The effect of metformin use on gastric cancer in patients with type 2 diabetes: A systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies

Ghobad Abangah1, Diana Sarokhani3, Zahra Abdan1, Moloud Fakhri1, Hassan Nourmohammadi5

1School of Medicine, Shahid Mostafa Khomeini Hospital, Ilam University of Medical sciences, Ilam, Iran
2Research Center for Environmental Determinants of Health, School of Public Health, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran
3Clinical Research Development Center, Imam Reza Hospital, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran
4Traditional and Complementary Medicine Research Center, Addiction Institute, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran
5Department of Internal Medicine, Shahid Mostafa Khomeini Hospital, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

*Correspondence to Moloud Fakhri, Email: m.fakhri@medilam.ac.ir, and Hassan Nourmohammadi, Email: Nourmohammadi-h@medilam.ac.ir

Received 14 May 2022
Accepted 16 July 2022
Published online 16 Aug. 2022

Keywords: Metformin, Cancer, Neoplasm, Diabetes, Stomach

Abstract

Introduction: Gastric cancer is one of the main causes of cancer-related deaths in the world. Various studies have so far been conducted to determine the risk of gastric cancer in relation to taking metformin. Therefore, this systematic review and meta-analysis study aims to evaluate the relationship between the administration of metformin in type II diabetes patients and their risk of developing gastric cancer.

Materials and Methods: All studies were cohorts. A comprehensive literature searches of the databases, including Cochrane, Web of Science, PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar web browser was conducted using standard keywords. Data analysis of this meta-analysis was conducted using STATA 14 software and P<0.05 was considered as a significant level for tests.

Results: In a set of 17 cohort studies, including an overall number of 1,383,404 patients, it was concluded that metformin consumption had reduced the risk of gastric cancer in type II diabetes patients [OR: 0.80 (95% CI: 0.71-0.91)]. In these patients, the impact of metformin on overall survival rates was not statistically significant [OR: 0.71 (95% CI: 0.42-1.18)]. Data analysis revealed the effects of metformin on the risk of gastric cancer development, which involved a reduction [OR: 0.69 (95% CI: 0.44-1.07)] for those who had been taking metformin for less than five years, [OR: 1.04 (95% CI: 0.83-1.30)] for those who had been taking metformin for 5-10 years, and [OR: 0.71 (95% CI: 0.59-0.84)] for the patients who had a history of taking metformin for over 10 years.

Conclusion: Metformin administration in type II diabetes patients resulted in the reduction of the risk of gastric cancer, but did not affect the overall survival rates. Furthermore, it was observed that type II diabetes patients, who had been treated by metformin for more than 10 years, had a 29% lower risk for gastric cancer.

Introduction

Gastric cancer is a lethal condition which was globally announced as the 5th most diagnosed form of cancer, and the 3rd cause of cancer-related deaths in 2018, with over 1,000,000 documented new cases and about 783,000 mortalities reported (1 in 12 deaths around the world) (1). Even if surgical procedures are performed, almost 10%-80% of these patients suffer relapse and die (2). Obesity and type II diabetes are related to many types of cancer, including gastric cancer (3). It is predicted that type II diabetes prevalence will increase from 2.8% in 2000 to 4.4% in 2030 (4).

Metformin is one of the most common first-line choices in treating type II diabetes (5). This drug mainly increases the tissues’ sensitivity to insulin and consequently reduces insulin levels (6). Metformin can affect the cancerous cells of the stomach and inhibit their multiplication, both in vivo and in vitro (7). Furthermore, studies have shown a reduction in the occurrence of gastric cancer...
in diabetic patients treated by metformin (8), as well as an anti-cancerous impact on gastric cancer cells in vitro and in vivo (9). Considering the contradictions in the results of previous studies, the current systematic review and meta-analysis study was designed to evaluate the effects of metformin consumption on the risk of gastric cancer in type II diabetes patients.

Materials and Methods

Study design
This meta-analysis study examines the association between metformin consumption and gastric cancer risk in patients with type 2 diabetes. The meta-analysis is carried out based on the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement for systematic review and meta-analysis studies. The protocol of this meta-analysis was registered on the site of PROSPERO (ID: CRD42022339198, Date:11.06.2022).

