Renal effects of dapagliflozin in people with and without diabetes with moderate or severe renal dysfunction: prospective modeling of an ongoing clinical trial.

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Running Title: Modeling renal effects of dapagliflozin

Pages: 45
Figures: 9
Tables: 3
Abstract Word Count: 249
Introduction Word Count: 556
Discussion Word Count: 1500
ABSTRACT

Sodium Glucose Cotransporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) reduce cardiovascular events and onset and progression of renal disease by mechanisms that remain incompletely understood, but may include clearance of interstitial congestion and reduced glomerular hydrostatic pressure. The ongoing DAPASALT mechanistic clinical study will evaluate natriuretic, diuretic, plasma/extracellular volume and blood pressure responses to dapagliflozin in people with type 2 diabetes (T2D) with normal or impaired renal function (D-PRF and D-IRF, respectively), and in normoglycemic individuals with renal impairment (N-IRF). In this study, a mathematical model of renal physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology was used to prospectively predict changes in sodium excretion, blood and interstitial fluid volume (IFV), blood pressure, glomerular filtration rate, and albuminuria in DAPASALT. After validating the model with previous diabetic nephropathy trials, virtual patients were matched to DAPASALT inclusion/exclusion criteria, and the DAPASALT protocol was simulated. Predicted changes in glycosuria, blood pressure, GFR, and albuminuria were consistent with other recent studies in similar populations. Predicted albuminuria reductions were 46% in D-PRF, 34.8% in D-IRF, and 14.2% in N-IRF. The model predicts similarly large IFV reduction between D-PRF and D-IRF, and less but still substantial IFV reduction in N-IRF, even though glycosuria attenuated in groups with impaired renal function. When DAPASALT results become available, comparison with these simulations will provide a basis for evaluating how well we understand the cardiorenal mechanism(s) of SGLT2i. Meanwhile, these simulations link dapagliflozin’s renal mechanisms to changes in IFV and renal biomarkers, suggesting these benefits may extend to those with impaired renal function and nondiabetics.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Mechanisms of SGLT2 inhibitors’ cardiorenal benefits remain incompletely understood. We used a mathematical model of renal physiology/pharmacology to prospectively predict responses to dapagliflozin in the ongoing DAPASALT study. Key predictions include similarly large interstitial fluid
volume (IFV) reductions between subjects with normal and impaired renal function, and less but still substantial IFV reduction in non-diabetics, even though glycosuria is attenuated in these groups. Comparing prospective simulations and study results will assess how well we understand the cardiorenal mechanism(s) of SGLT2i.

**Non-standard Abbreviations:**

ΔPerm  Change in glomerular membrane permeability  
ΔSA  Change in glomerular capillary surface area  
η  Fractional Na+ reabsorption  
Φglu  Tubular glucose flow rate  
ΦNa  Tubular sodium flow rate  
μother,seiv  Podocyte injury  
πgo-avg  average glomerular capillary oncotic pressure  
ACEI  Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor  
Ang  Angiotensin  
ARB  Angiotensin receptor blocker  
Calbumin  Plasma albumin concentration  
Cglu  Plasma glucose concentration  
CNa  Plasma sodium concentration  
CD  Collecting duct  
DBP  Diastolic blood pressure  
D-IRF  Type 2 Diabetics with impaired renal function  
D-PRF  Type 2 Diabetics with preserved renal function  
eGFR  Estimated glomerular filtration rate  
GFR  Glomerular filtration rate  
IFV  Interstitial fluid volume  
Kalbumin  Glomerular albumin sieving coefficient
K<sub>f</sub>  Glomerular ultrafiltration coefficient
MAP  Mean arterial pressure
NHE3  Sodium-hydrogen exchanger 3
N-IRF  Normoglycemic with impaired renal function
P<sub>Bow</sub>  Bowman’s pressure
P<sub>gc</sub>  Glomerular capillary hydrostatic pressure
PT  Proximal tubule
R<sub>preaff</sub>  Preafferent arteriole resistance
R<sub>aff</sub>  Afferent arteriole resistance
RAAS  Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system
RBF  Renal blood flow
R<sub>Calbumin</sub>  Proximal tubule capacity to reabsorb a filtered albumin
RIHP  Renal interstitial hydrostatic pressure
RVR  Renal vascular resistance
S<sub>p-N</sub>  Pressure-natriuresis sensitivity
SBP  Systolic blood pressure
SEC<sub>renin</sub>  Renin secretion rate
SGLT2i  Sodium Glucose Cotransporter 2 inhibitor
SNGFR  Single nephron glomerular filtration rate
T2D  Type 2 Diabetes
TGF  Tubuloglomerular feedback
UACR  Urinary albumin creatinine ratio
UAER  Urinary albumin excretion rate
UGE  Urinary glucose excretion
V<sub>b</sub>  blood volume
INTRODUCTION

Sodium glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) have been shown to reduce cardiovascular (and particularly heart failure) events and improve renal outcomes in people with type 2 diabetes (T2D) (Zinman et al., 2015; Mosenzon et al., 2019). While SGLT2 inhibition produces an initial hemodynamic drop in GFR, results from EMPA-REG, CANVAS, and DECLARE outcomes trials demonstrated that kidney function in the treated groups stabilized, while the placebo group progressed (Wanner et al., 2016; Guthrie, 2018; Mosenzon et al., 2019). Post-hoc analyses of phase III studies have found that dapagliflozin stabilized estimated GFR (eGFR) decline for up to 2 years (Fioretto et al., 2015) and reduced urinary albumin creatinine ratio (UACR) by 38-48% in those with elevated albuminuria at baseline (Dekkers et al., 2018). Empagliflozin reduced the risk of new onset of macroalbuminuria, doubling of serum creatinine and initiation of dialysis treatment respectively (Wanner et al., 2016).

The mechanisms responsible for these cardiovascular and renoprotective effects remain incompletely understood. Renoprotective mechanisms may include reduced glomerular hydrostatic pressure, reduced proximal tubule sodium transport both directly and through coupled NHE3 inhibition, and/or reduced blood pressure (Hallow et al., 2018). In addition, sodium and glucose excretion with SGLT2i induces an osmotic diuresis which could be responsible for improved heart failure outcomes (Hallow et al., 2017b).

Mathematical modeling provides a tool to describe, test, and quantitatively evaluate proposed mechanisms by which SGLT2 inhibition impacts renal and cardiovascular function. We have previously modeled the renal effects of dapagliflozin and identified a set of mechanisms capable of reproducing urinary and plasma biomarker responses observed in healthy subjects (Hallow et al., 2017b; Hallow et al., 2018). Simulations with this model have demonstrated mathematically that SGLT2i reduces glomerular hydrostatic pressure as an indirect consequence of reduced proximal tubule sodium reabsorption (Vallon and Thomson, 2017). This provides a plausible explanation for the reduction in
albuminuria and slowing of renal progression observed with SGLT2i. In addition, simulations predicted that SGLT2 inhibition will reduce interstitial fluid volume to a greater extent than blood volume, compared to other forms of natriuretic/diuretic agents (Hallow et al., 2018; Mahato et al., 2019). This suggests that in states of volume overload, such as heart failure, SGLT2 inhibition may relieve interstitial congestion without excessive lowering of blood volume and blood pressure, thus maintaining organ perfusion and possibly also preventing excessive neurohormonal activation.

