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Impact of Pitavastatin on Development of New-onset Diabetes Mellitus in Asian Population: Three-year Clinical Follow up Results

Background: Although statin therapy is beneficial for vascular diseases, the relationship between specific statin therapy and the incidence of new-onset diabetes mellitus (DM) remains uncertain. We evaluated the impact of Pitavastatin therapy on the development of new-onset DM from 3-year clinical follow up data in Asian population. Methods: From January 2004 to September 2009, a total of 3,147 consecutive patients who did not have DM were enrolled. New-onset DM was defined as having a fasting blood glucose $>126\text{mg/dL}$ or HbA1c $>6.5\%$. Baseline characteristics between the Pitavastatin and the control group were propensity score matched (PSM, C-statistics=0.868). Three-year incidence of new-onset DM was compared between the two groups. Results: At baseline, patients in the Pitavastatin group had higher prevalence of elderly, male gender, dyslipidemia, coronary artery disease, smoking history, alcoholic history, higher levels of total cholesterol, triglyceride and LDL-C. The incidence of new-onset DM was higher in the Pitavastatin group at 3 years (6.8% vs. 2.0%, $p<0.001$). Following PSM (C-statistics=0.868), the 2 groups were well balanced and 3-year follow up showed higher incidence of new-onset DM in the Pitavastatin group (8.4% vs. 0%, $p=0.004$, figure). Conclusions: In our study, chronic pitavastatin use was associated with increased incidence of new-onset DM at 3 years.