conditions, such as severe infections, trauma or surgery and the recovery phase thereafter.
- patients suffering from severe dehydration or shock.
- patients who have had a history of any hypersensitivity reaction, including anaphylaxis or angioedema, to saxagliptin or to another DPP-4 inhibitor, metformin or to any ingredient in the formulation (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Sensitivity/Resistance and 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions). For a complete listing, see 6 Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging.
- during pregnancy and breast-feeding. See 7.1.1 Pregnancy and 7.1.2 Breastfeeding.
- patients undergoing radiologic studies involving intravascular administration of iodinated contrast materials, because the use of such products may result in acute alteration of renal function. KOMBOGLYZE should be temporarily discontinued in these patients. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Renal.

3. Serious Warnings and Precautions Box

- Lactic acidosis is a rare, but serious, metabolic complication that can occur due to metformin accumulation during treatment with KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets). See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Lactic Acidosis*.

- Patients should be cautioned against excessive alcohol intake, either acute or chronic, when taking KOMBOGLYZE, since alcohol intake potentiates the effect of metformin on lactate metabolism. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Lactic Acidosis*.

4. Dosage and Administration

4.1. Dosing Considerations

The dosage of antihyperglycemic therapy with KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets) should be individualized on the basis of the patient's current regimen, effectiveness, and tolerability while not exceeding the maximum recommended daily dose of 5 mg saxagliptin and 2000 mg metformin. KOMBOGLYZE is not recommended in patients with an eGFR ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m^2 to <45 mL/min/1.73 m^2 because these patients require a lower dosage of saxagliptin than what is available in KOMBOGLYZE, a fixed dose combination product.

- Concomitant Use with Medication(s) that May Decrease Renal Function:
  Caution should be exercised when using concomitant medication(s) that may decrease renal function (like diuretics, particularly loop diuretics) or may interfere with the disposition of metformin, such as cationic drugs, that are eliminated by renal tubular

secretion, due to the increased risk of developing lactic acidosis during co-administration. See 9 Drug Interactions.

4.2. Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

The following dosage strengths are available:

- 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 500 mg metformin hydrochloride
- 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 850 mg metformin hydrochloride
- 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 1000 mg metformin hydrochloride

Dosing in Special Populations

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

Geriatrics (≥65 years of age): KOMBOGLYZE should be used with caution as age increases because saxagliptin and metformin are eliminated in part by the kidney, and elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function associated with aging and the risk of developing lactic acidosis. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Lactic Acidosis*.

In elderly patients, the initial and maintenance dose should be conservative, and any dose adjustment should be based on careful assessment of renal function. Renal function should be monitored more frequently and generally, patients should not be titrated to the maximum dose. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Renal, 7.1.4 Geriatrics and 10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special populations and conditions, Geriatrics.

Hepatic Impairment: Use of KOMBOGLYZE in moderate to severe hepatic impairment is contraindicated (see 2 Contraindications). Metformin use in patients with impaired hepatic function has been associated with some cases of lactic acidosis (see 7Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism). Therefore, KOMBOGLYZE is not recommended in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease.

Renal Impairment: Use of KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m^2), end-stage renal disease or in patients on dialysis (see 2 Contraindications). Renal function must be assessed prior to initiation of KOMBOGLYZE and periodically thereafter, and more frequent monitoring in patients with eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73m^2 and in geriatric patients. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Renal.

KOMBOGLYZE is not recommended in patients with an eGFR ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m^2 to <45 mL/min/1.73 m^2 because these patients require a lower dosage of saxagliptin than what is available in KOMBOGLYZE, a fixed dose combination product.

Patients inadequately controlled on a maximally tolerated dose of metformin monotherapy: For patients inadequately controlled on metformin alone, the usual starting dose of KOMBOGLYZE should provide saxagliptin dosed as 2.5 mg twice daily (5 mg total daily dose) plus the dose of metformin already being taken.

Patients switching from co-administration of saxagliptin and metformin: For patients switching from saxagliptin co-administrated with metformin, KOMBOGLYZE may be initiated at the doses of saxagliptin and of metformin already being taken.

4.4. Administration

KOMBOGLYZE should be given orally, twice daily with meals, with gradual dose escalation, to reduce the gastrointestinal side effects due to metformin.

4.5. Missed Dose

If a dose of KOMBOGLYZE is missed, the patient should wait for the next dose at the usual time. A double dose of KOMBOGLYZE should not be taken on the same day.

5. Overdose

Saxagliptin

In the event of an overdose, appropriate supportive treatment should be initiated as dictated by the patient's clinical status. Saxagliptin and its major metabolite are removed by hemodialysis (23% of dose over 4 hours).

Metformin hydrochloride

Available information concerning treatment of a massive overdosage of metformin hydrochloride is very limited. It would be expected that adverse reactions of a more intense character including epigastric discomfort, nausea and vomiting followed by diarrhea, drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, malaise and headache might be seen. Should those symptoms persist, lactic acidosis should be excluded. The drug should be discontinued, and proper supportive therapy instituted.

Overdose of metformin hydrochloride has occurred, including ingestion of amounts greater than 50 grams. Hypoglycemia was reported in approximately 10% of cases, but no causal association with metformin hydrochloride has been established. Lactic acidosis has been reported in approximately 32% of metformin overdose cases (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism). Metformin is dialyzable with a clearance of up to 170 mL/min under good hemodynamic conditions. Therefore, hemodialysis may be useful for removal of accumulated drug from patients in whom metformin overdosage is suspected. High overdose or concomitant risks of metformin may lead to lactic acidosis. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency and must be treated in a hospital. The most effective method to remove lactate and metformin is hemodialysis.

For the most recent information in the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669).

6. Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging

Table 1 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, and Composition

Route of Administration	Dosage Form/ Strength/Composition	Non-Medicinal Ingredients
Oral use	Tablet 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride)/500 mg metformin hydrochloride	Magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol, povidone, talc, titanium dioxide, and red iron oxide (2.5 mg/500 mg strength) or a combination of red and yellow iron oxides (2.5 mg/850 mg strength) or yellow iron oxide (2.5 mg/1000

	2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride)/850 mg metformin hydrochloride 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride)/1000 mg metformin hydrochloride	mg strength).

Description

KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets) is available for oral administration as immediate release tablets containing saxagliptin as saxagliptin hydrochloride and metformin hydrochloride in the following formats:

Table 2 – KOMBOGLYZE Tablet Strength and Description

Strength	Description
2.5 mg/500 mg	Pink, biconvex, round, film-coated tablets with “2.5/500” printed on one side and “4245” printed on the reverse side, in blue ink. They are supplied in blisters of 10 x 6 tablets.
2.5 mg/850 mg	Light brown to brown, biconvex, round, film-coated tablets with “2.5/850” printed on one side and “4246” printed on the reverse side, in blue ink. They are supplied in blisters of 10 x 6 tablets.
2.5 mg/1000 mg	Pale yellow to light yellow, biconvex, oval shaped, film-coated tablets with “2.5/1000” printed on one side and “4247” printed on the reverse side, in blue ink. They are supplied in blisters of 10 x 6 tablets

7. Warnings and Precautions

See 3 Serious Warnings and Precautions Box.

Cardiovascular

Saxagliptin
Patients with Congestive Heart Failure: In a post-market placebo-controlled cardiovascular outcomes trial (SAVOR), hospitalization for heart failure occurred at a greater rate in the saxagliptin group (3.5%) compared to the placebo group (2.8%) [HR =1.27; 95% confidence interval 1.07, 1.51]. In the SAVOR trial, 2105 (12.8%) patients had a history of congestive heart failure, of whom 1056 were randomized to saxagliptin treatment. Caution is warranted if KOMBOGLYZE is used in patients with history of congestive heart failure (especially in those patients who also have renal impairment and/or history of myocardial infarction [MI]). During therapy with KOMBOGLYZE, patients should be observed for signs and symptoms of heart failure. Patients should be advised of characteristic symptoms of heart failure, and to immediately report such symptoms. If heart failure develops, discontinue KOMBOGLYZE and manage according to current standards of care. See 8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions, Post-Marketing, Cardiovascular Safety

Metformin hydrochloride

Hypoxic States: Cardiovascular collapse (shock), from whatever cause, acute congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction and other conditions characterized by hypoxemia have been associated with lactic acidosis and may also cause prerenal azotemia. When such events occur in patients on KOMBOGLYZE therapy, the drug should be promptly discontinued.

Driving and Operating Machinery

Patients should be warned about driving a vehicle or operating machinery under the conditions where risk of hypoglycemia is present. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism.

Endocrine and Metabolism

Metformin hydrochloride
Lactic Acidosis: KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with a history of lactic acidosis (see 2 Contraindications). Lactic acidosis is a rare, but serious, metabolic complication that can occur due to metformin accumulation during treatment with KOMBOGLYZE; when it occurs, it is fatal in approximately 50% of cases. Lactic acidosis may also occur in association with a number of pathophysiologic conditions, including diabetes mellitus, and whenever there is significant tissue hypoperfusion and hypoxemia. Lactic acidosis is characterized by elevated blood lactate levels (>5 mmol/L), decreased blood pH, electrolyte disturbances with an increased anion gap, and an increased lactate/pyruvate ratio. When metformin is implicated as the cause of lactic acidosis, metformin plasma levels >5 µg/mL are generally found.

The reported incidence of lactic acidosis in patients receiving metformin hydrochloride is very low (approximately 0.03 cases/1000 patient-years, with approximately 0.015 fatal cases/1000 patient-years). In more than 20,000 patient-years exposure to metformin in clinical trials, there were no reports of lactic acidosis. Reported cases have occurred primarily in diabetic patients with significant renal insufficiency, including both intrinsic renal disease and renal hypoperfusion, often in the setting of multiple concomitant medical/surgical problems and multiple concomitant medications.

Patients with congestive heart failure requiring pharmacologic management, in particular those with unstable or acute congestive heart failure who are at risk of hypoperfusion and hypoxemia, are at increased risk of lactic acidosis. The risk of lactic acidosis increases with the degree of renal dysfunction and the patient's age. The risk of lactic acidosis may, therefore, be significantly decreased by regular monitoring of renal function in patients taking metformin and by use of the minimum effective dose of metformin. In particular, treatment of the elderly should be accompanied by careful monitoring of renal function. Metformin treatment should not be initiated in patients ≥80 years of age unless measurement of creatinine clearance demonstrates that renal function is not reduced, as these patients are more susceptible to developing lactic acidosis.

In addition, metformin should be promptly withheld in the presence of any condition associated with hypoxemia, dehydration, or sepsis. Because impaired hepatic function may significantly limit the ability to clear lactate, metformin should generally be avoided in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease.

Patients should be cautioned against excessive alcohol intake, either acute or chronic, when taking metformin, since alcohol potentiates the effects of metformin hydrochloride on lactate metabolism. In addition, metformin should be temporarily discontinued prior to any intravascular radiocontrast study and for any surgical procedure. See 2 Contraindications.

The onset of lactic acidosis often is subtle and accompanied only by nonspecific symptoms such as malaise, myalgias, respiratory distress, increasing somnolence, and nonspecific abdominal distress. There may be associated hypothermia, hypotension, and resistant bradyarrhythmias with more marked acidosis. The patient and the patient's physician must be aware of the possible importance of such symptoms and the patient should be instructed to notify the physician immediately if they occur. Metformin should be withdrawn until the situation is clarified. Serum electrolytes, ketones, blood glucose, and if indicated, blood pH, lactate levels, and even blood metformin levels may be useful. Once a patient is stabilized on any dose level of metformin, gastrointestinal symptoms, which are common during initiation of therapy, are unlikely to be drug related. Later occurrence of gastrointestinal symptoms could be due to lactic acidosis or other serious disease.

Levels of fasting venous plasma lactate above the upper limit of normal, but less than 5 mmol/L, in patients taking metformin do not necessarily indicate impending lactic acidosis and may be explainable by other mechanisms, such as poorly controlled diabetes or obesity, vigorous physical activity, or technical problems in sample handling.

Lactic acidosis should be suspected in any diabetic patient with metabolic acidosis lacking evidence of ketoacidosis (ketonuria and ketonemia).

Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency that must be treated in a hospital setting. In a patient with lactic acidosis who is taking metformin, the drug should be discontinued immediately, and general supportive measures promptly instituted. Because metformin hydrochloride is dialyzable (with a clearance of up to 170 mL/min under good hemodynamic conditions), prompt hemodialysis is recommended to correct the acidosis and remove the accumulated metformin. Such management often results in prompt reversal of symptoms and recovery. See 2 Contraindications, 7 Warnings and Precautions, Cardiovascular, 7 Warnings and Precautions, Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic and 7 Warnings and Precautions, Renal.

Physicians should instruct their patients to recognize the symptoms which could be a signal of the onset of lactic acidosis. If acidosis of any kind develops, KOMBOGLYZE should be discontinued immediately.

- *Patients with known or suspected mitochondrial diseases:* In patients with known mitochondrial diseases such as Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy with Lactic Acidosis, and Stroke-like episodes (MELAS) syndrome and Maternally Inherited Diabetes and Deafness (MIDD), metformin is not recommended due to the risk of lactic acidosis exacerbation and neurologic complications which may lead to worsening of the disease.

  In case of signs and symptoms suggestive of MELAS syndrome or MIDD after the intake of metformin-containing products including KOMBOGLYZE, immediate withdrawal of KOMBOGLYZE should be considered and prompt diagnostic evaluation should be performed.

Change in clinical status of previously controlled Type 2 diabetes patients: A type 2 diabetic patient previously well controlled on KOMBOGLYZE who develops laboratory abnormalities or clinical illness (especially vague and poorly defined illness) should be evaluated promptly for evidence of ketoacidosis or lactic acidosis. Evaluation should include serum electrolytes and ketones, blood glucose and, if indicated, blood pH, lactate, pyruvate and metformin levels. If acidosis of either form occurs, KOMBOGLYZE must be stopped immediately, and appropriate corrective measures initiated. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Lactic Acidosis*.

Loss of control of blood glucose: When a patient stabilized on any diabetic regimen is exposed to stress such as fever, trauma, infection, or surgery, a temporary loss of glycemic control may

occur. At such times, it may be necessary to withhold KOMBOGLYZE and temporarily administer insulin. KOMBOGLYZE may be reinstituted after the acute episode is resolved.

Vitamin B_{12} levels: Metformin commonly reduces vitamin B_{12} serum levels which may result in clinically significant vitamin B_{12} deficiency. The risk of low vitamin B_{12} levels increases with increasing metformin dose, treatment duration, and/or in patients with risk factors known to cause vitamin B_{12} deficiency.

In controlled clinical trials of metformin of 29-week duration, a decrease to subnormal levels of previously normal serum vitamin B_{12} levels, without clinical manifestations, was observed in approximately 7% of patients. Such decrease, possibly due to interference with B_{12} absorption from the B_{12}-intrinsic factor complex, is, however, very rarely associated with anemia and appears to be rapidly reversible with discontinuation of metformin or vitamin B_{12} supplementation. Measurement of hematologic parameters on an annual basis is advised in patients on KOMBOGLYZE and any apparent abnormalities should be appropriately investigated and managed. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests.