Studies outcomes

Primary outcome: The association between metformin consumption and gastric cancer risk in patients with type 2 diabetes.

Search strategy
In this meta-analysis, international databases including Cochrane, Web of Science, PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar web browser, were searched without time or language restrictions. For papers published in languages other than Persian or English, the full article was translated to extract its data. The search strategy step was performed by standard keywords and, including “Metformin,” “Cancer,” “Neoplasm,” “Diabetes,” “Stomach,” as well as (Updated until May 22, 2022). Keyword combinations using Boolean operators “AND” and “OR” were also included in the database search (See Table S1 of Supplementary file 1 for details). Additionally, the list of references of all primary studies that remained at the end of the PRISMA flowchart and entered the meta-analysis was screened by manual search.

The inclusion and exclusion criteria

PICO components
The studied population: patients with type 2 diabetes, Intervention: Metformin consumption, Comparison: Those who do not metformin consumption, the studied outcomes: The risk of developing gastric cancer.

The inclusion criteria
This meta-analysis included cohort studies that explored the effect of metformin consumption on stomach cancer risk. The intervention group was metformin consumers, and the comparison or control group was the non-intervention status. The eligible studies must have evaluated the relationship between metformin consumption and stomach cancer.

The exclusion criteria
Case-report or case series studies; lack of reporting of the required information for data analysis; unavailability of the full-text of articles; Studies that only qualitatively described the metformin effect on gastric cancer; studies that examined the effect of metformin consumption on other cancers; Low-quality studies evaluated using a quality assessment checklist based on the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) Statement;

Qualitative assessment of studies
The two researchers independently assessed quality from different perspectives using the STROBE checklist (10). The STROBE checklist has 22 sections that cover different sections of a report. In this checklist, the sum of the scores is decisive, therefore a score of 1-15 indicates low quality, 16-30 indicates average quality and 31-44 indicates excellent quality. The cut-off point in this study was 15 points.

Data extraction
Two researchers extracted data from studies independently to minimize the biased reporting and error in data collecting. They entered the extracted data into a checklist containing the study title, researcher name, mean age, time of follow up, year of publication, country, sample size, control group, odds ratio (OR) between metformin consumption and stomach cancer risk and its upper and lower limits. A third researcher evaluated the data extracted by the two previous researchers to correct any existing discrepancies.

Statistical analysis
Odds ratio was applied to examine the relationship between metformin consumption and gastric cancer risk. The logarithm of OR was taken in each study to combine the studies’ results. The heterogeneity of the studies was assessed using the I^2 index and Q-Cochrane test. The random-effects model was used in this work to combine the reviewed studies (I^2=90.8%). Data analysis was executed using STATA 14 software. The significance level was considered P<0.05 for all tests. Meta-regression was employed to evaluate the relationship between “metformin consumption and gastric cancer risk in patients with type 2 diabetes” and “sample size” and “year of publication.”

Results
Initially, 421 articles were found in the search in the mentioned databases. After checking the studies’ titles, 248 duplicate studies were excluded. The abstracts of 173 articles were explored, and 42 articles whose full texts were not available were excluded. The full texts of the 131 remaining papers were screened, and another 114 articles that met the other exclusion criteria were discarded. Eventually, 17 high-quality articles entered the meta-analysis process (Figure 1).
The specifications of the reviewed articles are given in Table 1.

In this meta-analysis, 17 cohort studies with a sample size of 1383404 patients were investigated. The articles were published between 2014-2021 and the patients were within the age range of 20-94 years old. Figure 2 shows that taking metformin reduces the risk of gastric cancer in type II diabetes patients [OR: 0.80 (95% CI: 0.71-0.91)].

Analysis of the subgroups revealed that the effects of metformin on the overall survival rates of type II diabetes patients was not statistically significant [OR: 0.71 (95% CI: 0.42-1.18)]. The effects of metformin on the risk of gastric cancer development indicated a reduction [OR: 0.69 (95% CI: 0.44-1.07)] for those who had been taking metformin for less than five years, [OR: 1.04 (95% CI: 0.83-1.30)] for those who had been taking metformin for 5-10 years, and [OR: 0.71 (95% CI: 0.59-0.84)] for the patients who had a history of taking metformin for over 10 years. As it appears, the risk of gastric cancer was significantly lower in type II diabetes patients who were being treated by metformin for more than 10 years (Table 2).