While SGLT2 inhibition has been shown to reduce total body fluid volume, no study has yet distinguished the relative effects of SGLT2 inhibition on blood and interstitial fluid volume during standardized sodium intake. The DAPASALT study (NCT03152084) is an open label, phase IV, three-arm mechanistic study designed to evaluate the natriuretic, diuretic and blood pressure responses to 2-week dapagliflozin treatment in people with T2D with and without renal impairment, and in normoglycemic individuals with renal impairment. Data obtained from this study may allow clinical evaluation of model-based mechanistic hypotheses, including the relatively larger effect on interstitial fluid volume compared to blood volume. The true test of any mathematical model is its ability to prospectively predict behavior. In this analysis, we extend our existing model to prospectively simulate changes in urinary clinical chemistry variables, blood volume, interstitial fluid volume, GFR, and urinary albumin excretion rate (UAER) in the ongoing mechanistic clinical DAPASALT study. This will evaluate the extent to which we truly understand the renal mechanisms of SGLT2i and may also identify gaps in our existing knowledge.

METHODS

Modeling Approach Overview

Using a previously developed mathematical model of renal function and diabetic kidney disease (Hallow et al., 2014; Hallow et al., 2017a; Hallow et al., 2018; Mahato et al., 2019), we generated a population of virtual patients with diabetes and varying degrees of kidney injury by varying model parameters
associated with T2D, hypertension (a common comorbidity with diabetes), and kidney injury. Because
the effects of T2D on kidney injury in the model were previously developed based on data from db/db
mice with or without uninephrectomy (Mahato et al., 2019), we used human diabetic nephropathy
clinical trial data to recalibrate rate constants for this component of the model, and to validate the
simulated response to standard-of-care therapies (i.e. ACE inhibitors [ACEI] and angiotensin receptor
blockers [ARBs]). We then selected a population of virtual patients to match the DAPASALT
inclusion/exclusion criteria and simulated the protocol of the DAPASALT study (NCT03152084).

Model Description
The model of renal function and diabetic kidney injury is summarized in Figure 1 and has been described
in detail previously (Hallow and Gebremichael, 2017b; Hallow and Gebremichael, 2017a; Hallow et al.,
2018; Mahato et al., 2019). This model describes the key physiological processes of renal function and
their roles in maintaining Na\(^+\) and water homeostasis, as well as pathologic processes leading to renal
injury and proteinuria in diabetes. Full model equations are also provided in the supplement. Here we
provide an overview of the model and describe only key model equations necessary to understand how
renal injury and albuminuria were modeled, parameters varied to generate virtual patients, and how
SGLT2 inhibition was modeled.

Renal Vasculature: As shown in Figure 1A, the kidney is modeled as a set of nephrons in parallel.

Renal blood flow (RBF) is a function of the mean arterial pressure (MAP), renal venous pressure, and
renal vascular resistance (RVR), according to Ohm’s law (Eq. A1-4 in the supplement). RVR is the
equivalent resistance of preafferent, afferent, efferent, and peritubular arterioles and capillaries; it also
depends on the number of nephrons.
Glomerular Filtration: Single nephron glomerular filtration rate (SNGFR) depends on the glomerular ultrafiltration coefficient ($K_f$) as well as the net filtration pressure across the glomerulus, according to Starling’s equation:

$$SNGFR = K_f \left( P_{gc} - P_{Bow} - \pi_{go-avg} \right)$$  \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq. 1}$$

Here $K_f$ is the glomerular ultrafiltration coefficient, $P_{gc}$ is glomerular capillary hydrostatic pressure, $P_{Bow}$ is pressure in the Bowman’s space, and $\pi_{go-avg}$ is average glomerular capillary oncotic pressure. The total GFR is then the SNGFR multiplied by the number of nephrons:

$$GFR = SNGFR \times \frac{\text{Nephrons}}{\text{Nephrons}} \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq. 2}$$

Glucose filtration, reabsorption, and excretion: Glucose is filtered freely through the glomerulus. Thus, the filtered load for a single nephron is the product of SNGFR and average plasma glucose concentration ($C_{glu}$):

$$\Phi_{glu,filtered} = SNGFR \times C_{glu} \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq. 3}$$

Glucose is reabsorbed by SGLT2 in the S1 and S2 segments of the proximal tubule (PT) and by SGLT1 in the S3 segment, up to the reabsorptive capacity of each segment (Eq. A8-9). Any unreabsorbed glucose then flows through the rest of the tubule and is excreted in the urine (Eq. A10).

Na$^+$ filtration and reabsorption: The single nephron filtered Na$^+$ load is given by:

$$\Phi_{Na,filtered} = SNGFR \times C_{Na} \hspace{1cm} \text{Eq. 4}$$

where $C_{Na}$ is the plasma Na$^+$ concentration. Na$^+$ is reabsorbed through different transporters at different rates in each segment along the tubule. In the proximal tubule, NHE3 plays a major role in Na$^+$ reabsorption, and thus NHE3 reabsorption is modeled explicitly. In addition, coupling of Na$^+$ reabsorption is Glucose and Na$^+$ are reabsorption through SGLT2 at a 1:1 molar ratio (Eqs. A12) and by SGLT1 at a 1:2 molar ratio (Eq. A13) is modeled. Additional Na$^+$ reabsorption through other transporters
is also accounted for (Eq. A14). For the remaining nephron segments, we approximate Na\(^+\) reabsorption in each segment as distributed uniformly along the length and defined by a fractional rate of reabsorption, Eq. A15-18.

Dapagliflozin treatment is not associated with changes in serum potassium, and so for simplicity, potassium filtration and reabsorption was not tracked in the model (Yavin et al., 2016).

**Water reabsorption:** Water reabsorption in the PT is isosmotic. Thus, the rate of water reabsorption depends on the concentration of osmolytes, including Na\(^+\) and glucose, in the tubular fluid (Eq. A19-21).

The flow rate of osmolytes and water out of the PT are then used to determine water reabsorption along the remaining nephron segments, including regulation by vasopressin in the collecting duct, as described previously and in the supplement (Eq. A22-28).

**Blood and Interstitial Fluid and peripheral sodium storage:** Sodium and water are modeled as distributed between the blood, interstitium, and a third compartment that stores Na\(^+\) non-osmotically (Figure 1B) (Titze, 2009; Titze, 2014; Hammon et al., 2015; Hallow et al., 2017b). Sodium and water are assumed to move freely between the blood and interstitial fluid across a Na\(^+\) concentration gradient. Water and sodium intake rates are assumed constant. Then blood volume (\(V_b\)) and blood sodium (\(Na_{\text{blood}}\)) are the balance between intake and excretion of water and sodium respectively, and the intercompartmental transfer between blood and interstitium (Eq. A29-30). Similarly, interstitial fluid volume (IFV) depends on the intercompartmental transfer between blood and interstitium (Eq. A31).