Certain individuals (those with inadequate vitamin B_{12} or calcium intake or absorption) appear to be predisposed to developing subnormal vitamin B_{12} levels. In these patients, routine serum vitamin B_{12} measurements at 2- to 3-year intervals may be useful.

Serious cases of peripheral neuropathy have been reported with metformin treatment in the context of vitamin B_{12} deficiency. See 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions.

Metformin therapy should be continued for as long as it is tolerated and not contraindicated and appropriate corrective treatment for vitamin B_{12} deficiency provided in line with current clinical guidelines.

Hypoglycemia: Hypoglycemia does not occur in patients receiving metformin alone under usual circumstances of use, but could occur in elderly, debilitated, or malnourished patients, those with adrenal or pituitary insufficiency or when caloric intake is deficient, when strenuous exercise is not compensated by caloric supplementation, or during concomitant use with alcohol.

A lower dose of sulfonylurea or insulin may be required to reduce the risk of hypoglycemia when used in combination with KOMBOGLYZE. See 8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions.

Hypoglycemia may be difficult to recognize in the elderly, and in people who are taking β-adrenergic blocking drugs.

The patients should be warned about driving a vehicle or operating machinery under these conditions where risk of hypoglycemia is present. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Driving and Operating Machinery.

Hypothyroidism: Metformin induces a reduction in thyrotropin (thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)) levels in patients with treated or untreated hypothyroidism. Regular monitoring of TSH levels is recommended in patients with hypothyroidism. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests.

Studies have shown that metformin reduces plasma TSH levels, often to subnormal levels, when it is administered to patients with untreated hypothyroidism or to hypothyroid patients effectively treated with levothyroxine. The metformin-induced reduction of plasma TSH levels is not observed when metformin is administered to patients with normal thyroid function. Metformin has been suggested to enhance the inhibitory modulation of thyroid hormones on TSH secretion.

Levothyroxine can reduce the hypoglycemic effect of metformin. Careful monitoring of blood glucose levels is recommended in patients with hypothyroidism treated with levothyroxine, especially when thyroid hormone therapy is initiated, changed, or stopped. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests and 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions, Levothyroxine.

Use with Potent CYP 3A4 Inducers: Using CYP3A4 inducers like carbamazepine, dexamethasone, phenobarbital, phenytoin, and rifampin may reduce the glycemic lowering effect of saxagliptin. See 9 Drug Interactions.

Hematologic

Metformin hydrochloride
Serious cases of metformin-induced hemolytic anemia, some with a fatal outcome, have been reported (see 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions). Two mechanisms were described for the metformin-induced immune hemolytic anemia: formation of an antibody against the erythrocyte metformin complex, and autoantibody formation. Monitoring of hematologic parameters is recommended. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with moderate and severe hepatic impairment (see 2 Contraindications). Metformin use in patients with impaired hepatic function has been associated with some cases of lactic acidosis. Therefore, KOMBOGLYZE is not recommended in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease.

Pancreatitis:

Saxagliptin

There have been post-marketing reports of acute and chronic pancreatitis in patients taking saxagliptin. Reports of fatal and non-fatal hemorrhagic or necrotizing pancreatitis were noted in patients taking other members of this class. After initiation of KOMBOGLYZE, patients should be observed carefully for signs and symptoms of pancreatitis. If pancreatitis is suspected, KOMBOGLYZE should promptly be discontinued, and appropriate management should be initiated. It is unknown whether patients with a history of pancreatitis are at increased risk for the development of pancreatitis while using KOMBOGLYZE. Risk factors for pancreatitis include a history of pancreatitis, gallstones, alcoholism, or hypertriglyceridemia.

Metformin hydrochloride

Serious cases of pancreatitis have been reported in patients receiving metformin (see 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions). The reported pancreatitis cases occurred either in the context of an acute metformin overdose (see 5 Overdose) or in patients receiving therapeutic doses of metformin with concurrent renal failure and/or lactic acidosis, indicating metformin accumulation.

Immune

Immunocompromised patients:

Saxagliptin

A dose-related mean decrease in absolute lymphocyte count was observed with saxagliptin. When clinically indicated, such as in settings of unusual or prolonged infection, lymphocyte count should be measured. The effect of saxagliptin on lymphocyte counts in patients with lymphocyte abnormalities (e.g., human immunodeficiency virus) is unknown. See 8.4 Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry, and Other Quantitative Data.

Immunocompromised patients, such as patients who have undergone organ transplantation or patients diagnosed with human immunodeficiency syndrome, have not been studied in the saxagliptin clinical program. Therefore, the efficacy and safety profile of saxagliptin in these patients has not been established.

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

Response should be monitored by periodic measurements of blood glucose and HbA1C levels.

Patients with a history of heart failure or other risk factors for heart failure, including renal impairment, should be closely monitored for signs and symptoms of heart failure.

Hematology: Initial and periodic monitoring of hematologic parameters (e.g., hemoglobin/hematocrit and red blood cell indices) should be performed regularly. While megaloblastic anemia has rarely been seen with metformin therapy, if this is suspected, vitamin B_{12} deficiency should be excluded.

Periodic measurements of serum vitamin B_{12} levels should be performed in patients on treatment with metformin, especially in patients with signs and symptoms of vitamin B_{12} deficiency (such as anemia or peripheral neuropathy). See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Vitamin B_{12} levels*.

Hypothyroidism: Regular monitoring of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) levels is recommended in patients with hypothyroidism. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Hypothyroidism*.

For hypothyroid patients treated with levothyroxine, careful monitoring of blood glucose levels is recommended, especially when thyroid hormone therapy is initiated, changed, or stopped (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Hypothyroidism* and 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions, *Levothyroxine*.

Monitoring of renal function: KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m^2), end-stage renal disease or in patients on dialysis (see 2 Contraindications and 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment). Before initiation of KOMBOGLYZE therapy, and periodically thereafter, renal function should be assessed and verified as within the appropriate range. In patients in whom development of renal dysfunction is anticipated and, in the elderly, renal function should be assessed more frequently and KOMBOGLYZE discontinued if evidence of renal impairment is present.

Musculoskeletal

Severe and Disabling Arthralgia: Severe and disabling arthralgias have been reported post-marketing in patients taking saxagliptin or other DPP-4 inhibitors. Onset of symptoms following initiation of drug therapy varied from one day to years. Saxagliptin is considered a possible cause for severe joint pain. Patients experienced relief of symptoms upon discontinuation of the medication and some experienced recurrence of symptoms with reintroduction of saxagliptin or another DPP-4 inhibitor. If a patient treated with KOMBOGLYZE, presents with severe joint pain, discontinuation of KOMBOGLYZE and replacement with other antidiabetic medications should be considered. See 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions.

Neurologic

Metformin hydrochloride

Serious cases of metformin-induced encephalopathy have been reported (see 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions). Some of these cases were reported without association with lactic acidosis, hypoglycemia, or renal impairment.

Perioperative Considerations

KOMBOGLYZE therapy should be temporarily suspended for any surgical procedure (except minor procedures not associated with restricted intake of food and fluids) and should not be restarted until the patient's oral intake has resumed and renal function has been evaluated as normal.

Renal

KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m^2), end-stage renal disease or in patients on dialysis (see 2 Contraindications, 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment). Before initiation of KOMBOGLYZE therapy, and periodically thereafter, renal function should be assessed and verified as being within the appropriate range. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests and 7.1.4 Geriatrics.

Metformin hydrochloride

Metformin is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney and the risk of metformin accumulation and lactic acidosis increases with the degree of impairment of renal function. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism.

Special caution should be exercised in situations where renal function may become impaired, for example when initiating antihypertensive therapy or diuretic therapy and when starting therapy with an NSAID.

Use of concomitant medications that may affect renal function or metformin disposition: Concomitant medication(s) that may affect renal function or result in significant hemodynamic change or may interfere with the disposition of metformin, such as cationic drugs that are eliminated by renal tubular secretion, should be used with caution. See 9 Drug Interactions.

Radiologic studies involving the use of intravascular iodinated contrast materials (for example, intravenous urogram, intravenous cholangiography, angiography, and computed tomography (CT) scans with intravascular contrast materials): Intravascular contrast studies with iodinated materials can lead to acute alteration of renal function and have been associated with lactic acidosis in patients receiving metformin. Therefore, in patients in whom any such study is planned, KOMBOGLYZE should be temporarily discontinued at the time of or prior to the procedure, and withheld for 48 hours subsequent to the procedure and reinstituted only after renal function has been re-evaluated and found to be normal. See 2 Contraindications.

Reproductive Health

Refer to 2 Contraindications, 7 Warnings and Precautions, 7.1.1 Pregnancy, 16 Non-Clinical Toxicology

- **Fertility**
  No data are available on the effect of KOMBOGLYZE on human fertility.

Sensitivity/Resistance

There have been post-marketing reports of serious hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis and angioedema, in patients treated with saxagliptin and other members of this

class. Exfoliative skin conditions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome have also been reported in patients treated with saxagliptin and other members of this class, although causality with saxagliptin has not been established. Onset of these reactions occurred within the first 3 months after initiation of the treatment, with some reports occurring after the first dose. If a hypersensitivity reaction to KOMBOGLYZE is suspected, discontinue KOMBOGLYZE, assess for other potential causes for the event, and institute alternative treatment for diabetes. See 2 Contraindications and 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions.

Skin

Saxagliptin

Ulcerative and necrotic skin lesions have been reported in monkeys in non-clinical toxicology studies (see 16 Non-Clinical Toxicology). Although skin lesions were not observed at an increased incidence in clinical trials, there is limited experience in patients with diabetic skin complications.

Rash is noted as an adverse event for saxagliptin (see 8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions). In keeping with routine care of the diabetic patient, monitoring for skin disorders is recommended.

Bullous pemphigoid: post-marketing cases of bullous pemphigoid requiring hospitalization have been reported with the use of saxagliptin and other DPP-4 inhibitors. In reported cases, patients typically recovered with topical or systemic immunosuppressive treatment and discontinuation of the DPP-4 inhibitor.

Tell patients to report development of blisters or erosions while receiving KOMBOGLYZE. If bullous pemphigoid is suspected, KOMBOGLYZE should be discontinued and referral to a dermatologist should be considered for diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

7.1. Special Populations

7.1.1. Pregnancy

KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated during pregnancy (see 2 Contraindications). There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnancy with KOMBOGLYZE or its individual components (saxagliptin, metformin hydrochloride). Adverse reproductive and developmental events were observed in animal studies. See 16 Non-Clinical Toxicology.

Saxagliptin
Saxagliptin crosses the placenta into the fetus following dosing in pregnant rats.

Metformin hydrochloride
Determination of fetal concentrations demonstrated a partial placental barrier to metformin.

Because recent information suggests that abnormal blood glucose levels during pregnancy are associated with a higher incidence of congenital abnormalities, insulin should be used during pregnancy to maintain blood glucose levels as close to normal as possible.

7.1.2. Breastfeeding

KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated during breastfeeding (see 2 Contraindications). No studies in lactating animals have been conducted with the combined components of KOMBOGLYZE. In studies performed with the individual components, both saxagliptin and metformin are secreted in the milk of lactating rats. It is not known whether saxagliptin and/or metformin are excreted in human milk.

7.1.3. Pediatrics

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

7.1.4. Geriatrics

Saxagliptin and Metformin hydrochloride

Since saxagliptin and metformin are eliminated in part by the kidney, and because geriatric patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, KOMBOGLYZE should be used with caution as age increases. See 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Renal and 10 Clinical Pharmacology.

In geriatrics, KOMBOGLYZE should be carefully titrated to establish the minimum dose for adequate glycemic effect. In geriatric patients, particularly those ≥80 years of age, renal function should be monitored regularly and, generally, KOMBOGLYZE should not be titrated to the maximum dose of the metformin component. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests and 7 Warnings and Precautions, Renal.

Saxagliptin

Of the total number of subjects (N=4148) studied in controlled clinical safety and efficacy studies of saxagliptin, 634 (15.3%) patients were 65 years and over, of which 59 (1.4%) patients were 75 years and over. No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between subjects 65 years and over and younger subjects. While this clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

Metformin hydrochloride

Controlled clinical studies of metformin did not include sufficient numbers of elderly patients to determine whether they respond differently from younger patients, although other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. Metformin is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney and because the risk of serious adverse reactions to the drug is greater in patients with impaired renal function, metformin should only be used in patients with normal renal function (see 2 Contraindications). The risk of lactic acidosis increases with the patient's age (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism).

8. Adverse Reactions

8.1. Adverse Reaction Overview

Saxagliptin
In a placebo-controlled clinical study of patients receiving saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo as an add-on to metformin, the incidence of serious adverse events was 9.9% and 5.6% respectively. The most commonly reported adverse events, regardless of causality and more common with saxagliptin than placebo, were nasopharyngitis and bronchitis. Discontinuation of therapy due to adverse events occurred in 7.3% and 4.5% of patients, respectively.

In a placebo-controlled clinical study of patients receiving saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo as an add-on to metformin and a sulfonylurea, the incidence of serious adverse events was 2.3% and 5.5%, respectively. The most commonly reported adverse events, reported regardless of causality and more common with saxagliptin than placebo, were hypoglycemia, hypertension

and diarrhea. Discontinuation of therapy due to adverse events occurred in 0.8% and 2.3% of patients, respectively.

In a placebo-controlled clinical study of patients receiving saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo as an add-on to insulin (with or without metformin), the incidence of serious adverse events was 8.2% and 8.6% respectively. The most commonly reported adverse events, reported regardless of causality and more common with saxagliptin than placebo, were headache and bronchitis. Discontinuation of therapy due to adverse events occurred in 3.0% and 2.0% of patients, respectively.

Metformin hydrochloride

The adverse events most commonly associated with metformin are diarrhea, nausea, and upset stomach.

Lactic acidosis: very rare, but serious side effect (<1/10, 000 and isolated reports). Lactic acidosis is fatal in approximately 50% of cases. See 5 Overdose and 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism.

Gastrointestinal Reactions: very common: (>1/10) gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal bloating, flatulence, and anorexia) are the most common reactions to metformin and are approximately 30% more frequent in patients on metformin monotherapy than in placebo-treated patients, particularly during initiation of metformin therapy. These symptoms are generally transient and resolve spontaneously during continued treatment.

Because gastrointestinal symptoms during therapy initiation appear to be dose-related, they may be decreased by gradual dose escalation and by having patients take metformin (metformin HCl) with meals. See 4 Dosage and Administration.

Because significant diarrhea and/or vomiting can cause dehydration and prerenal azotemia, metformin should be temporarily discontinued, under such circumstances.

For patients who have been stabilized on metformin, nonspecific gastrointestinal symptoms should not be attributed to therapy unless intercurrent illness or lactic acidosis have been excluded.