In Figure 3, meta-regression indicates no statistically significant connection between “the effects of metformin consumption on the risk of gastric cancer” and “study publication year” (P = 0.820).

Figure 4 shows that there is no statistically significant connection between “the effects of metformin consumption on the risk of gastric cancer” and “study sample size” (P = 0.820).

Discussion
In this meta-analysis, 17 studies and an overall number of 138304 patients were investigated, and the results showed that the risk of gastric cancer in type II diabetes patients who had been treated by metformin was 20 percent lower compared to those who had not received metformin; in fact, taking metformin has a kind of protective effect against gastric cancer [OR: 0.80 (95% CI: 0.71-0.91)]. Moreover, this risk was measured to be 29 percent lower in patients who had taken metformin for over 10 years, compared to those who had not. But it did not reduce the overall survival rate among the patients [OR: 0.71 (95% CI: 0.42-1.18)].

In a meta-analysis comprised of 11 cohort studies which was conducted by Shuai et al, metformin consumption had resulted in the considerable amount of 21% decrease in the occurrence of gastric cancer in type II diabetes patients (Hazard ratio [HR] 0.790; 95% CI 0.624-1.001). In a combined analysis of three studies, metformin consumption was shown to increase the overall survival rates (HR 0.817; 95% CI 0.600–1.113) and the specific cancer-related survival rates (HR 0.824; 95% CI 0.614–1.106) among type II diabetes patients (27); these results do not correspond with the results of the current study.

Li et al conducted a systematic review study to analyze the effects of metformin consumption on gastric cancer. In their study, 422 articles were initially assessed, five of which were according to the required criteria to enter the systematic review, with an overall number of 1804479 patients. The results indicated that long-term consumption of metformin was associated with a lower risk of gastric cancer, compared to not taking metformin or taking other blood sugar reducing agents (28). In a meta-analysis study conducted by Zhou et al, comprised of 7 cohort studies with 591077 patients in total, it was determined that treatment by metformin reduces the occurrence rate of gastric cancer.
Table 1. Specifications of articles which entered into the meta-analysis process

| Name of author, Year of publication | Country   | Sample size | Mean age (year) | Control group                | Follow Up (year) | OR   | Low (OR) | Up (OR) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|------|----------|---------|
| Fakhri M, 2021 (7)                  | Korea     | 326         | 59             | Non-metformin                | 6.2              | -    | -        | -       |
| Baglia ML, 2019 (11)                | China     | 130         | 40-74          | Non-metformin                | -                | -    | -        | -       |
| Valent F, 2015 (12)                 | Italy     | 138524      | 20-94          | Non-metformin                | NR               | 0.99 | 0.986    | 0.994   |
| Kim YI, 2014 (13)                   | Korea     | 32987       | 52-67          | NIAD                         | 4.5              | 0.73 | 0.53     | 1.01    |
| Tsiliidis KK, 2014 (14)             | UK        | 69748       | 35-90          | Sulfonylurea derivatives     | 5.1              | 0.96 | 0.6      | 1.56    |
| Tseng CH, 2016 (15)                 | China     | 304188      | 25-74          | Non-metformin                | ≥180 days        | 0.448| 0.359    | 0.558   |
| Cheung KS, 2019 (16)                | China     | 7266        | 55-73          | Non-metformin                | 7.1              | 0.47 | 0.23     | 0.96    |
| Murff HJ, 2018 (17)                 | USA       | 84434       | 57.6-74.7      | Sulfonylurea derivatives     | NR               | 0.74 | 0.44     | 1.23    |
| Zheng J, 2019 (18)                  | Sweden    | 544130      | 62.1           | Non-metformin                | 5.8              | 1.08 | 0.98     | 1.26    |
| de Jong RG, 2017 (19)               | Netherlands | 57114   | 63.5           | NIAD                         | 4.9              | 1.06 | 0.63     | 1.8     |
| Dulskas A, 2019 (20)                | Lithuania | 251         | NR             | Non-metformin                | NR               | -    | -        | -       |
| Cho MH, 2021 (21)                   | Korea     | 111198      | 40-79          | Non-metformin                | 9                | 1.25 | 1.01     | 1.55    |
| Seo HS, 2019 (22)                   | Korea     | 242         | 62.9           | Non-metformin                | 4.25             | 0.446| 0.302    | 0.657   |
| Chung WS, 2020 (23)                 | Taiwan    | 651         | 63.17          | Non-metformin                | NR               | -    | -        | -       |
| Chen X, 2020 (24)                   | China     | 71          | NR             | Non-metformin                | 5                | -    | -        | -       |
| You JH, 2020 (25)                   | Korea     | 5331        | NR             | Non-metformin                | NR               | 0.841| 0.797    | 0.887   |
| Kim J, 2020 (26)                    | Korea     | 15603       | 55.2           | Non-metformin                | 12.7             | 0.71 | 0.579    | 0.87    |
| Kim J, 2020 (26)                    | Korea     | 9210        | 60.1           | Non-metformin                | 12.7             | 0.7  | 0.499    | 0.981   |
in type II diabetes patient, in comparison with other types of drugs [HR=0.763, 95% CI: 0.642–0.905] (29). The results concluded from the current study support those of Li and Zhou's studies.