When interstitial sodium concentration exceeds the normal equilibrium level, Na\(^+\) is assumed to move out of the interstitium and is sequestered in the peripheral Na\(^+\) compartment, where it is osmotically inactive. Thus, the change in interstitial fluid sodium depends on intercompartmental transfer and peripheral storage (Eq. A32-34). Sodium cannot be stored indefinitely, and thus there is a limit on how much sodium can be stored.
**Albumin filtration, reabsorption, and excretion:** The rate of albumin filtration is a function of SNGFR, the plasma albumin concentration $C_{albumin}$, and the sieving coefficient $K_{albumin}$, as described in (Lazzara and Deen, 2007):

$$\Phi_{albumin,filtered} = K_{albumin} \times SNGFR \times C_{albumin}$$

Eq. 5

The PT has limited capacity to reabsorb a filtered albumin ($RC_{albumin}$), beyond which excess albumin is excreted.

$$\Phi_{albumin,reabs} = \min(\Phi_{albumin,filtered}, RC_{albumin})$$

Eq. 6

The urinary albumin excretion rate (UAER) is then:

$$UAER = (\Phi_{albumin,filtered} - \Phi_{albumin,reabs}) \times N_{nephrons}$$

Eq. 7

**Kidney injury:** Nephron loss due to kidney injury was modeled by reducing the number of nephrons $N_{nephrons}$. While nephron loss in kidney disease is progressive, we did not account for progressive nephron loss in the current analysis, since all simulation durations were less than 6 months.

We assumed that, when glomerular capillary hydrostatic pressure $P_{gc}$ rises above some normal limit $P_{gc,0}$, it causes injury and dysfunction of the glomerulus and podocytes. The magnitude of this injury signal is defined as:

$$GP_{injury} = \max(P_{gc} - P_{gc,0}, 0)$$

Eq. 8

Glomerular hypertension causes glomerular hypertrophy, with up to a 50% increase in glomerular volume observed within a few weeks in diabetic and/or nephrectomized rats, mice, and humans (Flyvbjerg et al., 2002; Levine et al., 2008; Bivona et al., 2011). The ultra-filtration coefficient $K_f$ in Eq. 1 above, reflects both the permeability and surface area of the glomerular membrane. The effect of
glomerular hypertension on $K_f$ through changes in the glomerular surface area (hypertrophy) is modeled as:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\Delta S_A) = (\Delta S_{A_{max}} - \Delta S_A) \times \frac{G_{P_{injury}}}{\tau_{S_A}}$$

Eq. 9

$\Delta S_{A_{max}}$ is the maximum increase in glomerular surface area (SA; expressed as a percentage), and $\tau_{S_A}$ represents the time constant for the increase in surface area. $\Delta S_{A_{max}}$ is fixed at 50%, and the time constant $\tau_{S_A}$ is set so that a steady-state is reached within a few weeks.

Glomerular hypertension also contributes to progressive glomerulosclerosis, a slower process than glomerular hypertrophy. Mathematically, this can be represented as a decrease in glomerular permeability $\Delta Perm$, so that the ultrafiltration coefficient $K_f$ is given by:

$$K_f = K_{f,0} \times (1 + \Delta S_A - \Delta Perm)$$

Eq. 10

where $K_{f,0}$ is the normal ultrafiltration coefficient in the healthy state. For this analysis, we assume that progression of glomerulosclerosis over the simulation period (6 months of less) is minimal. Thus, $\Delta Perm$ is treated as a parameter representing damage that has already accrued, but does not change during the simulation.

Glomerular hypertension also damages to podocytes, causing them to leak protein. Reversible glomerular hypertensive injury to podocytes is modeled as a sigmoidal function:

$$\mu_{gp,seiv} = \frac{E_{max}G_{P_{injury}}}{G_{P_{injury}} - K_{m,gp,seiv}}$$

Eq. 11

There may some podocyte injury that is irreversible, or that is due to non-hemodynamic mechanisms. This is represented by a parameter $\mu_{other,seiv}$. The albumin sieving coefficient is then given by

$$K_{albumin} = K_{albumino} \times (1 + \mu_{gp,seiv} + \mu_{other,seiv})$$

Eq. 12
\( K_{\text{albumin,0}} \) is the sieving coefficient under normal conditions. Changes in albumin excretion are assumed to reflect near instantaneous, within hours to days, changes in glomerular hypertension. This is consistent with the fast changes in proteinuria observed with antihypertensive treatments, and in diseases such as preeclampsia (Mikami et al., 2014).

**Regulatory mechanisms:** The model incorporates key intrinsic and neurohormonal regulatory feedback mechanisms, as illustrated in Figure 1D. 1) Tubuloglomerular feedback (TGF) is modeled as a signal from macula densa sodium flow (Eq. A45) that signals the afferent arteriole (Eq. A1) to constrict or relax. 2) Myogenic autoregulation is modeled as a function of preafferent pressure (Eq. A46-47) that signals the preafferent arterioles (Eq. A1) to constrict or relax. 3) Vasopressin is modeled as a function of plasma Na⁺ concentration (Eq. A48) that alters collecting duct water reabsorption (Eq. A25). 4) The pressure-natriuresis phenomenon is modeled as a signal from renal interstitial hydrostatic pressure (Eq. 49-50) that alters Na⁺ reabsorption rates along the nephron (Eq. A14, A16). 5) Whole-body blood flow autoregulation is modeled as a signal from cardiac output that modulates peripheral resistance (Eq. A51, Eq. 12). 6) To describe the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System (RAAS), renin secretion is modeled as a function of macula densa sodium flow, with a strong inhibitory feedback from Angiotensin II (AngII) bound to the AT1 receptor (AT1-bound AngII) (Eq. A52-55). Renin generates Angiotensin I, which can be converted to AngII by ACE or chymase or degraded (Eq. A56). AngII can bind to the AT1 or AT2 receptor or can be degraded (Eq. A57). AT1-bound AngII signals efferent, preafferent, and afferent vasoconstriction, PT sodium retention, and aldosterone secretion (Eq. A59). Aldosterone binds to the mineralocorticoid receptor (Eq. A60) and signals sodium retention in the connecting tubule/collecting duct (Eq. A61).