Special Senses: common (≥1/100): During initiation of metformin therapy complaints of taste disturbance are common, i.e., metallic taste.

Dermatologic Reactions: very rare (<1/10,000 and isolated reports): The incidence of rash/dermatitis in controlled clinical trials was comparable to placebo for metformin monotherapy. Reports of skin reactions such as erythema, pruritus, and urticaria are very rare.

Hematologic: during controlled clinical trials of 29 weeks duration, approximately 9% of patients on metformin monotherapy developed asymptomatic subnormal serum vitamin B_{12} levels; serum folic acid levels did not decrease significantly. Five cases of megaloblastic anemia have been reported with metformin administration and no increased incidence of neuropathy has been observed. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism.

From clinical trial and post-marketing data, a decrease/deficiency of vitamin B_{12} during use with metformin was common. Consideration of such etiology is recommended if a patient presents with megaloblastic anemia.

Hepatic: very rare (<1/10,000 and isolated reports): Liver function tests abnormalities or hepatitis resolving upon metformin discontinuation has been documented.

8.2. Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. Therefore, the frequencies of adverse reactions observed in the clinical trials may not reflect frequencies observed in clinical practice and should not be compared to frequencies reported in clinical trials of another drug.

Adverse events, reported regardless of causality assessment, in ≥2% of patients treated with either saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo as an add-on to metformin are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Adverse Events (Regardless of Investigator Assessment of Causality) in the Add-on to Metformin[a] Study (24-week Short Term Study and the Long-Term Extension) Reported in ≥2% of Patients Treated with Either Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin or Metformin + Placebo

	Number of Patients (%)	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin n = 191**	**Metformin + Placebo n = 179**
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		
Anemia	11 (5.8)	3 (1.7)
Eosinophilia	6 (3.1)	0
Cardiovascular		
Coronary artery disease	4 (2.1)	0
Gastrointestinal		
Diarrhea	14 (7.3)	23 (12.8)
Dyspepsia	11 (5.8)	8 (4.5)
Toothache	8 (4.2)	11 (6.1)
Abdominal pain	7 (3.7)	2 (1.1)
Abdominal pain upper	7 (3.7)	5 (2.8)
Nausea	7 (3.7)	8 (4.5)
Vomiting	7 (3.7)	7 (3.9)
Constipation	5 (2.6)	3 (1.7)
Gastroesophageal reflux disease	4 (2.1)	1 (0.6)
Gastritis	2 (1.0)	2 (1.1)
General disorders and administration site conditions		
Edema peripheral	11 (5.8)	9 (5.0)
Chest pain	5 (2.6)	2 (1.1)
Fatigue	5 (2.6)	7 (3.9)
Asthenia	0	2 (1.1)
Infections and infestations		

	Number of Patients (%)	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin n = 191**	**Metformin + Placebo n = 179**
Influenza	22 (11.5)	23 (12.8)
Nasopharyngitis	21 (11.0)	19 (10.6)
Bronchitis	18 (9.4)	11 (6.1)
Upper respiratory tract infection	17 (8.9)	14 (7.8)
Urinary tract infection	15 (7.9)	12 (6.7)
Sinusitis	10 (5.2)	9 (5.0)
Gastroenteritis	5 (2.6)	3 (1.7)
Tooth infection	5 (2.6)	3 (1.7)
Gastroenteritis viral	4 (2.1)	2 (1.1)
Pharyngitis	2 (1.0)	4 (2.2)
Viral infection	1 (0.5)	4 (2.2)
Pharyngotonsillitis	1 (0.5)	1 (0.6)
Injury, poisoning, and procedural complications		
Limb Injury	3 (1.6)	1 (0.6)
Investigations		
Blood creatine phosphokinase increased	4 (2.1)	2 (1.1)
Alanine aminotransferase increased	1 (0.5)	4 (2.2)
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		
Hypoglycemia [b]	17 (8.9)	18 (10.1)
Hypertriglyceridemia	6 (3.1)	2 (1.1)
Dyslipidemia	3 (1.6)	4 (2.2)
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		
Arthralgia	16 (8.4)	9 (5.0)
Back pain	15 (7.9)	16 (8.9)
Osteoarthritis	8 (4.2)	4 (2.2)
Myalgia	6 (3.1)	4 (2.2)
Pain in extremity	6 (3.1)	13 (7.3)
Exostosis	4 (2.1)	2 (1.1)

	Number of Patients (%)	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin n = 191**	**Metformin + Placebo n = 179**
Musculoskeletal pain	4 (2.1)	9 (5.0)
Muscle spasms	3 (1.6)	4 (2.2)
Nervous system disorders		
Headache	17 (8.9)	20 (11.2)
Dizziness	8 (4.2)	9 (5.0)
Parasthesia	0	2 (1.1)
Psychiatric disorders		
Anxiety	8 (4.2)	5 (2.8)
Depression	6 (3.1)	4 (2.2)
Renal and urinary disorders		
Microalbuminuria	5 (2.6)	4 (2.2)
Nephrolithiasis	4 (2.1)	3 (1.7)
Dysuria	0	4 (2.2)
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders		
Cough	7 (3.7)	9 (5.0)
Pharyngolaryngeal pain	5 (2.6)	3 (1.7)
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		
Rash	6 (3.1)	5 (2.8)
Alopecia	4 (2.1)	0
Pruritus	3 (1.6)	1 (0.6)
Vascular disorders		
Hypertension	9 (4.7)	12 (6.7)

[a] The mean duration of exposure to double-blind study medication, including exposure after the initiation of rescue medication, was 75 weeks (Standard Deviation = 34) for saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin and 68 weeks (Standard Deviation = 35) for placebo plus metformin groups.

[b] "Hypoglycemia" includes events of Hypoglycemia and Blood Glucose Decrease.

Rash-related adverse events in the add-on to metformin study (24-week short-term and long-term extension) were reported in 4.2% and 2.8% of patients who received saxagliptin 5 mg and placebo, respectively.

In a pooled analysis of the 24-week placebo-controlled clinical trials, hypersensitivity-related events, such as urticaria and facial edema were reported in 1.5% and 0.4% of patients who received saxagliptin 5 mg and placebo, respectively. None of these events in patients who

received saxagliptin required hospitalization or were reported as life-threatening by the investigators. One saxagliptin-treated patient in this pooled analysis discontinued due to generalized urticaria and facial edema.

Adverse reactions, reported regardless of causality assessment, in ≥2% of patients treated with either saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo as an add-on to metformin and a sulfonylurea are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 – Adverse Reactions (Regardless of Investigator Assessment of Causality) in the Add-on to Meformin and a Sulfonylurea (SU) Study[a] (24-week) Reported in ≥2% of Patients Treated with Either Saxagliptin 5 mg or Placebo

	Number of Patients (%) Add-on to Metformin and SU	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin + SU n = 129**	**Placebo + Metformin + SU n = 128**
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		
Anemia	1 (0.8)	5 (3.9)
Gastrointestinal		
Diarrhea	7 (5.4)	5 (3.9)
Flatulence	4 (3.1)	0
Gastritis	3 (2.3)	3 (2.3)
Nausea	2 (1.6)	4 (3.1)
Constipation	1 (0.8)	3 (2.3)
Infections and infestations		
Nasopharyngitis	8 (6.2)	12 (9.4)
Upper respiratory tract infection	6 (4.7)	6 (4.7)
Urinary tract infection	4 (3.1)	8 (6.3)
Pharyngitis	0	3 (2.3)
Oral candidiasis	0	3 (2.3)
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		
Hypoglycemia[b]	13 (10.1)	8 (6.3)
Dyslipidemia	5 (3.9)	7 (5.5)
Hyperglycemia	4 (3.1)	4 (3.1)
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		
Pain in extremity	2 (1.6)	4 (3.1)
Arthralgia	2 (1.6)	3 (2.3)

	Number of Patients (%) Add-on to Metformin and SU	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin + SU n = 129**	**Placebo + Metformin + SU n = 128**
Back pain	1 (0.8)	4 (3.1)
Nervous system disorders		
Headache	4 (3.1)	3 (2.3)
Dizziness	3 (2.3)	2 (1.6)
Neuropathy peripheral	3 (2.3)	0
Psychiatric disorders		
Insomnia	0	3 (2.3)
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders		
Cough	4 (3.1)	1 (0.8)
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		
Rash	2 (1.6)	3 (2.3)
Vascular disorders		
Hypertension	7 (5.4)	2 (1.6)

[a] The mean duration of exposure to double-blind study medication was 159 days (Standard Deviation = 31) in the saxagliptin 5 mg group and 160 days (Standard Deviation = 30) for the placebo group.
[b] "Hypoglycemia" includes events of Hypoglycemia and Blood Glucose Decrease.

Adverse reactions, reported regardless of causality assessment, in ≥2% of patients treated with either saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo as an add-on to insulin (with or without metformin) are shown in Table 5.

Table 5 – Adverse Reactions (Regardless of Investigator Assessment of Causality) in the Add-on to Insulin Study[a] (24-week Short Term Study and the Long-Term Extension) Reported in ≥2% of Patients Treated with Either Saxagliptin 5 mg or Placebo

	Number of Patients (%) Add-on to Insulin (with or without Metformin)	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Insulin n = 304**	**Placebo + Insulin n = 151**
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		
Anemia	6 (2.0)	4 (2.6)
Gastrointestinal		
Diarrhea	14 (4.6)	7 (4.6)

	Number of Patients (%) Add-on to Insulin (with or without Metformin)	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Insulin n = 304**	**Placebo + Insulin n = 151**
Constipation	12 (3.9)	5 (3.3)
Abdominal pain	8 (2.6)	2 (1.3)
Gastritis	8 (2.6)	2 (1.3)
Nausea	5 (1.6)	5 (3.3)
General disorders and administration site conditions		
Edema peripheral	9 (3.0)	5 (3.3)
Infections and infestations		
Urinary tract infection	24 (7.9)	12 (7.9)
Nasopharyngitis	19 (6.3)	10 (6.6)
Upper respiratory tract infection	19 (6.3)	11 (7.3)
Bronchitis	16 (5.3)	5 (3.3)
Pharyngitis	11 (3.6)	8 (5.3)
Influenza	10 (3.3)	14 (9.3)
Cystitis	8 (2.6)	3 (2.0)
Gastroenteritis	7 (2.3)	2 (1.3)
Investigations		
Blood creatine phosphokinase increased	7 (2.3)	1 (0.7)
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		
Hypoglycemia[b]	69 (22.7)	40 (26.5)
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		
Arthralgia	13 (4.3)	5 (3.3)
Back pain	10 (3.3)	6 (4.0)
Osteoarthritis	7 (2.3)	0
Pain in extremity	7 (2.3)	10 (6.6)
Musculoskeletal pain	3 (1.0)	6 (4.0)
Nervous system disorders		
Headache	18 (5.9)	6 (4.0)
Dizziness	8 (2.6)	3 (2.0)
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders		

	Number of Patients (%) Add-on to Insulin (with or without Metformin)	
Body System/Organ Class Adverse Event	**Saxagliptin 5 mg + Insulin n = 304**	**Placebo + Insulin n = 151**
Cough	7 (2.3)	6 (4.0)
Vascular disorders		
Hypertension	9 (3.0)	8 (5.3)
Hypertensive crisis[c]	6 (2.0)	1 (0.7)

[a] The mean duration of exposure to double-blind study medication, including exposure after changes in insulin medication, was 47 week (Standard Deviation = 13) for saxagliptin 5 mg plus insulin and 47 weeks (Standard Deviation = 13) for placebo plus insulin groups.

[b] "Hypoglycemia" includes events of Hypoglycemia and Blood Glucose Decrease.

[c] Term as reported; cases do not meet medically accepted definition of hypertensive crisis.

In the short-term 24-week add-on to insulin study, the overall incidence of reported hypoglycemia was 18.4% for saxagliptin 5 mg and 19.9% for placebo. The incidence of confirmed hypoglycemic events, defined as symptoms of hypoglycemia accompanied by a fingerstick glucose value of ≤ 2.8 mmol/L, was 5.3% for the saxagliptin 5 mg treated group versus 3.3% for the placebo group. In the long-term extension of the add-on to insulin study, the overall incidence of hypoglycemia was lower for saxagliptin 5 mg (22.7%) versus placebo (26.5%) plus insulin with or without metformin.

Post-Marketing, Cardiovascular Safety

Saxagliptin

The Saxagliptin Assessment of Vascular Outcomes Recorded in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus-Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (SAVOR) Trial was a CV outcome trial in 16,492 type 2 diabetic patients (median HbA1c=7.6%) (12959 with established CV disease; 3533 with multiple risk factors only) who were randomized to ONGLYZA (n=8280) or placebo (n=8212). The study population also included those ≥65 years (n=8561) and ≥75 years (n=2330), with normal or mild renal impairment (n=13,916) as well as moderate (n=2240) or severe (n=336) renal impairment. Subjects were followed for a mean duration of 2 years.

The primary endpoint was a composite endpoint consisting of the time-to-first occurrence of any of the following major adverse CV events (MACE): CV death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or nonfatal ischemic stroke.

The trial established that the upper bound of the 2-sided 95% CI for the estimated risk ratio comparing the incidence of the primary composite endpoint observed with saxagliptin to that observed in the placebo group was <1.3. The study did not demonstrate the superiority of saxagliptin compared with placebo when added to current background therapy, in reducing the primary MACE endpoint (HR 1.00; 95% CI: 0.89, 1.12; p=0.986).

Hospitalization for heart failure, occurred at a greater rate in the saxagliptin group (3.5%) compared with the placebo group (2.8%) [HR=1.27; (95% CI 1.07, 1.51). Subjects on saxagliptin with a baseline history of congestive heart failure, especially those who also had renal impairment and/or MI, were at higher absolute risk for hospitalization for heart failure.

8.3. Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Serious adverse reactions (reported in <2% of patients) and adverse reactions of interest* (reported in <2% of patients and in at least 2 patients), regardless of investigator assessment of causality and frequency greater than placebo, in the add-on to Metformin, add-on to Metformin and a Sulfonylurea study (24-week) and add-on to Insulin (with or without Metformin) studies (24-week short-term and the long-term extensions):

Blood and lymphatic system disorders:* lymphopenia

Gastrointestinal disorders: abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting

Hepatobiliary disorders: cholecystitis, hepatitis

Immune system disorders:* sarcoidosis, hypersensitivity

Infections and infestations: clostridium difficile colitis, urosepsis, diverticulitis, lower respiratory tract infection

Injury, poisoning and procedural complications: road traffic accident, ankle fracture, fall, incisional hernia, limb injury, skin laceration

Investigations:* blood cholesterol increased, lymphocyte count decreased

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: dehydration

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: arthralgia, osteoarthritis

Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (including cysts and polyps): pancreatic cancer, laryngeal cancer

Nervous system disorders: altered state of consciousness, dizziness

Renal and urinary disorders: calculus ureteric, calculus urinary, renal impairment

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: pulmonary embolism

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:* rash papular, pruritus, skin lesion, hyperhidrosis

Surgical and medical procedures: sterilization

* System Organ Classes were considered to be of interest based on the adverse event profile of the DPP-4 inhibitor class of drugs, non-clinical data for saxagliptin, as well as the patient population.

