

**Prescribing Tip For Information****SGLT 2 inhibitors and reports of Fournier's gangrene.**

Sodium-glucose co-transporter2 (SGLT2) inhibitors are indicated for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Licensed medicines available in the UK include

**Dapagliflozin, Canagliflozin, Empagliflozin or Ertugliflozin.**

**The MHRA have advised that post marketing cases of Fournier's gangrene (necrotising fasciitis of the genitalia or perineum) have been associated with the use of SGLT2 inhibitors.**

An EU review has assessed reported cases of Fournier's gangrene across the class of SGLT2 inhibitors. Although diabetes mellitus is a risk factor for the development of Fournier's gangrene, some of the EU post-marketing reports were considered possibly to be related to the use of SGLT2 inhibitors.

Fournier's gangrene is a rare but potentially life-threatening infection that requires urgent medical attention. Fournier's gangrene usually occurs almost exclusively in men. However, around a third of the EU cases reviewed were reported in women.

In total 6 Yellow Card reports have been received (4 in men and 2 in women) of UK cases of Fournier's gangrene in association with SGLT2 inhibitors up to January 2019.

**Patients taking SGLT2 inhibitors should be advised to seek urgent medical attention if they experience severe pain, tenderness, erythema, or swelling in the genital or perineal area accompanied by fever or malaise.**

**If Fournier's gangrene is suspected, the SGLT2 inhibitor should be stopped and treatment (including antibiotics and surgical debridement) started urgently as appropriate.**

**Advice for healthcare professionals:**

- Fournier's gangrene is a rare but serious and potentially life-threatening infection
- If Fournier's gangrene is suspected, stop the SGLT2 inhibitor and urgently start treatment (including antibiotics and surgical debridement as required).
- Urogenital infection or perineal abscess may precede necrotising fasciitis.
- Advise patients to seek urgent medical attention if they experience severe pain, tenderness, erythema, or swelling in the genital or perineal area, accompanied by fever or malaise.
- Report suspected adverse drug reactions to a SGLT2 inhibitor to the [Yellow Card Scheme](#) without delay.

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302

If you have any suggestions for future topics to cover in our prescribing tips please contact [Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net](mailto:Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net)

All content accurate and correct on the date of issue of this tip.