**SGLT2 inhibition:** As described previously, the direct effect of 10 mg once daily dapagliflozin on SGLT2 was modeled as a constant 85.3% inhibitory effect on the glucose reabsorption rate per unit length through SGLT2 in the S1 and S2 segments (Eq. S68, utilized above in Eq. S8)(Hallow et al., 2018). After
initiating treatment with SGLT2i, urinary glucose excretion (UGE) reaches a maximum within 24 hours, and then settles to a stable level slightly less than peak over next several days. This is assumed to be in part due to compensation as SGLT1 and 2 are upregulated, and as described previously (Hallow et al., 2018), we assumed unreabsorbed glucose signals upregulation of SGLT, up to a maximum increase in activity of 30% (Eq. S68-70). Lastly, SGLT2i is assumed to have a weak inhibitory effect on Na+ reabsorption through NHE3 (Fu et al., 2014; Pessoa et al., 2014; Coady et al., 2017) (Eq. S71). We previously showed that 8% inhibition of NHE3 with SGLT2i is sufficient to explain observed electrolyte excretion responses to SGLT2i (Hallow et al., 2018).

**Technical implementation**

The model was implemented in the open-source programming software R 3.1.2, using the `RxODE` package (Wang et al., 2016). Prior to availability of trial results, simulation results were placed in an online repository at [https://bitbucket.org/hallowkm/dapasalt/src/master/](https://bitbucket.org/hallowkm/dapasalt/src/master/), which provides timestamping of the results.

**Virtual Patient Generation**

Baseline model parameters are given in Tables S1-5. A population of 4000 virtual patients was generated by random sampling of a subset of model parameters over the ranges listed in Table 1. Because the distributions of these parameters within the population are generally unknown, a uniform distribution was used. Parameters to be sampled were chosen based on their mechanistic role of diabetes, kidney injury, and hypertension. Diabetes was simulated by increasing average plasma glucose concentration $C_{\text{glu}}$ over a range of 7.8 to 14 mmol/L (corresponding to HbA1c of 6.5% to 10.5%). Existing glomerulosclerosis and nephron loss were represented by varying the initial conditions for pressure-induced reductions in glomerular permeability ($\Delta \text{Perm}$) and for nephron loss ($\Delta \text{nephrons}$), respectively. Here, 0% represents no injury and 100% represents complete loss of glomerular permeability or
nephrons, respectively. Podocyte injury ($\mu_{\text{other,sev}}$) and PT albumin reabsorptive capacity ($R_{\text{C,albumin}}$), were also varied. Ranges for these parameters were chosen such that the resulting proteinuria ranged from zero to 10 grams/day. Hypertension was simulated by varying preafferent and afferent arteriole resistances ($R_{\text{preaff}}$ and $R_{\text{aff}}$), PT and collecting duct fractional Na+ reabsorption ($\eta_{\text{pt}}$ and $\eta_{\text{cd}}$), and pressure-natriuresis sensitivity ($S_{\text{P-N}}$) and setpoint ($RIHP_0$), as previously described (Hallow et al., 2014; Hallow and Gebremichael, 2017a). Sodium intake ($\Phi_{\text{Na,in}}$) was also sampled to represent normal population variability in sodium intake. Baseline renin and aldosterone secretion ($\text{SEC}_{\text{renin,0}}, \text{Aldo}_0$) were varied to produce variability in baseline renin and aldosterone concentrations. After simulating to a new steady-state, virtual patient values for key clinical measures were compared with physiologically reasonable values, and virtual patients with values falling outside of those ranges were rejected.

**Model Calibration and Validation with Diabetic Nephropathy Clinical Trials**

We have previously described calibration and validation of several key model behaviors: 1) We have calibrated the model to describe observed blood pressure reduction and plasma renin changes in response to antihypertensive therapies (ACE inhibitors [ACEi] including enalapril, Angiotensin Receptor Blockers [ARBs] including losartan, renin inhibitors, thiazide diuretics, and calcium channel blockers), and have shown that it is able to predict the response to combinations of these drugs (Hallow et al., 2014; Hallow and Gebremichael, 2017a). 2) We have shown that the model is able to describe clinically observed changes in urinary glucose, sodium, and volume, changes in plasma sodium and creatinine, and changes in blood pressure in response to SGLT2 inhibition (Hallow et al., 2018). 3) In addition, we previously demonstrated that the model describes progression of albuminuria, hyperfiltration, and GFR decline in murine diabetes models (Mahato et al., 2019). However, the ability of the model to describe the effects of pharmacologic intervention in diabetic nephropathy patients has not previously been demonstrated. To this end, we simulated several key clinical trials in diabetic nephropathy (RENAAL
(Brenner et al., 2001), IDNT (Lewis et al., 2001), NESTOR (Marre et al., 2004), and AVOID (Parving et al., 2008)), focusing on the short-term (≤ 6 months) albuminuria and GFR changes. Over this time period, GFR changes are likely due primarily to renal hemodynamic alterations rather than changes in disease progression (Holtkamp et al., 2011). In this analysis, we did not attempt to predict renal outcomes or long-term changes in GFR.

Each study represents a different segment of the diabetic nephropathy population and/or a different treatment regimen. RENAAL and IDNT investigated ARBs losartan and irbesartan, respectively, in patients with macroalbuminuria and low eGFR. IDNT also required that patients were hypertensive at baseline. NESTOR evaluated the ACEi enalapril in patients with microalbuminuria and moderate eGFR. In these three studies, any prior ACEi or ARB treatment was discontinued before randomization. The AVOID study investigated the addition of the renin inhibitor aliskiren to background ARB (losartan) in patients with macroalbuminuria. However, baseline albuminuria was less severe than in RENAAL and IDNT, and baseline eGFR fell between that of RENAAL/IDNT and NESTOR.

RENAAL was used as a calibration study, and model parameters previously calibrated using mouse data (specifically, parameters in Eq. 11 defining the relationship between glomerular hydrostatic pressure and protein sieving injury) were refined to improve the fit to the RENAAL UACR data. No other model parameters required adjustment. Then IDNT, NESTOR, and AVOID were simulated, and results were compared with reported changes in albuminuria and eGFR. It should be noted that while the model calculates GFR directly (Equations 1-2), these studies estimated GFR based on serum creatinine. Formulas for estimating GFR are most accurate for GFR less than 60 ml/min.

**Clinical Trial Simulation:**

For each simulated study, a subset of virtual patients was selected from the full population of virtual patients based on the trial's inclusion and exclusion criteria for HbA1c/blood glucose, UAER or urinary
albumin creatine ratio (UACR), GFR, and MAP. If more than 70% of patients in the trial were on a background antihypertensive therapy, a run-in period with that therapy was simulated before selecting the trial virtual patients. Controlled sodium intake during a run-in period was modeled when specified in the trial protocol. Treatment with study drug and dose was simulated for the trial duration or for 12 months, whichever was shortest.

**Summary of Calibration/Validation Studies:**

**RENAAL** was a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study of losartan in patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D) and nephropathy (UACR > 300mg/g, serum creatinine 1.3 to 3 mg/dl) (Brenner et al., 2001; de Zeeuw et al., 2004). If patients were taking ACEi or ARBs at screening, these medications were discontinued and replaced by alternative antihypertensive medications (primarily diuretics and calcium channel blockers). 1513 patients were randomized to 50 mg losartan or placebo once daily, and uptitrated to 100mg after four weeks if blood pressure remained above target levels. The mean follow-up time was 3.4 years. Only changes in UACR and eGFR at 12 months were used in the current analysis.