8.4. Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry, and Other Quantitative Data

Saxagliptin

Absolute Lymphocyte Counts: A dose-related mean decrease in absolute lymphocyte count was observed with saxagliptin. From a baseline absolute lymphocyte count of approximately 2200 cells/µL, a mean decrease of approximately 100 cells/µL relative to placebo was observed in a pooled analysis of the placebo-controlled clinical studies.

Mean absolute lymphocyte counts remained stable and within the normal limits with daily dosing up to 102 weeks in duration.

The proportion of patients who were reported to have a lymphocyte count ≤ 750 cells/ µL was 1.5% in the saxagliptin 5 mg group and 0.4% in the placebo group. The decreases in lymphocyte count were not associated with clinically relevant adverse reactions. When clinically indicated, such as in settings of unusual or prolonged infection, lymphocyte count should be measured. The effect of saxagliptin on lymphocyte counts in patients with lymphocyte abnormalities (e.g. human immunodeficiency virus) is unknown.

Platelets: saxagliptin did not demonstrate a clinically meaningful or consistent effect on platelet count in the double-blind, controlled clinical safety and efficacy trials. In the add-on to insulin trial, there was a -2.6% decrease from baseline in platelet count in the saxagliptin group compared with a -0.1% decrease in the placebo group. An event of thrombocytopenia, consistent with a diagnosis of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, was observed in the clinical program. The relationship of this event to saxagliptin is not known.

Urinary white and red blood cell counts: In the add-on to insulin trial, there was a higher percentage of saxagliptin patients, compared to placebo patients who presented with marked urinary red blood cell counts (15.1% saxagliptin versus 3.2% placebo) and urinary white blood cell counts (30.4% versus 18.9%). No consistent findings of urine laboratory abnormalities have been observed in the overall saxagliptin clinical program. No imbalances were observed for either URBC or UWBC in the pooled analysis of Phase 2/3 studies.

Metformin hydrochloride

In controlled clinical trials of metformin of 29 weeks duration, a decrease to subnormal levels of previously normal serum vitamin B_{12} levels, without clinical manifestations, was observed in approximately 7% of patients. Such decrease, possibly due to interference with B_{12} absorption from the B_{12}-intrinsic factor complex, is, however, very rarely associated with anemia and appears to be rapidly reversible with discontinuation of metformin or vitamin B_{12} supplementation. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism.

8.5. Post-Market Adverse Reactions

Additional adverse reactions have been identified during post-marketing use of saxagliptin and metformin. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is generally not possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Saxagliptin

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura

Gastrointestinal disorders: acute and chronic pancreatitis. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic.

Immune system disorders: Hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis, angioedema, rash, urticaria and exfoliative skin conditions, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome. See 2 Contraindications and 7 Warnings and Precautions, Sensitivity/Resistance.

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: severe and disabling arthralgia (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Musculoskeletal), rhabdomyolysis.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: bullous pemphigoid

Metformin hydrochloride

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: hemolytic anemia, some with a fatal outcome.

Gastrointestinal disorders: abdominal discomfort, abdominal distension, abdominal pain, abdominal pain upper, constipation, diarrhea, dry mouth, dyspepsia, flatulence, gastric disorder, gastric ulcer, gastrointestinal disorder, nausea, vomiting.

Hepatobiliary disorders: liver function tests abnormalities or hepatitis resolving upon metformin discontinuation, autoimmune hepatitis, drug-induced liver injury, hepatitis, pancreatitis.

Investigations: blood lactic acid increased. Reduction of thyrotropin level in patients with treated or untreated hypothyroidism.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: lactic acidosis, decrease of vitamin B_{12} absorption with decrease of serum levels during long-term use of metformin, weight decreased, decreased appetite. Hypomagnesemia in the context of diarrhea.

Nervous System Disorders: encephalopathy, peripheral neuropathy in patients with vitamin B_{12} deficiency

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: photosensitivity, erythema, pruritus, rash, skin lesion, urticaria

9. Drug Interactions

9.2. Drug Interactions Overview

Saxagliptin and Metformin hydrochloride

Pharmacokinetic drug interaction studies with KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets) have not been performed; however, such studies have been conducted with the individual components of KOMBOGLYZE.

Saxagliptin

The metabolism of saxagliptin is primarily mediated by P450 3A4/5 (CYP3A4/5).

In *in vitro* studies, saxagliptin and its major pharmacologically active metabolite neither inhibited nor induced CYP3A4. In addition, in *in vitro* studies, saxagliptin and its major pharmacologically active metabolite neither inhibited CYP1A2, 2A6, 2B6, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 2E1, nor induced CYP1A2, 2B6, 2C9. Therefore, saxagliptin is unlikely to alter the metabolic clearance of co-administered drugs that are metabolized by these enzymes. Saxagliptin is neither a significant inhibitor of P-glycoprotein (P-gp) nor an inducer of P-gp, and is unlikely to cause interactions with drugs that utilize these pathways.

The *in vitro* protein binding of saxagliptin and its major metabolite in human serum is below measurable levels. Thus, protein binding would not have a meaningful influence on the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin or other drugs.

Metformin hydrochloride

In healthy volunteers, the pharmacokinetics of propranolol and ibuprofen were not affected by metformin when co-administered in single-dose interaction studies.

Metformin is negligibly bound to plasma proteins and is, therefore, less likely to interact with highly protein-bound drugs such as salicylates, sulfonamides, chloramphenicol, and probenecid, as compared to sulfonylureas, which are extensively bound to serum proteins.

9.3. Drug-Behaviour Interactions

The effect of smoking and alcohol on the pharmacokinetics of KOMBOGLYZE have not been specifically studied.

Metformin hydrochloride

Alcohol intake: Alcohol is known to potentiate the effect of metformin on lactate metabolism. Patients, therefore, should be warned against excessive alcohol intake, acute or chronic, while receiving KOMBOGLYZE (see 2 Contraindications and 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Lactic Acidosis*). The risk of lactic acidosis is increased in acute alcohol intoxication, particularly in case of fasting or malnutrition or hepatic insufficiency. It is recommended that consumption of alcohol and alcohol-containing medicinal product be avoided.

9.4. Drug-Drug Interactions

Saxagliptin

Effect of other drugs on saxagliptin

In studies conducted in healthy subjects as described below, the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin and its major metabolite were not meaningfully altered by metformin, glyburide, pioglitazone, digoxin, simvastatin, diltiazem, ketoconazole, omeprazole, aluminum hydroxide + magnesium hydroxide + simethicone combination, or famotidine. These drugs are considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin.

CYP3A4/5 Inducers: The co-administration of saxagliptin and CYP3A4/5 inducers, other than rifampin (such as carbamazepine, dexamethasone, phenobarbital and phenytoin) have not been studied and may result in decreased plasma concentration of saxagliptin and increased concentration of its major metabolite. Glycemic control should be carefully assessed when saxagliptin is used concomitantly with a potent CYP3A4 inducer.

Metformin: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (100 mg) and metformin (1000 mg), an OCT-1 and OCT-2 substrate, decreased the C_{max} of saxagliptin by 21%; however, the AUC was unchanged. Therefore, metformin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin with other OCT-1 and OCT-2 substrates would not be expected.

Glyburide: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (10 mg) and glyburide (5 mg), a CYP2C9 substrate, did not affect the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin. Therefore, glyburide is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin with other CYP2C9 substrates would not be expected.

Pioglitazone: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and pioglitazone (45 mg), a CYP2C8 (major) and CYP3A4 (minor) substrate, did not alter the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin. Therefore, pioglitazone is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin with other CYP2C8 substrates would not be expected.

Digoxin: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and digoxin (0.25 mg), a P-gp substrate, did not alter the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin. Therefore, digoxin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin with other P-gp substrates would not be expected.

Simvastatin: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and simvastatin (40 mg), a CYP3A4/5 substrate, increased the C_{max} of saxagliptin by 21%; however,

the AUC of saxagliptin was unchanged. Therefore, simvastatin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin would not be expected with other substrates of CYP3A4/5.

Diltiazem: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (10 mg) and diltiazem (360 mg long-acting formulation at steady state), a moderate inhibitor of CYP3A4/5, increased the C_{max} and AUC for saxagliptin by 63% and 109%, respectively. This co-administration was also associated with 44% and 34% decreases in C_{max} and AUC(INF) values, respectively of its major metabolite. Therefore, diltiazem is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin with other moderate CYP3A4/5 inhibitors would not be expected.

Ketoconazole: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (100 mg) and ketoconazole (200 mg every 12 hours at steady state), a potent inhibitor of CYP3A4/5 and P-gp, increased the C_{max} and AUC for saxagliptin by 62% and 145% respectively. This co-administration was also associated with 95% and 88% decreases in C_{max} and AUC(INF) values, respectively of its major metabolite.

Following co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin at 20 times the recommended dose (100 mg) with ketoconazole, transient flu-like symptoms and a transient decrease in absolute lymphocyte count were observed. Additionally, transient decreases in absolute lymphocyte count were observed without any flu-like symptoms following co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin at 4 times the recommended dose (20 mg) with ketoconazole.

Rifampin (Rifampicin): Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (5 mg) with the potent CYP3A4/5 and P-gp inducer rifampin (600 mg once daily at steady state), decreased the C_{max} and AUC of saxagliptin by 53% and 76%, respectively. There was a corresponding increase in C_{max} (39%) but no significant change in plasma AUC of the active metabolite. There was no change in the maximum DPP4 inhibition (%Imax) and only a 6% decrease in the mean area under the effect time curve for DPP4 inhibition (AUEC) over a 24-hour period (the dosing interval for saxagliptin) when saxagliptin was co-administered with rifampin; however, a shorter DPP4 inhibition T-HALF was observed during the rifampin co-administration period (25.9 hours for saxagliptin-alone versus 14.5 hours for saxagliptin plus rifampin). See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Use with Potent CYP 3A4 Inducers*.

Omeprazole: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and omeprazole (40 mg), a CYP2C19 (major) and CYP3A4 substrate, an inhibitor of CYP2C19, and an inducer of MRP-3, did not alter the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin. Therefore, omeprazole is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin with other CYP2C19 inhibitors or MRP-3 inducers would not be expected.

Aluminum hydroxide + magnesium hydroxide + simethicone: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (10 mg) and a liquid containing aluminum hydroxide (2400 mg), magnesium hydroxide (2400 mg), and simethicone (240 mg) decreased the C_{max} of saxagliptin by 26%; however, the AUC of saxagliptin was unchanged. Therefore, meaningful interactions of saxagliptin with antacid and antigas formulations of this type would not be expected.

Famotidine: Administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (10 mg) three hours after a single dose of famotidine (40 mg), an inhibitor of hOCT-1, hOCT-2, and hOCT-3, increased the C_{max} of saxagliptin by 14%; however, the AUC of saxagliptin was unchanged. Therefore, famotidine is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with saxagliptin. Meaningful interactions of saxagliptin would not be expected with other inhibitors of hOCT-1, hOCT-2, and hOCT-3.

Effect of saxagliptin on other drugs

In studies conducted in healthy subjects, as described below, saxagliptin did not meaningfully alter the pharmacokinetics of metformin, glyburide, pioglitazone, digoxin, simvastatin, diltiazem, ketoconazole or active components of an estrogen/progestin combined oral contraceptive. Saxagliptin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with these drugs.

Metformin: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (100 mg) and metformin (1000 mg), an OCT-1 and OCT-2 substrate, did not alter the pharmacokinetics of metformin in healthy subjects. Therefore, saxagliptin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with metformin. Saxagliptin is not an inhibitor of OCT-1 and OCT-2- mediated transport.

Glyburide: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (10 mg) and glyburide (5 mg), a CYP2C9 substrate, increased the plasma C_{max} of glyburide by 16%; however, the AUC of glyburide was unchanged. Therefore, saxagliptin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with glyburide. saxagliptin does not meaningfully inhibit CYP2C9-mediated metabolism.

Pioglitazone: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and pioglitazone (45 mg), a CYP2C8 substrate, increased the plasma C_{max} of pioglitazone by 14%; however, the AUC of pioglitazone was unchanged. Therefore, saxagliptin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with pioglitazone. Saxagliptin does not meaningfully inhibit or induce CYP2C8-mediated metabolism.

Digoxin: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and digoxin (0.25 mg), a P-gp substrate, did not alter the pharmacokinetics of digoxin. Therefore, saxagliptin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with digoxin. Saxagliptin is not an inhibitor or inducer of P-gp-mediated transport.

Simvastatin: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and simvastatin (40 mg), a CYP3A4/5 substrate, did not alter the pharmacokinetics of simvastatin. Therefore, saxagliptin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with simvastatin. Saxagliptin is not an inhibitor or inducer of CYP3A4/5-mediated metabolism.

Diltiazem: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (10 mg) and diltiazem (360 mg long-acting formulation at steady state), a moderate inhibitor of CYP3A4/5, increased the plasma C_{max} of diltiazem by 16%; however, the AUC of diltiazem was unchanged. Therefore, saxagliptin is considered unlikely to cause a clinically meaningful interaction with diltiazem.

Ketoconazole: Co-administration of a single dose of saxagliptin (100 mg) and multiple doses of ketoconazole (200 mg every 12 hours at steady state), a potent inhibitor of CYP3A4/5 and P-gp, decreased the geometric means for C_{max} and AUC(INF) of ketoconazole by 16% and by 13% respectively, relative to those observed following administration of 200 mg ketoconazole q 12 h alone.

Oral Contraceptives: Co-administration of multiple once-daily doses of saxagliptin (5 mg) and a monophasic combined oral contraceptive containing 0.035 mg ethinyl estradiol/0.250 mg norgestimate for 21 days, did not alter the steady state pharmacokinetics of the primary active estrogen component, ethinyl estradiol, or the primary active progestin component, norelgestromin. The plasma AUC of norgestrel, an active metabolite of norelgestromin, was increased by 13% and the plasma C_{max} of norgestrel was increased by 17%. This small magnitude change in AUC and C_{max} of norgestrel is not considered to be clinically meaningful. Based on these findings, saxagliptin would not be expected to meaningfully alter the pharmacokinetics of an estrogen/progestin combined oral contraceptive.

Metformin hydrochloride

Glyburide: In a single-dose interaction study in type 2 diabetes patients, co-administration of metformin and glyburide did not result in any changes in either metformin pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics. Decreases in glyburide AUC and C_{max} were observed but were highly variable. The single-dose nature of this study and the lack of correlation between glyburide blood levels and pharmacodynamic effects make the clinical significance of this interaction uncertain.