In a population-based meta-analysis study conducted by Seo et al, which aimed to investigate the effects of administering aspirin, metformin and statins on gastric cancer development in South Korea, no specific connection was found between metformin consumption and gastric cancer development [HR= 0.85; 95% CI: 0.59–1.23] (30). The results from the current meta-analysis study contradict those of the Seo et al study. Limited number of investigated studies is one of the issues surrounding this concept. Therefore, considering the contradictory results of previous meta-analysis studies, it is suggested that more cohort studies be conducted on this matter.

Conclusion
Since the results clearly show that, the type II diabetes patients who were treated by metformin had a 20 percent lower risk of gastric cancer compared to those who were not, it is recommended that metformin be the first choice of therapy in type II diabetes patients. It is also recommended that future studies consider the impact of the dose of metformin on the risk of gastric cancer. Moreover, further evaluations should also be performed to determine the possibly specific gender-related effects of metformin, which would ultimately resolve the limitations of the current study.

Table 2. The effect of metformin on gastric cancer risk in patients with type 2 diabetes in the studied subgroups

| Subgroups               | OR  | LOW-OR | UP-OR | P value | P (%) |
|------------------------|-----|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| Total                  | 0.80| 0.71   | 0.91  | <0.001  | 90.8  |
| Overall survival       | 0.71| 0.42   | 1.18  | 0.219   | 33.8  |
| Total by follow-up (y) |     |        |       |         |       |
| <5                     | 0.69| 0.44   | 1.07  | 0.025   | 73    |
| 5-10                   | 1.04| 0.83   | 1.30  | 0.066   | 58.3  |
| >10                    | 0.71| 0.59   | 0.84  | 0.944   | 0     |

Figure 2. The plot of the relationship between metformin use and the risk of gastric cancer in patients with type 2 diabetes, by country and year of publication.

Figure 3. Meta-regression of the relationship between “the effect of metformin consumption on gastric cancer risk in patients with type 2 diabetes” and “year of publication.”
Limitations of the study
The limited number of studies to investigate; uneven distribution of studies in different countries; the impracticality of distinguishing the studies in separate age groups (patients were within a wide age range); and the fact that the consumed doses of metformin were not evaluated in the studies, which made it impossible to perform a dose-related analysis in the subgroups.

Authors’ contribution
Conceptualization: HN, DS, ZA, GHA and MF. Methodology: DS. Formal Analysis: HN and MF. Resources: ZA. Writing—Original Draft Preparation: All authors. Writing—Review and Editing: All authors. Funding Acquisition: ZA.

Conflicts of interest
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest regarding the contents of this article.

Ethical issues
This systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted in accord with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki. Besides, ethical issues (including plagiarism, data fabrication and double publication) have been completely observed by the authors.