**IDNT** was a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study of irbesartan in patients with T2D, hypertension (SBP > 135 mmHg, DBP > 85mmHg, or documented treatment with antihypertensive), proteinuria (protein excretion > 900 mg/24 hr), and serum creatinine 1 to 3 mg/dl in women and 1.2 – 3mg/dl in men (Lewis et al., 2001). All ACEi, ARBs, and CCBs were discontinued for at least 10 days before screening and replaced with other agents. 1715 patients were randomized to irbesartan titrated from 2.5 to 10 mg per day or to placebo. The mean follow-up time was 2.6 years. Only changes in UACR and eGFR at 12 months were used in the current analysis.

**NESTOR** was a 1-year randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study of enalapril or the diuretic indapamide slow release in patients with T2D, microalbuminuria (UAER 28.8 – 288 mg/day), and hypertension (SBP 140-180 mmHg and DBP < 110 mmHg) (Marre et al., 2004). All ACEi, ARBs, and CCBs
were discontinued before randomization. 570 patients were randomized to one of three groups: enalapril 10mg, indapamine 1.5 mg sustained release, or placebo.

AVOID was a 6-month randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study of aliskiren added to 100mg losartan in patients with T2D and macroalbuminuria (UACR > 300 mg/g) (Lewis et al., 2001). Inclusion criteria included eGFR > 30 ml/min/1.73m$^2$ and serum creatinine 1 to 3 mg/dl in women and 1.2 – 3mg/dl in men. During a 3-month run-in period, all RAAS blockers were discontinued and replaced with 100mg losartan daily, plus additional antihypertensives as needed to achieve target blood pressure of < 130/80 mmHg. 599 patients were randomized to aliskiren 150mg uptitrated to 300mg at 12 weeks, or to placebo.

**DAPASALT Study Protocol:** DAPASALT is an open label, mechanistic, three-arm study to evaluate the natriuretic effect of 2-week dapagliflozin treatment with participants on a fixed sodium diet. The study population consists of three groups of patients (Caucasians, age 18-75 years of age) with either 1) T2D without renal impairment (HbA1c 6.5-10%, eGFR 90-130 ml/min/1.73m$^2$), 2) T2D with impaired renal function (HbA1c 6.5-10%, eGFR 25-50 ml/min/1.73m$^2$), or 3) normoglycemic individuals with impaired renal function (eGFR 25-50 ml/min/1.73m$^2$) and confirmed diagnosis of focal segmental glomerular sclerosis (FSGS), IgA nephropathy (IgAN), or membranous glomerular nephropathy (MGN). For inclusion, patients must also have been treated with an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) for at least 6 weeks prior to starting the trial, and for the individuals with T2D, a stable dose(s) of appropriate glucose-lowering medications other than SGLT2i must be present. Patients must also have stable urinary sodium excretion on two successive 24 hr measures during the run-in period. Patients with systolic and diastolic blood pressure above 160/110 mmHg, respectively, were excluded. Full inclusion and exclusion criteria are included in the supplemental material. The study aims to enroll 51 patients, 17 per arm, to ensure that 15 patients complete each arm. A 2-week screening and run-in period precedes the active treatment period, and patients receive standardized meals with a sodium content of 150 mmol/day,
starting at day -6 and continuing through the study. Subjects receive dapagliflozin 10mg daily for 14 days, followed by a 4-day washout period. The washout period was not considered in the analysis presented here. Study endpoints are given in Table 2. Plasma volume will be measured by indocyanine green distribution and extracellular fluid volume will be measured by bioimpedance spectroscopy analysis.

Results:

Virtual patient population

Of the 4000 potential virtual patients generated, 3389 had physiologically reasonable steady-state values (MAP 70 – 160 mmHg, GFR 15-150 ml/min, UAER 0-10000 mg/day) and were considered acceptable. As shown in Figure 2, top row, the distributions of baseline GFR, MAP, and UACR in the acceptable virtual patient population covered a wide range, providing a cohort from which to sample clinical trial populations. UAER was lognormally distributed and GFR and MAP were normally distributed. Table 3 summarizes the number of microalbuminuric, macroalbuminuric, and hypertensive virtual patients within each GFR category. As expected, GFR was lower and SNGFR was higher in virtual patients with greater nephron loss (Figure 3A). Virtual patients with higher glomerulosclerosis tended to have lower GFR, although some virtual patients had low GFR with minimal glomerulosclerosis (Figure 3B). Blood glucose was not associated with GFR (Figure 3C). UAER increased with moderate nephron loss but decreased again as nephron loss increased further (Figure 3D). UAER tended to be higher in virtual patients with more glomerulosclerosis (Figure 3E), and there was no association between blood glucose and UAER (Figure 3F).

To replicate trials in which patients were on an ARB therapy at baseline (AVOID and DAPASALT), virtual patients were simulated on an ARB to reach a new baseline. As shown in Figure 2, bottom row, this
shifted the virtual population distributions of UAER, GFR, and MAP to the left, but the full range of each variable was still covered.

Calibration and Validation: Simulation of previous diabetic nephropathy clinical trials

After selecting study populations from the larger virtual population by applying each trial’s inclusion/exclusion criteria for albuminuria and eGFR, the virtual study populations produced were reasonably representative of the clinically reported baseline albuminuria and eGFR measures in each study (Figure 4 A and B). There was heterogeneity across studies in albuminuria measurement used (UACR or UAER) and statistic reported (geometric mean or median, standard deviation, interquartile range, or 95% confidence interval), and we did not explicitly try to fit these values.

The simulated response for each trial also reproduced the reported reductions in albuminuria and eGFR. For RENAAL, model parameters were optimized to fit the observed albuminuria response. For the remaining studies, the model-predicted response reasonably reproduced the observed changes in albuminuria and eGFR. One exception to this was the AVOID GFR response. This study showed a placebo-adjusted increase in eGFR - a finding that is inconsistent with a considerable body of studies showing reductions in eGFR with RAAS blockade, both alone and in combination (Mann et al., 2008; Holtkamp et al., 2011). However, it should be noted that the model does not reproduce this unexpected behavior.

Prospective simulation of DAPASALT

Figure 5 shows the virtual study populations for each arm in DAPASALT. The arms for T2D with preserved renal function, T2D with impaired renal function, and normoglycemic with impaired renal function will be referred to here as D-PRF, D-IRF, and N-IRF. There were no inclusion/exclusion criteria
for UAER. Although each arm of the DAPASALT study will include 15-17 subjects, a larger number of virtual patients were included in the virtual population, to allow the model to capture the full range of responses that might be observed.