Furosemide: A single-dose, metformin-furosemide drug interaction study in healthy subjects demonstrated that pharmacokinetic parameters of both compounds were affected by co-administration. Furosemide increased the metformin plasma and blood C_{max} by 22% and blood AUC by 15%, without any significant change in metformin renal clearance. When administered with metformin, the C_{max} and AUC of furosemide were 31% and 12% smaller, respectively, than when administered alone, and the terminal half-life was decreased by 32%, without any significant change in furosemide renal clearance. No information is available about the interaction of metformin and furosemide when co-administered chronically.

Nifedipine: A single-dose, metformin-nifedipine drug interaction study in normal healthy volunteers demonstrated that co-administration of nifedipine increased plasma metformin C_{max} and AUC by 20% and 9%, respectively, and increased the amount excreted in the urine. T_{max} and half-life were unaffected. Nifedipine appears to enhance the absorption of metformin. Metformin had minimal effects on nifedipine.

Cationic drugs: Cationic drugs (e.g., amiloride, digoxin, morphine, procainamide, quinidine, quinine, ranitidine, triamterene, trimethoprim, or vancomycin) that are eliminated by renal tubular secretion theoretically have the potential for interaction with metformin by competing for common renal tubular transport systems. Such interaction between metformin and oral cimetidine has been observed in normal healthy volunteers in both single- and multiple-dose metformin-cimetidine drug interaction studies, with a 60% increase in peak metformin plasma and whole blood concentrations and a 40% increase in plasma and whole blood metformin AUC.

There was no change in elimination half-life in the single-dose study. Metformin had no effect on cimetidine pharmacokinetics. Although such interactions remain theoretical (except for cimetidine), careful patient monitoring and dose adjustment of KOMBOGLYZE and/or the interfering drug is recommended in patients who are taking cationic medications that are excreted via the proximal renal tubular secretory system.

Levothyroxine: Levothyroxine can reduce the hypoglycemic effect of metformin. Monitoring of blood glucose levels is recommended, especially when thyroid hormone therapy is initiated, changed, or stopped. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests.

Anticoagulant: Elimination rate of the anticoagulant phenprocoumon has been reported to be increased by 20% when used concurrently with metformin. Therefore, patients receiving phenprocoumon or other antivitamin K anticoagulants should be monitored carefully when both types of drugs are used simultaneously. In such cases, an important increase of prothrombin time may occur upon cessation of KOMBOGLYZE therapy, with an increased risk of hemorrhage.

Other: Certain drugs tend to produce hyperglycemia and may lead to loss of glycemic control. These drugs include the thiazides and other diuretics, corticosteroids, phenothiazines, thyroid products, estrogens, estrogen plus progestogen, oral contraceptives, phenytoin, nicotinic acid, sympathomimetics, calcium channel blocking drugs, isoniazid and beta-2-agonists. ACE inhibitors may decrease the blood glucose levels. When such drugs are administered to a

patient receiving KOMBOGLYZE the patient should be closely observed to maintain adequate glycemic control.

9.5. Drug-Food Interactions

Interactions with food have not been established. Grapefruit juice being a weak inhibitor of CYP3A4 gut wall metabolism may give rise to modest increases in plasma levels of saxagliptin.

9.6. Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

9.7. Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Intravascular contrast studies with iodinated materials can lead to acute alteration of renal function and have been associated with lactic acidosis in patients receiving metformin. See 2 Contraindications and 7 Warnings and Precautions, Renal.

10. Clinical Pharmacology

10.1. Mechanism of Action

KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets) combines two antihyperglycemic agents with complementary mechanisms of action to improve both fasting plasma glucose and postprandial plasma glucose in patients with type 2 diabetes: saxagliptin hydrochloride, a dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP-4) inhibitor, and metformin hydrochloride, a member of the biguanide class. KOMBOGLYZE targets three core defects of type 2 diabetes which are: decreased insulin synthesis and release, increased hepatic glucose production and decreased insulin sensitivity.

Saxagliptin

Saxagliptin and its major metabolite are potent, selective, reversible and competitive DPP-4 inhibitors. Saxagliptin demonstrates selectivity for DPP-4 versus other DPP enzymes, including DPP-8 and DPP-9. Saxagliptin and its major metabolite have extended binding to the DPP-4 active site, prolonging its inhibition of DPP-4 but do not have extended duration of binding to other enzymes, including DPP-8 and DPP-9. Saxagliptin exerts its actions in patients with type 2 diabetes by slowing the inactivation of incretin hormones, including glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP). Concentrations of these active intact incretin hormones are increased by saxagliptin, thereby increasing and prolonging the actions of these hormones. Saxagliptin was a potent inhibitor of T-cell cell surface DPP activity in cell based assays but did not inhibit T-cell activation either *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

Incretin hormones are released by the intestine throughout the day and concentrations are increased in response to a meal. These hormones are rapidly inactivated by the enzyme DPP-4. The incretins are part of an endogenous system involved in the physiologic regulation of glucose homeostasis. When blood glucose concentrations are elevated, GLP-1 and GIP increase insulin synthesis and release from pancreatic beta cells. GLP-1 also lowers glucagon secretion from pancreatic alpha cells, leading to reduced hepatic glucose production.

The concentration of GLP-1 is reduced in patients with type 2 diabetes, but saxagliptin increases active GLP-1 and GIP, potentiating these mechanisms. By increasing and prolonging active incretin concentrations, saxagliptin increases postprandial insulin release and decreases postprandial glucagon concentrations in the circulation in a glucose-dependent manner.

In patients with type 2 diabetes with hyperglycemia, these changes in insulin and glucagon levels may lead to lower hemoglobin A1C (HbA1C) and lower fasting and postprandial glucose concentrations.

Metformin hydrochloride

Metformin is an antihyperglycemic agent, which improves glucose tolerance in patients with type 2 diabetes, lowering both basal and postprandial plasma glucose. Metformin decreases hepatic glucose production, decreases intestinal absorption of glucose, and improves insulin sensitivity by increasing peripheral glucose uptake and utilization. Unlike sulfonylureas, metformin does not produce hypoglycemia in either patients with type 2 diabetes or normal subjects (except in special circumstances, see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Hypoglycemia*) and does not cause hyperinsulinemia. With metformin therapy, insulin secretion remains unchanged while fasting insulin levels and day-long plasma insulin response may actually decrease.

10.2. Pharmacodynamics

Saxagliptin

In patients with type 2 diabetes, administration of saxagliptin led to dose-dependent inhibition of DPP-4 enzyme activity for a 24-hour period. After an oral glucose load or a meal, this DPP-4 inhibition resulted in a 2- to 3-fold increase in circulating levels of active GLP-1 and GIP, decreased postprandial glucagon concentrations, and increased glucose-dependent beta cell responsiveness with higher postprandial insulin and C-peptide concentrations. The rise in insulin and decrease in glucagon were associated with lower fasting glucose concentrations and reduced glucose excursion following an oral glucose load or a meal.

Cardiac electrophysiology: In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 4-way crossover, active comparator study, 40 healthy subjects were administered saxagliptin 40 mg (8 times the RHD), saxagliptin 10 mg (2 times the RHD), or placebo once daily for 4 days, or a single dose of moxifloxacin 400 mg as a positive control. The saxagliptin 10 mg and 40 mg treatments were not associated with any prolongation of the QTc, QRS, or PR intervals. In the saxagliptin 10 mg treatment a significant increase in heart rate was observed at 0.5, 1, 1.5, 4, and 12 h post-dosing, with a maximum placebo- and baseline-corrected mean increase of 3.75 (90% 1.55, 5.95) beats per minute at 0.5 post-dosing when the baseline-corrected change in the placebo treatment at this time was -1.4 (90% CI -3.0, 0.1) beats per minute. Significant increases in heart rate were also observed in the saxagliptin 40 mg treatment at 0.5, 4-, and 12-hours post-dosing, with a maximum placebo- and baseline-corrected mean increase of 4.5 (90% CI 2.23, 6.82) beats per minute at 4 hours post-dose dose when the baseline-corrected change in the placebo treatment at this time was -3.3 (90% CI -5.0, -1.6) beats per minute. The effect of the recommended 5 mg dose was not investigated in this study.

10.3. Pharmacokinetics

Absorption:

Saxagliptin

The amount of saxagliptin absorbed following an oral dose is at least 75%. Food had relatively modest effects on the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin in healthy subjects. Administration with a high-fat meal resulted in no change in saxagliptin C_{max} and a 27% increase in AUC compared with the fasted state. The time for saxagliptin to reach C_{max} (T_{max}) was increased by approximately 0.5 hours with food compared with the fasted state. These changes were not considered to be clinically meaningful.

Metformin hydrochloride

After an oral dose of metformin, T_{max} is reached in 2.5 hours. The absolute bioavailability of a metformin hydrochloride 500 mg tablet given under fasting conditions is approximately 50-60%. Studies using single oral doses of metformin hydrochloride tablets 500 mg to 1500 mg, and 850 mg to 2550 mg, indicate that there is a lack of dose proportionality with increasing doses, which is due to decreased absorption rather than an alteration in elimination.

Food decreases the extent of and slightly delays the absorption of metformin, as shown by approximately a 40% lower mean peak plasma concentration (C_{max}), a 25% lower area under the plasma concentration versus time curve (AUC), and a 35-minute prolongation of time to peak plasma concentration (T_{max}) following administration of a single 850-mg tablet of metformin with food, compared to the same tablet strength administered fasting. The clinical relevance of these decreases is unknown.

Distribution:

Saxagliptin

The *in vitro* protein binding of saxagliptin and its major metabolite in human serum is below measurable levels. Thus, changes in blood protein levels in various disease states (e.g., renal or hepatic impairment) are not expected to alter the disposition of saxagliptin.

Metformin hydrochloride

The apparent volume of distribution (V/F) of metformin following single oral doses of metformin hydrochloride tablets 850 mg averaged 654 ± 358 L. Metformin is negligibly bound to plasma proteins, in contrast to sulfonylureas, which are more than 90% protein bound. Metformin partitions into erythrocytes, most likely as a function of time.

Metabolism:

Saxagliptin

The metabolism of saxagliptin is primarily mediated by cytochrome P450 3A4/5 (CYP3A4/5). The major metabolite of saxagliptin is also a selective, reversible, competitive DPP-4 inhibitor, half as potent as saxagliptin.

The C_{max} and AUC values for the major metabolite of saxagliptin increased proportionally to the increment in the saxagliptin dose. Following single oral doses of 2.5 mg to 400 mg saxagliptin in the fed or fasted states, the mean AUC values for the major metabolite ranged from 2- and 7 times higher than the parent saxagliptin exposures on a molar basis. Following a single oral dose of 5 mg saxagliptin in the fasted state, the mean terminal half-life ($t_{1/2}$) value for the major metabolite was 3.1 hours and no appreciable accumulation was observed upon repeated once-daily dosing at any dose.

Metformin hydrochloride

Intravenous single-dose studies in normal subjects demonstrate that metformin is excreted unchanged in the urine and does not undergo hepatic metabolism (no metabolites have been identified in humans) nor biliary excretion.

Animal studies with metformin, labelled with ^{14}C have shown that the drug is neither concentrated by liver cells nor is it excreted in the bile; it is concentrated in the intestinal mucosa and salivary glands.

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The antihyperglycemic action of metformin is probably mediated through insulin by improving the glucose assimilation coefficient (K), and the insulin efficiency coefficient.

In the obese diabetic with hyperinsulinemia, metformin is reported to normalize insulin output. This normalizing effect is concurrent to that of glycemia.

Metformin has little effect on liver glycogen of the healthy animal. In low and average doses, no change occurs. In high doses nearing lethal levels, liver glycogen decreases. This lowering precedes the fall in blood sugar. This reaction represents a defense mechanism tending to mobilize body reserves in order to combat hypoglycemia.

In the diabetic animal with a low liver glycogen reserve, the opposite occurs and metformin builds up glycogen stores of the liver. *In vitro*, on muscular tissue isolated in Warburg's apparatus, metformin increases glucose uptake by the muscle. This action follows an aerobic pathway. Even in high concentration, contrary to phenethyl-biguanide, metformin apparently does not block respiration or change carbohydrate metabolism via the anaerobic pathway.

Inhibition of glyconeogenesis has been observed in animals following its stimulation by fasting, cortisol, alcohol or other substrates such as alanine lactate or pyruvate. However, such an effect varies according to the type and dosage of the biguanide used, nutritional state of the animal species and design of experimental model.

This inhibition of glyconeogenesis is observed only in the presence of insulin and it does not appear to play an important role in man.

Inhibition of intestinal absorption of sugars, which is not related to a malasorption phenomenon has been observed with biguanides under certain experimental conditions in animal and in man. In one study, a 20% retardation of galactose absorption was observed in man receiving metformin. However, such an effect of metformin could not be confirmed in another study in man.

Recent findings appear to indicate that most of the metabolic effects of the biguanides are exerted through a single mechanism, namely inhibition of fatty acid oxidation and of acetyl-CoA generation.

However, inhibition of insulin-stimulated lipogenesis which has also been observed appears to be due to the inhibition of acetyl-CoA carboxylase by the biguanides. Such an effect may explain, at least partly, the weight-reducing effect exerted by these drugs in obese diabetic patients.

Elimination:

Saxagliptin

Saxagliptin is eliminated by both renal and hepatic pathways. Following a single 50 mg dose of ^{14}C-saxagliptin, 24%, 36%, and 75% of the dose was excreted in the urine as saxagliptin, its major metabolite, and total radioactivity, respectively. The average renal clearance of saxagliptin (~230 mL/min) was greater than the average estimated glomerular filtration rate (~120 mL/min), suggesting some active renal excretion. For the major metabolite, renal clearance values were comparable to estimated glomerular filtration rate. A total of 22% of the administered radioactivity was recovered in feces representing the fraction of the saxagliptin dose excreted in bile and/or unabsorbed drug from the gastrointestinal tract.

Metformin hydrochloride

Metformin is eliminated in feces and urine. It is rapidly excreted by the kidneys in an unchanged form. Renal clearance is 450 mL/minute; this appears to explain the absence of accumulation.

Renal clearance is approximately 3.5 times greater than creatinine clearance, which indicates that tubular secretion is the major route of metformin elimination. Following oral administration, approximately 90% of the absorbed drug is eliminated via the renal route within the first 24 hours, with a plasma elimination half-life of approximately 6.2 hours. In blood, the elimination half-life is approximately 17.6 hours, suggesting that the erythrocyte mass may be a compartment of distribution.

Special populations and conditions

- **Pediatrics (<18 years of age):**
  Saxagliptin

  Pharmacokinetics in the pediatric population have not been studied. Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

- **Geriatrics (≥65 years of age):**
  Saxagliptin

  No dosage adjustment is necessary based on age alone. Elderly subjects (65-80 years) had 23% and 59% higher geometric mean C_{max} and geometric mean AUC values, respectively, for parent saxagliptin compared to younger adult subjects (18-40 years). Differences in major metabolite pharmacokinetics between elderly and younger adult subjects generally reflected the differences observed in parent saxagliptin pharmacokinetics. The difference between the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin and the major metabolite in younger adult and elderly subjects is likely to be due to multiple factors including declining renal function and metabolic capacity with increasing age.

