LETTER

Should children with type 1 diabetes really receive statin treatment using the same criteria as for children with familial hypercholesterolaemia?

Rosa M. Sánchez-Hernández¹ · Ana M. Wägner¹

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Abbreviation

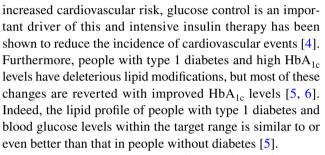
FH Familial hypercholesterolaemia

To the Editor: We recently read the article by Corpeleijn et al [1] suggesting the early initiation of (lifetime) statin treatment in children with type 1 diabetes aged >10 years, based on the success story of statin use in children with familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) and the authors' experience with this population.

We must disagree: although there is extensive interplay between lipid and glucose metabolism [2], the two populations of children with FH and children with type 1 diabetes are not comparable.

FH is a monogenic co-dominant disorder caused by the presence of pathogenic variants in the *LDLR* gene or, less frequently, in the *APOB* or *PCSK9* gene. Because of this genetic defect, LDL-cholesterol concentrations are high from birth and this, over many years, confers an increased risk of premature CVD [3]. In fact, without treatment, individuals with FH may develop CHD after the age of 20 years. Indeed, there is evidence that lipid-lowering treatment in children with FH is associated with a reduction in intima–media thickness and fewer cardiovascular events [3]. For this reason, drug treatment is recommended from 8–10 years of age [1].

On the other hand, the cause of type 1 diabetes is insulin deficiency and, although type 1 diabetes is associated with



In recent years, new therapeutic tools for use in type 1 diabetes, such as continuous glucose monitoring and automatic insulin delivery through hybrid closed loop systems, have led to children achieving historically low HbA_{1c} values of around 6.6% [7]. This will, with high probability, have a positive impact on their future cardiovascular event risk [8]. Thus, most of the focus for improving cardiovascular risk in children with type 1 diabetes should probably be on glucose optimisation from disease onset, rather than pursuing pharmacological interventions with less associated population-specific evidence.

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Ana M. Wägner ana.wagner@ulpgc.es

¹ Endocrinology and Nutrition Department, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario Insular Materno-Infantil, Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas y Sanitarias (IUIBS), Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

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