Figures 6-8 show the simulated time course of key endpoints measured in the study for each of the three study arms, and Figure 9 compares the response between the three groups at key timepoints. The washout period was not simulated. As expected, predicted 24 hr UGE is highest in the D-PRF group, lower in D-IRF, and lowest in N-IRF (median 94.6, 35.9, and 19.7 g/day on day 14, respectively). In all groups, 24 hour Na\(^+\) excretion is predicted to peak on day 1, overcompensate and dip just below baseline on day 2, and then quickly return to baseline as the virtual patients again reached Na\(^+\) balance. Water excretion is also predicted to peak on day 1, but subsequently to normalize more slowly than Na\(^+\) excretion. In addition, water excretion is predicted to take longer to return to baseline in renally impaired groups (around day 14) compared to the normal renal function group (around day 7).

Urinary Na\(^+\) and water excretion time curves are not tracking in parallel because urinary Na\(^+\) excretion reflects changes in proximal tubule Na\(^+\) reabsorption, while water excretion reflects changes in both the proximal tubule and the distal nephron. Compensatory mechanisms eventually restore both Na\(^+\) and water balance, but mechanisms regulating Na\(^+\) balance (e.g. renin, pressure-natriuresis) achieve balance quicker than mechanisms regulating water balance (mainly vasopressin).

The decrease in MAP in D-PRF is predicted to be slightly larger than in the D-IRF group (-5.1 vs -3.6 mmHg). MAP reduction in the N-IRF group is predicted to be small (1 mmHg).

Our simulations predict that the initial reduction in GFR will be much smaller in the impaired renal function groups (-3.8 and -2.3 ml/min in D-IRF and N-IRF groups, respectively), compared to the D-PRF group (-15.2 ml/min). The initial reduction in GFR also varied widely within the D-PRF group, as indicated
by the width of the interquartile range (Figure 6E). Further analysis showed that the largest drops occurred in hyperfiltering virtual patients (baseline GFR >110 ml/min, analysis not shown).

UAER is predicted to decrease substantially in all three groups. In diabetics, the UAER reduction is predicted to be less but still quite large in the impaired renal function group (34.8%), compared to the normal renal function group (45.8%). A smaller reduction (14.2%) is predicted in the N-IRF group. Our simulations predict that the maximum UAER reduction will occur within 14 days.

As we have modeled previously, reductions in IFV are predicted to be much greater than reductions in blood volume. Predicted blood volume reduction is largest in the D-PRF (210 ml), smaller in D-IRF (150 ml), and smallest in the N-IRF group (40 ml). On the other hand, predicted IFV reduction is larger in D-IRF group than in the D-PRF group (1.81 vs 1.68 L), and was still substantially reduced in the N-IRF group (1L). Thus, the ratio of IFV to blood volume reduction is predicted to be larger in the renal impairment groups than in normal renal function.

Discussion

Clinical Implications of Model Predictions

Given the weaker glycosuria response to SGLT2i in patients with renal impairment and in non-diabetics, volume changes resulting from osmotic diuresis with SGLT2i might be expected to be diminished in these populations. However, the model predicts IFV reduction will be similar in T2D with and without renal impairment, and that nondiabetics with renal impairment will see smaller but still substantial IFV reductions, even with much lower UGE. Assuming IFV plays an important role in the cardiovascular benefits of SGLT2i, this is consistent with recent findings of the DAPA-HF study, in which significant
improvements in the primary endpoint (worsening of heart failure or cardiovascular death) were seen across all baseline GFRs and independent of diabetic status (McMurray et al., 2019).

The model also suggests a mechanistic explanation for these predictions. Within a single nephron, predicted changes in water excretion were similar between D-PRF and D-IRF groups. However, because the D-PRF have more functioning nephrons, the initial peak in water excretion in this group was larger (Figure 6). The modeling suggests this causes a larger vasopressin response, which limits further excretion and quickly returns water excretion to baseline. In D-IRF, the predicted initial water excretion and thus vasopressin response is lower, so compensation occurs more slowly, allowing similar total water excretion and thus similar volume changes as in the D-PRF group, even though the initial peak was smaller.

A second finding, which we demonstrated previously in single virtual patients (Hallow et al., 2018), is that glomerular hydrostatic pressure reductions, which likely play a large role in dapagliflozin’s renoprotective effects, is predicted to be similar in patients with normal or impaired renal function, while initial GFR drop is expected to be smaller in patients with impaired renal function. The sustained glomerular pressure reduction likely explains why the antiproteinuric effects are sustained in patients with low GFR (Heerspink et al., 2016; Fioretto et al., 2018).

Comparison with Available Data

Although DAPASALT study results are not yet available, several available data support the predicted responses. Our simulations reproduce higher UGE observed in patients with normal vs. impaired renal function (List et al., 2009; Kohan et al., 2014). Predicted 3-5 mmHg MAP reductions are consistent with previous studies (List et al., 2009; Wilding et al., 2009; Ferrannini et al., 2010). The simulations reproduce the well-known initial drop in GFR with SGLT2i initiation. This reversible initial reduction is followed by a much slower rate of GFR decline (Wanner et al., 2016). Our simulations predict the initial
GFR drop with dapagliflozin will be smaller in D-IRF than D-PRF. The predicted magnitude in D-IRF (-3.8 ml/min) is consistent with reported eGFR changes in clinical studies of diabetic chronic kidney disease (CKD). In the DERIVE study, in T2D patients with Stage 3a CKD treated with dapagliflozin, GFR fell by 5 ml/min/1.73m$^2$ at week 4 (Fioretto et al., 2018). A similar reduction (-4 ml/min/1.73m$^2$) was observed with canagliflozin at week 6 in T2D with Stage 3 CKD (Yamout et al., 2014). Another small study in patients with more severe CKD (mean eGFR 30.3 ml/min/1.73m$^2$) found smaller 1.3 ml/min/1.73m$^2$ reduction. This is consistent with our predicted smaller initial GFR reduction in patients with lower baseline GFR.

Most studies reporting renal function changes with SGLT2i have used serum creatinine to estimate GFR, while a few used inulin clearance or other methods to measure GFR directly. eGFR is accurate for GFR less than 60 ml/min/1.73m$^2$ but may be less accurate for higher GFRs. Studies reporting eGFR changes in patients without renal impairment have reported reductions of 4-5 ml/min/1.73m$^2$ (Heerspink et al., 2016), and pooled analyses have shown no dependence of change in eGFR on baseline eGFR (Petrykiv et al., 2017). However, studies that measured GFR directly have found larger reductions. In one study, GFR dropped by 10.8 ml/min initially in patients with T2D and normal renal function treated with dapagliflozin (Lambers Heerspink et al., 2013). Another study reported reductions of 5, 10, 12 ml/min in fasted, euglycemic, and hyperglycemic states, respectively (van Bommel et al., 2019). Cherney and colleagues found that empagliflozin reduced GFR in hyperfiltering Type 1 diabetic patients by 25-45 ml/min/1.73m$^2$, depending on glycemic state (Cherney et al., 2014). They found no GFR change in non-hyperfiltering patients. The magnitude of changes predicted in the DAPASALT D-PRF group (-15.2 ml/min) are consistent with studies measuring GFR directly, and it is possible that measured changes in eGFR in DAPASALT may underpredict true changes in GFR. Our simulations are also consistent with a larger initial GFR drop in hyperfiltering than non-hyperfiltering patients.
The model-predicted changes in albuminuria are consistent with studies showing consistent proteinuria reduction with SGLT2i. In patients with T2D and moderate renal function (baseline eGFR of 72 – 82 ml/min/1.73m²), 10 mg dapagliflozin reduced UACR by 45% at week (Heerspink et al., 2016), and reduced 24hr UAER by 36.2% at 6 weeks (Petrykiv et al., 2017). In T2D patients with Stage 3a CKD and albuminuria, UACR fell 30.7% at week 4, and 41.7% by week 12 (Fioretto et al., 2018), while in stage 3b-4 CKD, UACR was reduced 38.4% over 102 weeks. Our predicted reductions of 45% and 35% in T2D with normal and impaired renal function, respectively, are consistent with these findings.