  Metformin hydrochloride

  Limited data from controlled pharmacokinetic studies of metformin in healthy elderly subjects suggest that total plasma clearance of metformin is decreased, the half-life is prolonged, and C_{max} is increased, compared to healthy young subjects. From these data, it appears that the change in metformin pharmacokinetics with aging is primarily accounted for by a change in renal function. See 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, ***Geriatrics*** and 7 Warnings and Precautions, 7.1.4 Geriatrics.

  KOMBOGLYZE treatment should not be initiated in patients ≥80 years of age unless measurement of creatinine clearance demonstrates that renal function is not reduced. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, *Lactic Acidosis*.

- **Sex:** No dosage adjustment is necessary based on sex.
  Saxagliptin

  There were no differences observed in saxagliptin pharmacokinetics between males and females. Compared to males, females had approximately 25% higher exposure values for the major metabolite than males, but the clinical relevance of this difference is unknown.

  Metformin hydrochloride

  Metformin pharmacokinetic parameters did not differ significantly between normal subjects and patients with type 2 diabetes when analyzed according to sex. Similarly, in controlled clinical studies in patients with type 2 diabetes, the antihyperglycemic effect of metformin was comparable in males and females.

- **Ethnic Origin:** No dosage adjustment is necessary based on ethnic origin.
  Saxagliptin

  An exposure modeling analysis compared the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin and its major

metabolite in 309 white subjects with 105 non-white subjects (consisting of 6 ethnic origin groups). No significant difference in the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin and its major metabolite were detected between these two populations.

Metformin hydrochloride

No studies of metformin pharmacokinetic parameters according to race have been performed. In controlled clinical studies of metformin in patients with type 2 diabetes, the antihyperglycemic effect was comparable in whites (n=249), blacks (n= 51), and Hispanics (n=24).

- **Hepatic Insufficiency:** Use of KOMBOGLYZE in moderate to severe hepatic impairment is contraindicated. KOMBOGLYZE is not recommended in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease. See 2 Contraindications.
  Saxagliptin

  In subjects with hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh classes A, B, and C), mean C_{max} and AUC of saxagliptin were up to 8% and 77% higher, respectively, compared to healthy matched controls following administration of a single 10 mg dose of saxagliptin. The corresponding C_{max} and AUC of the major metabolite were up to 59% and 33% lower, respectively, compared to healthy matched controls.

  Metformin hydrochloride

  No pharmacokinetic studies of metformin have been conducted in patients with hepatic impairment.

- **Renal Insufficiency:** KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m^2), end-stage renal disease or in patients on dialysis. See 2 Contraindications.
  Saxagliptin

  A single-dose, open-label study was conducted to evaluate the pharmacokinetics of saxagliptin (10 mg dose) in subjects with varying degrees of chronic renal impairment compared to subjects with normal renal function. The degree of renal impairment did not affect the C_{max} of saxagliptin or its major metabolite. In subjects with mild renal impairment, the AUC values of saxagliptin and its major metabolite were 1.2- and 1.7-fold higher, respectively, than AUC values in subjects with normal renal function.

  In subjects with moderate or severe renal impairment or in subjects with ESRD on hemodialysis, the AUC values of saxagliptin and its major metabolite were up to 2.1- and 4.5-fold higher, respectively, than AUC values in subjects with normal renal function. A dose of 2.5 mg of saxagliptin once daily should not be exceeded in patients with moderate and severe renal impairment, however use of KOMBOGLYZE is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (<30 mL/min/1.73 m^2) and KOMBOGLYZE is not recommended in patients with an eGFR ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m^2 to <45 mL/min/1.73 m^2 because these patients require a lower dosage of saxagliptin than what is available in KOMBOGLYZE, a fixed dose combination product. See 2 Contraindications and 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment.

  Metformin hydrochloride

  In patients with decreased renal function (based on measured creatinine clearance (<60 mL/min)), the plasma and blood half-life of metformin are prolonged and the renal clearance is decreased in proportion to the decrease in creatinine clearance.

- **Obesity:**
  Saxagliptin

  No dosage adjustment is recommended based on body mass index (BMI).

11. Storage, Stability, and Disposal

Store at room temperature (15 to 25°C).

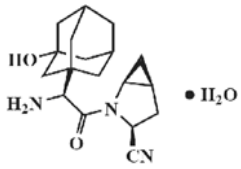
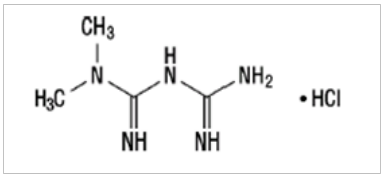
12. Special Handling Instructions

Keep in a safe place out of sight and reach of children.

Part 2: Scientific Information

13. Pharmaceutical Information

Drug Substance

Non-proprietary name of the drug substance(s):	saxagliptin monohydrate[a]	metformin hydrochloride
Chemical name:	2-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane-3-carbonitrile, 2-[(2*S*)-2-amino-2-(3-hydroxytricyclo[3.3.1.1]dec-1-yl)acetyl]-, hydrate (1:1), (1*S*,3*S*,5*S*)- or (1*S*,3*S*,5*S*)-2-[(2*S*)-amino(3-hydroxytricyclo[3.3.1.1]dec-1-yl)acetyl]-2-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane-3-carbonitrile monohydrate	N,N-dimethyl biguanide hydrochloride or N,N-dimethylimidodicarbonimidic diamide hydrochloride
Molecular formula and molecular mass:	$C_{18}H_{25}N_3O_2 \cdot H_2O$ 333.43; (315.41 anhydrous)	$C_4H_{11}N_5 \cdot HCl$ 165.63
Structural formula:		
Physicochemical properties:	Saxagliptin, in the free base monohydrate form, is a white to light yellow or light brown, non-hygroscopic, crystalline powder. It is sparingly soluble in water at 24°C ± 3°C, slightly soluble in ethyl acetate, and soluble in methanol, ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, acetonitrile, acetone, and polyethylene glycol 400 (PEG 400).	Metformin hydrochloride is a white to off-white crystalline compound. It is freely soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol, and is practically insoluble in acetone, ether and chloroform. The pKa of metformin is 12.4. The pH of a 1% aqueous solution of metformin hydrochloride is 6.68.

[a] saxagliptin monohydrate is converted to saxagliptin hydrochloride *in-situ* during drug product manufacturing

14. Clinical Trials

There have been no clinical efficacy studies conducted with KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets); however, bioequivalence of KOMBOGLYZE tablets with co-administered saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride immediate release tablets was demonstrated. See 14.2 Comparative Bioavailability Studies.

The combination of saxagliptin and metformin has been evaluated for safety and efficacy in a double-blind, placebo-controlled study in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

14.1. Clinical Trials by Indication

Saxagliptin Add-on Combination Therapy with Metformin

Study Design

Table 6 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trials in Saxagliptin Add-on Combination Therapy with Metformin

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n) per treatment arm	Age (Range)	Sex (%M/F)
CV181014	Multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled	Open-label metformin (1500 – 2500 mg) plus saxagliptin 5 mg qd or placebo Oral, 24 weeks	Saxagliptin 5 mg N=191 ≥65 years n=32 ≥75 years n=2 Placebo N= 179 ≥65 years n=26 ≥75 years n=3	26 – 76 years	54/46

Study Results

A total of 743 patients with type 2 diabetes participated in this randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 24-week duration, to evaluate the efficacy and safety of saxagliptin in combination with metformin in patients with inadequate glycemic control (A1C ≥7% and ≤10%) on metformin alone. Patients were required to be on a stable dose of metformin (1500 mg to 2550 mg daily) for at least 8 weeks to be enrolled in this study.

Patients who met eligibility criteria were enrolled in a single-blind, two-week, dietary and exercise placebo lead-in period during which patients received metformin at their pre-study dose, up to 2500 mg daily for the duration of the study. Following the lead-in period, eligible patients were randomized to 2.5 mg, 5 mg, or 10 mg of saxagliptin or placebo in addition to their current dose of open-label metformin. Patients who failed to meet specific glycemic goals during the study were treated with pioglitazone rescue therapy, added on to placebo or saxagliptin plus metformin. Dose titrations of saxagliptin and metformin were not allowed in this study.

In combination with metformin, saxagliptin 5 mg provided significant improvements in A1C, FPG, and PPG compared with the placebo plus metformin group (Table 7).

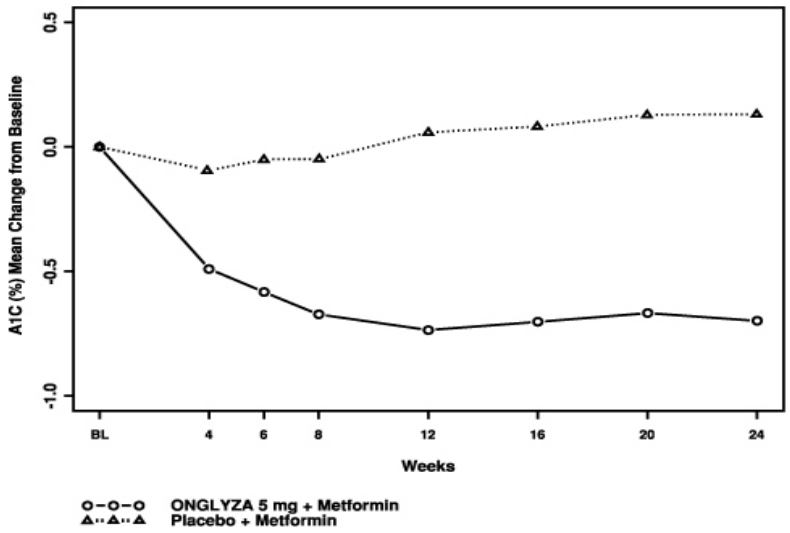
Table 7 – Glycemic Parameters at Week 24 in a Placebo-Controlled Study of Saxagliptin in Combination with Metformin[§]

Efficacy Parameter	Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin	Placebo + Metformin
A1C (%)	**n=186**	**n=175**
Baseline (mean)	8.1	8.1
Change from baseline (adjusted mean[±])	−0.7	0.1
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean[±])	−0.8[a]	
95% Confidence Interval	(−1.0, −0.6)	
Percent of patients achieving A1C <7%	44%[a] (81/186)	17%
FPG (mmol/L)	**n=187**	**n=176**
Baseline (mean)	9.9	9.7
Change from baseline (adjusted mean[±])	-1.2	0.07
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean[±])	-1.3[a]	
95% Confidence Interval	(-1.7, -0.9)	
2-hour PPG (mmol/L)	**n=155**	**n= 135**
Baseline (mean)	16.4	16.4
Change from baseline (adjusted mean[±])	-3.2	-1.0
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean[±])	-2.2[a]	
95% Confidence Interval	(-3.1, -1.3)	
3-hour PPG AUC (mmol*min/L)	**n=146**	**n=131**
Baseline (mean)	2721	2631
Change from baseline (adjusted mean[±])	-532	-183
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean[±])	-349[a]	
95% Confidence Interval	(-478, -221)	

§ Intent-to-treat population using last observation on study prior to pioglitazone rescue therapy.
± Least squares mean adjusted for baseline value.
a p-value <0.0001 compared to placebo

The mean percent change from baseline in A1C over the 24-week period is shown in Figure 1. The proportion of patients achieving A1C <7% (regardless of baseline value) was significantly greater in the saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin treatment (43.5%) groups compared with the placebo plus metformin group (16.6%). Significant reductions in 2-hour PPG level following standard oral glucose tolerance test were observed in the saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin treatment group (-3.2 mmol/L) compared with –1.0 mmol/L in the placebo plus metformin group. The proportion of patients who discontinued for lack of glycemic control or who were rescued for meeting prespecified glycemic criteria was higher in the placebo plus metformin group (27%) than in the saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin group (13%). Higher baseline A1C was associated with a greater adjusted mean change from baseline in A1C with saxagliptin 5 mg. The effect of saxagliptin on lipid endpoints in this study was similar to placebo. Similar changes in body weight were observed in patients who received saxagliptin and placebo therapy (-0.9 kg and -0.9 kg, respectively).

Figure 1 – Mean Change from Baseline in A1C in a Placebo-Controlled Study of Saxagliptin in Combination with Metformin*



*Intent-to-treat population using last observation on study prior to pioglitazone rescue therapy. Mean change from baseline (LOCF).

Controlled Long-Term Study Extension

Patients who completed all visits during the initial 24-week study period without need for hyperglycemia rescue therapy were eligible to enter a controlled double blind long-term study extension. Of the patients that started the 24-week treatment, 162 (84.8%) and 149 (83.2%) patients were taking saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin and placebo plus metformin respectively. Patients who received saxagliptin in the initial 24-week study period maintained the same dose of saxagliptin in the long-term extension. Treatment with saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin was associated with a greater reduction in A1C than in the placebo plus metformin group, and the effect relative to placebo was sustained at Week 50 and Week 102 compared to placebo. The A1C change for saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin (n=100 observed, n=187 LOCF [last observation carried forward]) compared with placebo plus metformin (n=59 observed, n=175 LOCF) was -0.7% at Week 50. The A1C change for saxagliptin 5 mg plus metformin (n=31 observed, n=184 LOCF) compared with placebo plus metformin (n=15 observed, n=172 LOCF) was -0.7% at Week 102.

Saxagliptin Add-on Combination Therapy with Metformin and a Sulfonylurea

Study Design

Table 8 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trials in Saxagliptin Add-on Combination Therapy with Metformin and a Sulfonylurea

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n) per treatment arm	Age (Range)	Sex (%M/F)
CV181062	Multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled	Open-label metformin (≥1500 mg) and a sulfonlyurea (≥50% of the maximum dose) plus saxagliptin 5 mg or open-label metformin (≥1500 mg) and a sulfonlyurea (≥50% of the maximum dose) plus placebo Oral, 24 weeks	Saxagliptin 5 mg N=129 ≥65 years n=28 ≥75 years n=2 Placebo N=128 ≥65 years n=33 ≥75 years n=7	25 – 83 years	60/40

Study Results

A total of 257 patients with type 2 diabetes participated in this 24-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of saxagliptin in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea in patients with inadequate glycemic control (A1C ≥7% and ≤10%) on a stable combined dose of metformin (≥1500 mg) and sulfonylurea (≥50% of the maximum recommended dose) for at least eight weeks prior to enrolment.

Patients who met eligibility criteria were entered in a 2-week enrolment period to allow assessment of inclusion/exclusion criteria. Following the 2-week enrolment period, eligible patients were randomized to either double-blind saxagliptin (5 mg once daily) or double-blind matching placebo for 24 weeks. During the 24-week double-blind treatment period, patients continued metformin and sulfonylurea at the same constant dose ascertained during enrolment. Sulfonylurea could be down titrated once in the case of a major hypoglycemic event or recurring minor hypoglycemic events. In the absence of hypoglycemia, titration (up or down) of study medication during the treatment period was prohibited.