Little data is available on fluid volume changes with SGLT2i. As we predict here and in previous analyses of single virtual patients (Hallow et al., 2017b; Hallow et al., 2018), SGLT2i may elicit much larger relative reductions in IFV than in blood volume. This decongestive effect without excessive reduction in blood pressure and organ perfusion may explain the unexpectedly large benefits on heart failure (Zinman et al., 2015; McMurray et al., 2019). To our knowledge, DAPASALT will be the first to measure changes in both IFV and blood volume in the same study. However, studies have separately reported measures that reflect blood or total extracellular fluid volume change. SGLT2i have consistently been found to increase hematocrit, suggesting blood volume reduction. Hematocrit increases of 1.3% and 2.2% were reported in T2D with normal renal function (Lambers Heerspink et al., 2013; WADA et al., 2019). If red blood cell volume remains constant, the model-predicted changes in blood volume correspond to 1.7% hematocrit increase in T2D with preserved GFR, consistent with these studies. Hematocrit changes may also reflect changes in hematopoiesis (Maruyama et al., 2019), but these effects were not modeled here. Two recent studies used bioimpedance to measure extracellular water changes. Unfortunately, these studies did not report hematocrit, so relative reductions in blood and interstitial volumes cannot be determined. These studies were non-randomized and were not placebo-controlled, and thus should be interpreted with care. Ohara and colleagues reported that extracellular water was reduced by 8.4% in diabetic patients with impaired renal function treated with dapagliflozin.
(Ohara et al., 2019), and our simulations predict a 9.5% reduction. A recent observational study in T2D with normal renal function treated with empagliflozin or dapagliflozin reported a smaller reduction (400 ml/1.73 m$^2$) at day 3. A third study with tofogliflozin showed a 0.3 kg reduction in extracellular water (Kamei et al., 2018). This study surprisingly showed a nonsignificant hematocrit decrease, inconsistent with other studies that showed increased hematocrit.

**Model Validation**

Models cannot reproduce all aspects of physiology and disease. Making predictions and comparing with clinical data is a way to determine whether the model is “good enough” or whether important mechanisms are missing. We previously showed that the model reproduces biomarker and blood pressure responses to RAAS blockers, diuretics, and calcium channel blockers in hypertension (Hallow et al., 2014), and urinary and serum biomarkers responses to dapagliflozin in normal subjects (Hallow et al., 2018). Here, we further retrospectively validated the kidney injury and albuminuria components of the model by demonstrating reasonable agreement between model predictions and observed changes in albuminuria and eGFR for previous diabetic nephropathy clinical trials. This validation demonstrated that the renal physiology/pathophysiology/pharmacology represented in the model is sufficient for describing responses in this population and provides confidence for making prospective predictions in similar populations treated with SGLT2i.

**Limitations**

The model captures some but not all sources of variability in SGLT2i response. Thus, predicted interquartile ranges are likely narrower than true interquartile ranges. DAPASALT virtual patients were selected based on inclusion/exclusion criteria. Because we do not know the true baseline characteristics, virtual and real populations may differ. Specifically, because no limits were placed on UACR in the DAPASALT protocol, virtual and real baseline UACR could be quite different, which could impact...
predicted treatment responses. Few studies report time courses for albuminuria changes prior to 4 weeks. If the model overestimates the speed of UAER reduction, the 2-week UAER response may be overpredicted. For the normoglycemic arm, we did not distinguish between mechanisms of IgAN, FSGS, or MGN. Once study results are available, comparison of simulated and observed baseline characteristics and responses may provide further information for better modeling these populations.

Conclusions

The model predicts similarly large IFV reduction between D-PRF and D-IRF, and less but still substantial IFV reduction in N-IRF, even though glycosuria attenuated in groups with impaired renal function. When DAPASALT results become available, comparison with these prospective simulations will provide a basis for evaluating how well we understand the renal and volume homeostasis mechanism(s) of SGLT2is generally, and dapagliflozin specifically. If the prospective simulations predict the results well, this will also provide further validation of the model as a tool for future predictions.

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals

Authorship Contributions:

Participated in research design: Hallow, Boulton, Penland, Helmlinger, Nieves, Heerspink, Greasley

Conducted Experiments: Hallow, Nieves

Contributed new reagents or analytic tools: Hallow

Performed data analysis: Hallow, Nieves

Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript: Hallow, Boulton, Penland, Helmlinger, van Raalte, Heerspink, Greasley

References


**Funding: This study was funded by AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals**
Figure 1. Base model of renal function. Top Left) The renal vasculature is modeled by a single preafferent resistance vessel flowing into N parallel nephrons. Bottom Left) Glomerular filtration is modeled according to Starling’s law. Na$^+$ and water are reabsorbed at different fractional rates in the proximal tubule, loop of Henle, distal convoluted tubule, and connecting tubule/collecting duct. Glucose and Na$^+$ reabsorption are coupled through SGLT2 and SGLT1 in the proximal tubule. Top right) The balance between Na$^+$ and water excretion and intake determine blood volume and Na$^+$ concentration. Na$^+$ and water move between the blood and interstitial fluid across a concentration gradient, and Na$^+$ may be sequestered non-osmotically in a peripheral storage compartment. Blood volume determines venous return and cardiac output, which together with total peripheral resistance determine mean arterial pressure and subsequently renal perfusion pressure, closing the loop. Bottom Right) Multiple regulatory mechanisms, include the RAAS and TGF, provide feedbacks on model variables, in order to maintain or return homeostasis. Adapted from (Hallow et al., 2017a).

Figure 2. A-C) Virtual patient population covers the physiological range of baseline UAER, GFR, and MAP. D-E) After run-in on an ARB (losartan 100mg), baseline distributions are leftward shifted but still cover a wide range.

Figure 3. Effect of virtual patient parameter values on baseline GFR and UAER.