Saxagliptin, in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea, provided significant improvements in A1C and PPG compared with placebo in combination with metformin and a sulfonylurea (Table 9).

Table 9 – Glycemic Parameters at Week 24 in a Placebo-Controlled Trial of Saxagliptin as Add-On Combination Therapy with Metformin and a Sulfonylurea*

Efficacy Parameter	Saxagliptin 5 mg + Metformin and a Sulfonylurea N=129	Placebo + Metformin and a Sulfonylurea N=128
A1C (%)	**n=127**	**n=127**
Baseline (mean)	8.4	8.2
Change from baseline (adjusted mean†)	−0.7	−0.1
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean†)	−0.7‡	
95% Confidence Interval	(−0.9, −0.5)	
Percent of patients achieving A1C <7%	31%§ (39/127)	9% (12/127)
2-hour PPG (mmol/L)	**n=115**	**n=113**
Baseline (mean)	14.85	14.54
Change from baseline (adjusted mean†)	−0.65	0.28
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean†)	−0.93¶	
95% Confidence Interval	(−1.77, −0.09)	
FPG (mmol/L)	**n=121**	**n=123**
Baseline (mean)	8.99	8.63
Change from baseline (adjusted mean†)	−0.29	0.15
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean†)	−0.44#	
95% Confidence Interval	(−0.94, 0.06)	

* Intent-to-treat population using last observation prior to discontinuation.
† Least squares mean adjusted for baseline value.
‡ p-value <0.0001 compared to placebo + metformin and a sulfonylurea
§ Significance not tested.
¶ p-value = 0.0301 compared to placebo + metformin and a sulfonylurea
# Not statistically significant.

Saxagliptin Add-on Combination Therapy with Insulin (with or without Metformin)

Study Design

Table 10 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trials in Saxagliptin Add-on Combination Therapy with Insulin (with or without Metformin)

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n) per treatment arm	Age (Range)	Sex (%M/F)
CV181057	Multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled	Open-label insulin (≥30 units/day, ≤150 units/day) alone or with metformin plus saxagliptin 5 mg or open label insulin (≥30 units/day, ≤150 units/day) alone or with metformin plus placebo Oral, 24 weeks	Saxagliptin 5 mg N=304 ≥65 years n=71 ≥75 years n=6 Placebo N=151 ≥65 years n=33 ≥75 years n=3	18 – 77 years	41/59

Study Results

A total of 455 patients with type 2 diabetes participated in this randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of 24-week duration to evaluate the efficacy and safety of saxagliptin in combination with insulin in patients with inadequate glycemic control (A1C ≥7.5% and ≤11%) on insulin alone (N=141) or on insulin in combination with a stable dose of metformin (N=314). Patients were required to be on a stable dose of insulin (≥30 units to ≤150 units daily) with ≤20% variation in total daily dose for ≥8 weeks prior to screening with or without metformin. Patients were on intermediate- or long-acting (basal) insulin or premixed insulin. Patients using short-acting insulins were excluded unless the short-acting insulin was administered as part of a premixed insulin.

Patients who met eligibility criteria were enrolled in a single-blind, four-week, dietary and exercise placebo lead-in period during which patients received insulin (and metformin, if applicable) at their prestudy dose(s). Following the lead-in period, eligible patients were randomized to saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo in addition to continuing their current dose of insulin (and metformin, if applicable). Patients maintained a stable dose of insulin when possible. Patients who failed to meet specific glycemic goals or who increased their insulin dose by >20% were rescued and subsequently switched to a flexible insulin dose regimen. Dose titrations of saxagliptin and metformin (if applicable) were not allowed in this study.

Saxagliptin 5 mg add-on to insulin with or without metformin provided significant improvements in A1C and PPG compared with placebo add-on to insulin with or without metformin (Table 11). Similar A1C reductions versus placebo were achieved for patients using saxagliptin 5 mg add-on to insulin alone and saxagliptin 5 mg add-on to insulin in combination with metformin (−0.4% and −0.4%, respectively). The proportion of patients who discontinued for lack of glycemic

control or who were rescued was 23% in the saxagliptin 5 mg add-on to insulin group and 32% in the placebo add-on to insulin group. The mean daily insulin dose at baseline was 53 units in patients treated with saxagliptin 5 mg and 55 units in patients treated with placebo. The mean change from baseline in daily dose of insulin was an increase of 2 units for the saxagliptin 5 mg group and 5 units for the placebo group.

Table 11 – Glycemic Parameters at Week 24 in a Placebo-Controlled Trial of Saxagliptin as Add-On Combination Therapy with Insulin*

Efficacy Parameter	Saxagliptin 5 mg + Insulin (± Metformin) N=304	Placebo + Insulin (± Metformin) N=151
Hemoglobin A1C (%)	**n=300**	**n=149**
Baseline (mean)	8.7	8.7
Change from baseline (adjusted mean†)	−0.7	−0.3
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean†)	−0.4‡	
95% Confidence Interval	(−0.6, −0.2)	
Percent of patients achieving A1C <7%	17%§ (52/300)	7% (10/149)
2-hour Postprandial Glucose (mmol/L)	**n=262**	**n=129**
Baseline (mean)	13.9	14.2
Change from baseline (adjusted mean†)	−1.5	−0.2
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean†)	−1.3¶	
95% Confidence Interval	(−2.1, −0.5)	
Fasting Plasma Glucose (mmol/L)	**n=300**	**n=149**
Baseline (mean)	9.6	9.6
Change from baseline (adjusted mean†)	-0.6	-0.3
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean†)	−0.2#	
95% Confidence Interval	(−0.7, 0.3)	
Mean Total Daily Dose of Insulin (unit)	**n=299**	**n=151**
Baseline (mean)	53	55
Change from baseline (adjusted mean†)	2	5
Difference from placebo (adjusted mean†)	−3§	
95% Confidence Interval	(−6, −1)	

* Intent-to-treat population using last observation on study or last observation prior to insulin rescue therapy for patients needing rescue. Mean Total Daily Dose of Insulin: Intent-to-treat population using last observation on study.

† Least squares mean adjusted for baseline value and metformin use at baseline.

‡ p-value <0.0001 compared to placebo + insulin

§ Significance not tested

¶ p-value = 0.0016 compared to placebo + insulin
# Not statistically significant

Controlled Long-Term Study Extension

Following completion of the 24-week short-term treatment period, patients were eligible to enter a controlled double blind long-term treatment period. Patients continued to take the same blinded study medication that they were assigned during the short-term treatment period (saxagliptin 5 mg or placebo added on to insulin with or without metformin). During the long-term treatment extension, changes in both the dose and type of insulin were allowed. Of the patients that continued into the long-term treatment period, 268 (88.2% of randomized) patients and 134 (88.7% of randomized) patients were taking saxagliptin 5 mg and placebo plus insulin with or without metformin, respectively. Results from the extension period demonstrated that reductions from baseline A1C seen in the saxagliptin 5 mg add-on to insulin group compared with the placebo add-on to insulin group were sustained to Week 52; the A1C change for saxagliptin 5 mg (n=244 observed) compared with placebo (n=124 observed) was -0.4% at Week 52. Results were similar for subjects using metformin and not using metformin at baseline. Increases from baseline in mean total daily dose of insulin (MTDDI) were seen in both treatment groups through Week 52, with a numerically smaller increase in the saxagliptin 5 mg group (5 units saxagliptin versus 6 units Placebo).

Metformin
The prospective randomized (UKPDS) study has established the long-term benefit of intensive blood glucose control in type 2 diabetes. Analysis of the results for overweight patients treated with metformin after failure of diet alone showed:

- a significant reduction of the absolute risk of any diabetes-related complication in the metformin group (29.8 events/1,000 patient-years) versus diet alone (43.3 events/1,000 patient-years), p=0.0023, and versus the combined sulphonylurea and insulin monotherapy groups (40.1 events/1,000 patient-years), p=0.0034
- a significant reduction of the absolute risk of any diabetes-related mortality: metformin 7.5 events/1,000 patient-years, diet alone 12.7 events/1,000 patient-years, p=0.017
- a significant reduction of the absolute risk of overall mortality: metformin 13.5 events/1,000 patient-years versus diet alone 20.6 events/1,000 patient-years, (p=0.011), and versus the combined sulphonylurea and insulin monotherapy groups 18.9 events/1,000 patient-years (p=0.021)
- a significant reduction in the absolute risk of myocardial infarction: metformin 11 events/1,000 patient-years, diet alone 18 events/1,000 patient-years, (p=0.01).

14.2. Comparative Bioavailability Studies

In a bioequivalence study of KOMBOGLYZE 2.5 mg/500 mg, both the saxagliptin component and the metformin component were bioequivalent to co-administered 2.5 mg saxagliptin and 500 mg metformin hydrochloride tablets under fed and fasted conditions in healthy subjects (see Table 12).

The KOMBOGLYZE dosage formats (i.e., 2.5 mg/500 mg, 2.5 mg/850 mg and 2.5 mg/1000 mg) are proportionally formulated.

Table 12 – Geometric Mean Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Saxagliptin and Metformin Following Single Oral Dose of KOMBOGLYZE or Co-administration of Corresponding Doses of Saxagliptin and Metformin as Individual Tablets to Healthy Subjects Under Fasted and Fed Conditions

Saxagliptin				
Treatment	**N**	**AUC_{0-t} (ng·h/mL)**	**$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (ng·h/mL)**	**C_{max} (ng/mL)**
A	27	50.28	52.17	10.54
B	26	51.60	53.73	11.53
C	26	59.00	61.31	12.71
D	26	58.94	60.88	12.79
Metformin				
Treatment	**N**	**AUC_{0-t} (ng·h/mL)**	**$AUC_{0-\infty}$ * (ng·h/mL)**	**C_{max} (ng/mL)**
A	27	8035	8143	1058
B	26	7906	8070	1045
C	26	7498	7613	810
D	26	7654	7691	812

Treatment A: 2.5 mg saxagliptin and 500 mg metformin hydrochloride tablets administered together in the fasted state.
Treatment B: KOMBOGLYZE saxagliptin (2.5 mg)/metformin hydrochloride (500 mg) administered in the fasted state.
Treatment C: 2.5 mg saxagliptin and 500 mg metformin hydrochloride tablets administered together in the fed state.
Treatment D: KOMBOGLYZE saxagliptin (2.5 mg)/metformin hydrochloride (500 mg) administered in the fed state.
*The number of individual metformin AUC (0-∞) values reported was 26 for Treatments A and B and 25 for Treatments C and D.

16. Non-Clinical Toxicology

General toxicology

No animal studies have been conducted with the combined products in KOMBOGLYZE (saxagliptin/metformin hydrochloride) to evaluate carcinogenesis, mutagenesis or impairment of fertility. The following data are based on the findings in studies with saxagliptin and metformin individually.

Acute toxicity

Saxagliptin

Saxagliptin was observed to be well tolerated at single doses up to 2000 mg/kg in mice and rats and 25 mg/kg in cynomolgus monkeys. In rodents, 4000 mg/kg resulted in transient decreases in body-weight gain and activity and/or lethality. In monkeys, overt toxicity and lethality were observed at 50 mg/kg.

Chronic Toxicity

Saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride

The repeat-dose toxicity of saxagliptin and metformin was evaluated in a 3-month dog study at doses of 5 mg/kg/day saxagliptin, 20 mg/kg/day metformin, and the combination of 1/20 and 5/20 mg/kg/day saxagliptin/metformin. Co-administration of saxagliptin and metformin did not induce unique or additive toxicities in dogs. The no-observed-adverse effect-level (5/20 mg/kg of saxagliptin/metformin) was 68 times and 1.5 times the human exposure based on the maximum recommended human doses of 5 mg/day of saxagliptin and 2000 mg/day of metformin, respectively.

Saxagliptin

The potential toxicity of saxagliptin was evaluated in a number of repeat-dose studies in mice, rats, dogs and monkeys. Saxagliptin administered to rats for 6 months at doses of 2, 20 and 100 mg/kg/day was well tolerated, causing only at the high dose, minimal splenic lymphoid hyperplasia and pulmonary histiocytosis. The no-observed-adverse-effect-level (20 mg/kg/day) was 36 times (males) and 78 times (females) the human exposure based on the recommended human dose of 5 mg/day (RHD). In dogs, saxagliptin administered orally at 5 and 10 mg/kg/day for 12 months caused toxicity in the intestinal tract, as evidenced by bloody and mucoid feces. The no-observed-adverse-effect-level was 1 mg/kg/day, 4 times the RHD. In monkeys, major target organ changes included skin lesions (scabs, erosions, and ulceration), lymphoid hyperplasia (primarily spleen and bone marrow) and multi-tissue mononuclear-cell infiltrates. Skin healing during the dosing period was observed with recovery of both skin and microscopic changes following a drug-free recovery period. The AUCs at the no effect level for these changes were 1 to 3 times the RHD.

Genotoxicity

Saxagliptin

The mutagenic and clastogenic potential of saxagliptin was tested at high concentrations and exposures in a battery of genetic toxicity studies including an *in vitro* Ames bacterial assay, an *in vitro* cytogenetics assay in primary human lymphocytes, an *in vivo* oral micronucleus assay in rats, an *in vivo* oral DNA repair study in rats, and an oral *in vivo/in vitro* cytogenetics study in rat peripheral blood lymphocytes. Saxagliptin was not mutagenic or clastogenic based on the combined outcomes of these studies. The major metabolite was not mutagenic in an *in vitro* Ames bacterial assay.

Metformin hydrochloride

There was no evidence of a mutagenic potential of metformin in the following *in vitro* tests: Ames test (*S. typhimurium*), gene mutation test (mouse lymphoma cells), or chromosomal aberrations test (human lymphocytes). Results in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test were also negative.

Carcinogenicity

Saxagliptin

Two-year carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice and rats at oral doses of 50, 250, and 600 mg/kg/day and 25, 75, 150, and 300 mg/kg/day, respectively. Saxagliptin did not induce tumors in either mice or rats at the highest doses evaluated. The highest doses evaluated in mice were equivalent to approximately 900 (males) and 1210 (females) times the human exposure at the recommended human dose of 5 mg/day (RHD). In rats, AUC exposures were approximately 370 (males) and 2300 (females) times the RHD.

Metformin hydrochloride

Long-term carcinogenicity studies have been performed in rats (dosing duration of 104 weeks) and mice (dosing duration of 91 weeks) at doses up to and including 900 mg/kg/day and 1500 mg/kg/day, respectively. These doses are both approximately 4 times the maximum recommended human daily dose of 2000 mg based on body surface area comparisons. No evidence of carcinogenicity with metformin was found in either male or female mice. Similarly, there was no tumorigenic potential observed with metformin in male rats. There was, however, an increased incidence of benign stromal uterine polyps in female rats treated with 900 mg/kg/day.

Reproductive and developmental toxicology

Saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride

Co-administration of saxagliptin and metformin, to pregnant rats and rabbits during the period of organogenesis, was neither embryolethal nor teratogenic in either species at doses up to 25/600 mg/kg/day in rats (AUC exposures 100 and 10 times the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 5 mg saxagliptin and 2000 mg metformin, respectively) and 40/50 mg/kg/day in rabbits (AUC exposures 249 and 1.1 times the MRHD of saxagliptin and metformin, respectively).

In rats, an increased incidence of delayed rib ossification (a minor developmental toxicity) was observed in fetuses of females dosed at 25/600 mg/kg/day of saxagliptin/metformin. This finding occurred in the presence of maternal toxicity which included weight decrements of 5% to 6% over the course of gestation days 13 through 18, and related reductions in maternal food consumption.

In rabbits, co-administration of saxagliptin/metformin at 40/50 mg/kg/day was poorly tolerated in a subset of mothers (12 of 30), resulting in death, moribundity, or abortion. The increased mortality in gravid rabbits was metformin-related and species-specific (not seen in rats). Among surviving mothers with evaluable litters, maternal toxicity was limited to marginal reductions in body weight over the course of gestation days 21 to 29. Associated developmental toxicity was observed in these litters which included fetal body weight decrements of 7%, and a low incidence of delayed ossification of the fetal hyoid.

Saxagliptin

In a rat fertility study, males were treated with oral gavage doses of 100, 200, and 400 mg/kg/day for two weeks prior to mating, during mating, and up to scheduled termination (approximately four weeks total) and females were treated with oral gavage doses of 125, 300, and 750 mg/kg/day for two weeks prior to mating through gestation day 7. No adverse effects on fertility were observed at 200 mg/kg/day (males) or 125 mg/kg/day (females) resulting in respective exposures (AUC) of approximately 630 (males) and 805 (females) times human exposure at the RHD. At higher, maternally toxic doses (300 and 750 mg/kg/day), increased fetal resorptions were observed (approximately 2150 and 6375 times the RHD). Additional effects on estrous cycling, fertility, ovulation, and implantation were observed at 750 mg/kg (approximately 6375 times the RHD).

Saxagliptin was not teratogenic at any dose evaluated in rats or rabbits. At high doses in rats, saxagliptin caused a minor and reversible developmental delay in ossification of the fetal pelvis at ≥240 mg/kg/day (≥1560 times the human exposure [AUC] at the RHD). Maternal toxicity and reduced fetal body weights were observed at 900 mg/kg/day (8290 times the RHD). In rabbits, the effects of saxagliptin were limited to minor skeletal variations observed only at maternally toxic doses (200 mg/kg/day, exposures 1420 times the RHD).

Saxagliptin administered to female rats from gestation day 6 to lactation day 20 resulted in decreased body weights in male and female offspring only at maternally toxic doses (≥250 mg/kg/day, exposures ≥1690 times the RHD). No functional or behavioral toxicity was observed in offspring of rats administered saxagliptin at any dose.

Metformin hydrochloride

Fertility of male or female rats was unaffected by metformin when administered at doses as high as 600 mg/kg/day, which is approximately three times the maximum recommended human daily dose based on body surface area comparisons.

Metformin was not teratogenic in rats and rabbits at doses up to 600 mg/kg/day. This represents an exposure of about 2 and 6 times the maximum recommended human daily dose of 2000 mg based on body surface area comparisons for rats and rabbits, respectively. Determination of fetal concentrations demonstrated a partial placental barrier to metformin.

17. Supporting Product Monographs

1. ONGLYZA® Tablets, 2.5 mg and 5 mg, control 294118, product monograph, AstraZeneca Canada Inc. (2025-06-24)
2. GLUCOPHAGE® Tablets, 500 mg and 850 mg, control 211582, product monograph, sanofi-aventis Canada Inc. (2018-03-02)

Patient Medication Information

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

Pr KOMBOGLYZE®

Saxagliptin and metformin hydrochloride tablets

This Patient Medication Information is written for the person who will be taking **KOMBOGLYZE**. This may be you or a person you are caring for. Read this information carefully. Keep it as you may need to read it again.

This Patient Medication Information is a summary. It will not tell you everything about this medication. If you have more questions about this medication or want more information about **KOMBOGLYZE**, talk to a healthcare professional.

Serious warnings and precautions box

KOMBOGLYZE contains metformin and it can cause a rare but serious side effect called lactic acidosis. Lactic acidosis can cause death and must be treated in the hospital. Alcohol may increase the risk of developing lactic acidosis. Do not drink a lot of alcohol while taking KOMBOGLYZE.

What KOMBOGLYZE is used for:

KOMBOGLYZE is used along with diet and exercise to improve blood sugar levels in adults with type 2 diabetes.

KOMBOGLYZE can be used in patients:

- whose diabetes is not controlled on:
  - metformin alone
  - metformin and sulfonylurea alone
  - metformin and insulin alone
- who are already treated with:
  - saxagliptin and metformin
  - saxagliptin, metformin and sulfonylurea
  - saxagliptin, metformin and insulin

How KOMBOGLYZE works:

KOMBOGLYZE contains two drugs.

Saxagliptin: helps to improve blood sugar levels after a meal. Saxagliptin also lowers blood sugar levels between meals and helps to decrease the amount of sugar made by your body.

Metformin: helps to lower the amount of sugar made by the liver, lowers the amount of sugar your intestines absorb and improves insulin sensitivity

The ingredients in KOMBOGLYZE are:

Medicinal ingredients: saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) and metformin hydrochloride.

Non-medicinal ingredients: magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol, povidone, talc, titanium dioxide, and red iron oxide (2.5 mg/500 mg strength) or a combination of red and yellow iron oxides (2.5 mg/850 mg strength) or yellow iron oxide (2.5 mg/1000 mg

strength).

KOMBOGLYZE comes in the following dosage form:

Tablets:

- 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 500 mg metformin hydrochloride
- 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 850 mg metformin hydrochloride
- 2.5 mg saxagliptin (as saxagliptin hydrochloride) / 1000 mg metformin hydrochloride

Do not use KOMBOGLYZE if:

- you have uncontrolled and/or insulin-dependent type 1 diabetes;
- you have a build-up of acid in your body. This is known as metabolic acidosis;
- you have or have had a condition called metabolic acidosis (including diabetic ketoacidosis, or lactic acidosis – too much acid in the blood);
- you have or have had a liver or kidney problem;
- you have heart failure or abrupt failure of blood circulation. This is known as cardiovascular collapse;
- you have heart and lungs that do not function properly. This is known as cardiorespiratory insufficiency, a disease state that can cause hypoxemia (low oxygen in the blood);
- you drink alcohol very often or drink a lot of alcohol in a short time. This is known as binge drinking;
- you are stressed, have severe infections, are experiencing trauma;
- you are about to undergo surgery or during the recovery time after your surgery;
- you suffer from severe dehydration (have lost a lot of water from your body) or shock;
- you are breastfeeding;
- you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant;
- you are going to have an exam or other tests such as an X-ray or scan with injectable dyes or contrast agents used. Talk to your healthcare professional about when to stop KOMBOGLYZE and when to start again;
- you are allergic to saxagliptin, other drugs like saxagliptin, metformin or any of the ingredients in KOMBOGLYZE.

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take KOMBOGLYZE. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- **have any of the following conditions:**
  - low vitamin B_{12} levels;
  - have or have had pancreas problems such as inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis);
  - are weak or malnourished;
  - problems with your adrenal or pituitary glands (adrenal or pituitary insufficiency).

- are taking any of the medications listed in the drug interactions section (see **The following may interact with KOMBOGLYZE**)

- **have risk factors for lactic acidosis, such as if you:**
  - have metabolic acidosis (such as diabetic ketoacidosis);
  - have kidney problems;
  - have liver problems;

- have congestive heart failure that requires treatment with medicines;
- have a heart attack, severe infection, or stroke;
- drink a lot of alcohol (very often or short-term “binge” drinking);
- are dehydrated. Dehydration can also happen when you sweat a lot with activity or exercise and don’t drink enough fluids. Tell your healthcare professional if this happens.
- have certain X-ray tests with injectable dyes or contrast agents used;
- have surgery;
- are 80 years of age or older and have not been assessed for kidney function.
- have or think you have certain mitochondrial diseases, specifically Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy with Lactic acidosis, and Stroke-like episodes (MELAS) syndrome and Maternally Inherited Diabetes and Deafness (MIDD) (diseases that are passed down at birth affecting mitochondria). For these patients, taking KOMBOGLYZE increases the risk for lactic acidosis and can lead to worsening of the mitochondrial disease.

Other warnings you should know about:

Vitamin B_{12} levels

KOMBOGLYZE can cause your vitamin B_{12} levels to be low. This can cause peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage) or anemia (low red blood cells).

Surgery
Tell your healthcare professional if you are going to have a surgery or had major surgery. Your healthcare professional may stop your KOMBOGLYZE treatment before and after certain types of surgery.

Check-ups and testing

You will have regular visits with your healthcare professional before and during treatment with KOMBOGLYZE to monitor your health. They may check:

- the condition of your heart;
- your blood sugar levels;
- that your kidneys are working properly;
- the amount of red blood cells in your blood;
- ketone levels in your blood or urine. Ketones are a type of chemical that your liver produces when it breaks down fats for energy;
- your blood levels of vitamin B_{12}.

Driving and using machines
Do not drive or use machines until you know how the medicine affects you. Do not drive or operate machines if you develop hypoglycemia (low blood sugar levels).

Serious skin reactions
KOMBOGLYZE can cause serious skin reactions called Stevens-Johnson syndrome and bullous pemphigoid. See the **Serious side effects and what to do about them** table, below for more information on these and other serious side effects.

Heart problems
Heart failure has been seen in patients treated with KOMBOGLYZE. **Heart failure** is when your heart is unable to pump enough blood to meet the needs of the body. You are at greater risk of

heart failure if you have or have had:

- heart or blood vessel disease including heart failure and heart attack;
- kidney disease;
- several risk factors of getting heart disease.

Worsening of existing mitochondrial disease such as MELAS syndrome and MIDD
Tell your healthcare professional if you experience symptoms such as seizures, reduction in mental abilities (memory lapses, difficulty concentrating, trouble finding words or following conversations, poor judgement or decision-making), difficulty with body movements, muscle pain or weakness, pain, numbness, migraine or deafness after starting KOMBOGLYZE. These may be signs that your existing medical condition is getting worse.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with KOMBOGLYZE:

- Other diabetes drugs such as glyburide;
- Furosemide;
- Cationic drugs (such as amiloride, digoxin, morphine, procainamide, quinidine, quinine, ranitidine, triamterene, trimethoprim and vancomycin);
- Rifampin, an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections such as tuberculosis;
- Phenprocoumon and other drugs used to prevent blood clots and thin the blood;
- Other drugs that tend to produce hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) and may lead to a loss of blood sugar control. Examples include:
  - A group of medicines known as calcium channel blockers, used to treat heart problems such as: nifedipine, amlodipine, felodipine, verapamil, diltiazem
  - Bronchodilators (known as beta-2-agonists): medicines that make breathing easier, used to treat asthma like salbutamol or formoterol;
  - Thiazide and other diuretics (used to lower extra fluid in your body);
  - Phenytoin, used to treat epilepsy;
  - Nicotinic acid, used to prevent and treat low niacin;
  - Isoniazid, used to treat tuberculosis;
  - Corticosteroids (anti-inflammatory drugs);
  - Phenothiazines, used to treat mental and emotional disorders;
  - Thyroid drugs such as levothyroxine;
  - Female hormones like estrogens or estrogens plus progestogen;
  - Oral birth control pills;
  - Sympathomimetics, used to stimulate the sympathetic nervous system;
  - Medicines used to lower blood pressure, like diltiazem;
  - Medicines for asthma;
- ACE inhibitor drugs (may lower blood glucose).

How to take KOMBOGLYZE:

- Take KOMBOGLYZE exactly as your healthcare professional tells you. Check with your healthcare professional if you are not sure.
- Take with meals to reduce your chance of having an upset stomach.

Usual dose:

Your healthcare professional will decide the best dose that is right for you.

Overdose:

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much KOMBOGLYZE, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669) immediately, even if there are no signs or symptoms.

Missed dose:

If you missed a dose of this medication, take it as soon as you remember. But if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your next scheduled dose. Go back to the regular dosing schedule. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Possible side effects from using KOMBOGLYZE:

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking KOMBOGLYZE. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

- abdominal bloating
- changes in taste or a metallic taste
- diarrhea
- fatigue
- gas
- headache
- loss of appetite
- low vitamin B_{12} (vitamin B_{12} deficiency)
- nausea
- rash
- upper respiratory tract infection
- upset stomach
- urinary tract infection
- vomiting

Serious side effects and what to do about them

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Uncommon			
Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar when used with sulfonylurea or insulin): Shaking, sweating, rapid heartbeat, change in vision, hunger, headache and change in mood		✓	
Pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas): Prolonged severe abdominal pain which		✓	✓

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
may be accompanied by vomiting			
Severe disabling joint pain		✓	
Rare			
Encephalopathy (disease of the brain that severely alters thinking): Muscle weakness in one area, poor decision-making or concentration, involuntary twitching, trembling, difficulty speaking or swallowing, seizures			✓
Hemolytic anemia (breakdown of red blood cells): Fatigue, pale colour, rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath, dark urine, chills, and backache			✓
Lactic Acidosis (build up of lactic acid in your blood): Feeling very weak, tired or uncomfortable, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, feeling cold, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, unusual fatigue and drowsiness, suddenly develop a slow or irregular heartbeat			✓
Peripheral neuropathy (a result of damage to your peripheral nerves): Gradual onset of numbness, prickling or tingling in your feet or hands, which can spread upward into your legs and arms, sharp, jabbing, throbbing, freezing or burning pain, extreme sensitivity to touch, lack of coordination and falling, muscle weakness or paralysis if motor nerves are affected			✓
Very Rare			
Allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions (angioedema / anaphylaxis): Swelling of the face, lips or throat, difficulty		✓	✓

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
breathing, rash, hives, itching, peeling, or flaking skin			
Liver problems: Yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite		✓	
Rhabdomyolysis (breakdown of damaged muscle): Muscle spasms, weakness, red-brown (tea-coloured) urine			✓
Serious skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, bullous pemphigoid: Blistering of the skin, redness, peeling skin		✓	
Unknown			
Heart failure (a weakness of the heart): Tiredness, swollen ankles, increasing shortness of breath especially when lying down and a fast increase in weight			✓
Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid): Weight gain, tiredness, hair loss, muscle weakness, feeling cold, dry skin, constipation, puffy face, heavier than normal or irregular menstrual periods, enlarged thyroid gland		✓	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

Reporting side effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (canada.ca/drug-device-reporting) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your healthcare professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

Store at room temperature (15 to 25°C).

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

If you want more information about KOMBOGLYZE:

- Talk to your healthcare professional.
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes the Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada Drug Product Database website (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html); the manufacturer's website www.astrazeneca.ca; or by calling 1-800-668-6000.
- The Patient Medication Information is current at the time of printing. The most up-to-date version can be found at www.astrazeneca.ca.

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