Figure 4. Simulated and observed baseline (top row) and change from baseline (bottom row) in GFR/eGFR and UAER of key diabetic nephropathy clinical trials. Boxes: Simulated median and interquartiles; Gray circles: individual virtual patients; Red: clinical study reported values (RENAAL [27]: UACR is geometric mean ± SD; IDNT [28]: UAER median and interquartile range, no measure of variability reported for change in UAER; NESTOR [29]: UAER geometric mean and interquartile range; AVOID [30]: UAER geometric mean and 95% CI. For all studies, eGFR is mean ± SD. No SD reported for RENAAL change in eGFR).
Figure 5. **Baseline characteristics of DAPASALT virtual study arms** (T2D preserved GFR n = 250, T2D low GFR n = 250, Non-T2D low GFR n=272). Red bars: Study inclusion exclusion criteria.

Figure 6. **DAPASALT T2D with preserved renal function (D-PRF) arm.** Simulated time course for change from baseline with 10mg dapagliflozin. Solid line: median, dashed lines: 25-75%, pink bands: 0-100% range of response.

Figure 7. **DAPASALT T2D with impaired renal function (D-IRF) arm.** Simulated time course for change from baseline with 10mg dapagliflozin. Solid line: median, dashed lines: 25-75%, pink bands: 0-100% range of response.

Figure 8. **DAPASALT normoglycemic with impaired renal function (N-IRF) arm.** Simulated time course for change from baseline with 10mg dapagliflozin. Solid line: median, dashed lines: 25-75%, pink bands: 0-100% range of response.

Figure 9. **Simulated response to daily dosing of 10mg dapagliflozin in DAPASALT study arms.** All data are median and interquartile range.
Table 1. Parameters varied to produce virtual patients with varying degrees of diabetes, hypertension, and kidney dysfunction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Equation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic increase in plasma glucose</td>
<td>$C_{glu}$</td>
<td>Plasma glucose concentration</td>
<td>mmol/L</td>
<td>7.8-14</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glomerulosclerosis</td>
<td>$\Delta P_{perm}$</td>
<td>Reduction in glomerular permeability</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0-80</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephron loss</td>
<td>$\Delta \text{Nephrons}$</td>
<td>Initial value for nephron loss</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0-95</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podocyte damage due to non-hemodynamic factors</td>
<td>$\mu_{\text{other,seiv}}$</td>
<td>Permanent increase in sieving coefficient</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0-50</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variability in PT protein reabsorption</td>
<td>$R_{\text{albumin}}^C$</td>
<td>Proxima tubule capacity for protein reabsorption</td>
<td>pg/min/tubule</td>
<td>1.1 – 2.1</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variability in aldosterone secretion</td>
<td>$\text{Aldo}_0$</td>
<td>Normalized aldosterone secretion rate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5-1.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variability in renin secretion</td>
<td>$\Delta \text{SEC}_{\text{renin,0}}$</td>
<td>Change in Renin Secretion Rate</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>-50 - +120</td>
<td>+42%</td>
<td>A52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variability in sodium intake</td>
<td>$\Phi_{Na,in}$</td>
<td>Sodium intake rate</td>
<td>mEq/day</td>
<td>80-200</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>A30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased renal vascular resistance</td>
<td>$R_{\text{preaff}}$</td>
<td>Preafferent arteriole resistance</td>
<td>mmHg-min/L</td>
<td>14-26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased renal vascular resistance</td>
<td>$R_{\text{aff}}$</td>
<td>Afferent arteriole resistance</td>
<td>mmHg-min/L</td>
<td>10-17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased PT sodium reabsorption</td>
<td>$\eta_{\text{pt}}$</td>
<td>PT fractional Na+ reabsorption rate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.6 – 0.84</td>
<td>0.717</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased collecting duct sodium reabsorption</td>
<td>$\eta_{\text{cd}}$</td>
<td>Collecting duct fractional Na+ reabsorption rate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.8-0.9</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>A14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced sensitivity to pressure natriuresis signals</td>
<td>$S_{P-N}$</td>
<td>Pressure natriuresis sensitivity</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>A50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altered pressure natriuresis setpoint</td>
<td>$R\text{IHP}_0$</td>
<td>Renal interstitial hydrostatic pressure setpoint</td>
<td>mmHg</td>
<td>9.6-10</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>A50</td>
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Table 2. Primary and Secondary Endpoints of the DAPASALT study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Timepoints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 hr Sodium excretion</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Change in mean</td>
<td>Baseline vs. mean of days 2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Baseline vs mean of days 12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Days 12-14 vs days 15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hr Sodium excretion</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Change in mean</td>
<td>Baseline vs day 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hr Sodium excretion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Baseline vs day 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hr Systolic blood pressure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Day 13 vs day 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hr Systolic blood pressure</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Change in mean</td>
<td>Baseline vs Day 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hr Systolic blood pressure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Baseline vs Day 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasma volume</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Change in mean</td>
<td>Day 14 vs Day 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracellular Fluid Volume</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Change in mean</td>
<td>Baseline vs Day 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Prevalence of albuminuria and hypertension in virtual patient population, by renal function status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renal function</th>
<th>Microalbuminuria</th>
<th>Macroalbuminuria</th>
<th>Hypertensive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impaired, GFR &lt; 60 ml/min (n=592)</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate impairment, GFR 60-90</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n=794)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal, GFR &gt; 90 ml/min (n=2003)</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 2

No ARB background

A  
UAER

B  
GFR

C  
MAP

ARB background

D  
UAER

E  
GFR

F  
MAP

Legend:
- Macro
- Moderate
- Normal
- Impaired
- Hypertensive
- Normotensive
Figure 3

![Graph showing relationships between different variables.](image-url)
Figure 4

Baseline UAER

Baseline GFR

UAER Change from BL

GFR Change from BL
Figure 5

Baseline GFR

Baseline UAER

Baseline MAP

Blood Glucose
Figure 6

24hr UGE

24hr Na\(^+\) Excretion

24 hr Water Excretion

Blood Volume

Interstitial Fluid Volume

MAP

GFR

UAER

Glomerular Hydrostatic Pressure
Figure 7

24hr UGE

24hr Na⁺ Excretion

24 hr Water Excretion

Blood Volume

Interstitial Fluid Volume

MAP

GFR

UAER

Glomerular Hydrostatic Pressure

Day

Day

Day

Day

Day

Day

Day

Day

Day

Day
Figure 8

**24hr UGE**

**24hr Na⁺ Excretion**

**24hr Water Excretion**

**Blood Volume**

**Interstitial Fluid Volume**

**MAP**

**GFR**

**UAER**

**Glomerular Hydrostatic Pressure**
Figure 9

Δ UGE - Day 14

Δ Na⁺ Excretion

Δ Water Excretion

Δ Blood Volume - Day 14

Δ Interstitial Fluid Volume - Day 14

Δ Mean Arterial Pressure - Day 14

Δ GFR - Day 14

Δ UAER - Day 14

Δ Glomerular Hydrostatic Pressure - Day 14