Funding/Support
This study has been conducted under the financial support of the Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences. Hence, we extend our sincere gratitude to the authorities of this organization (Grant# 50001589).

Supplementary files
Supplementary file 1 contains Table S1.

References
1. Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Siegel RL, Torre LA, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. CA Cancer J Clin. 2018;68:394-424. doi: 10.3322/ caca.21492.
2. Hsu JT, Liu MS, Wang F, Chang CJ, Hwang TL, Jan YY, et al. Standard radical gastrectomy in octogenarians and nonagenarians with gastric cancer: are short-term surgical results and long-term survival substantial? J Gastrointest Surg. 2012;16:728-37. doi: 10.1007/s11605-012-1835-4.
3. Inoue M, Tsugane S. Insulin resistance and cancer; epidemiological evidence. Endocr Relat Cancer. 2012;19:F1-8. doi: 10.1530/ERC-12-0142.
4. Wild S, Roglic G, Green A, Sicree R, King H. Global prevalence of diabetes: estimates for the year 2000 and projections for 2030. Diabetes Care. 2004;27:1047-53. doi: 10.2337/ diacare.27.5.1047.
5. Yu X, Mao W, Zhai Y, Tong C, Liu M, Ma L, et al. Anti-tumor activity of metformin: from metabolic and epigenetic perspectives. Oncotarget. 2017;8:5619-5628. doi: 10.18632/ oncotarget.13639.
6. Bailey C, Turner R. Metformin. N Engl J Med 1996;334:574-9.
7. Lee CK, Jung M, Jung I, Heo SJ, Jeong YH, An JY, et al. Cumulative Metformin Use and Its Impact on Survival in Gastric Cancer Patients After Gastrectomy. Ann Surg. 2016;263:96-102. doi: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000001086. PMID: 25575260.
8. Zhou B, Xu L, Ye J, Xin L, Duan X, Liu Y. The Prognostic Value of the 8th Edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Staging System in HER2-Enriched Subtype Breast Cancer, a Retrospective Analysis. Anticancer Res. 2017;37:4615-4621. doi: 10.21873/anticancer.11862.
9. Kato K, Iwama H, Yamashita T, Kobayashi K, Fujihara S, Fujimori T, et al. The anti-diabetic drug metformin inhibits pancreatic cancer cell proliferation in vitro and in vivo: Study of the microRNAs associated with the antitumor effect of metformin. Oncol Rep. 2016;35:1582-92. doi: 10.3892/ort.2015.4496.
10. von Elm E, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gotzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP; STROBE Initiative. The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. Ann Intern Med. 2007;147:573-7. doi: 10.7326/0003-4819-147-8-200710160-00010.
11. Baglia ML, Cui Y, Zheng T, Yang G, Li H, You M, et al. Diabetes Medication Use in Association with Survival among Patients of Breast, Colorectal, Lung, or Gastric Cancer. Cancer Res Treat. 2019;51:538-46. doi: 10.4143/crt.2017.591.
12. Valent F. Diabetes mellitus and cancer of the digestive organs: an Italian population-based cohort study. J Diabetes Complications. 2015;29:1056-61.
13. Kim YI, Kim SY, Cho SJ, Park JH, Choi II, Lee YI, et al. Long-term metformin use reduces gastric cancer risk in type 2 diabetics without insulin treatment: a nationwide cohort study. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2014;39:854-63. doi: 10.1111/apt.12660.
14. Tsilidis KK, Capothanassi D, Allen NE, Rizos EC, Lopez DS, van Veldhoven K, et al. Metformin does not affect cancer risk: a cohort study in the U.K. Clinical Practice Research Datalink analyzed like an intention-to-treat trial. Diabetes Care. 2014;37:2522-32. doi: 10.2337/dc13-0584.
15. Tseng CH. Metformin reduces gastric cancer risk in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Aging (Albany NY). 2016;8:1636-49. doi: 10.18632/aging.101019.
16. Cheung KS, Chan EW, Wong AYS, Lee C, Seto WK, Wong ICK, et al. Metformin Use and Gastric Cancer Risk in Diabetic Patients After Helicobacter pylori Eradication. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2019;111:484-489. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djy144. PMID: 30329127.
17. Murff HJ, Roumie CL, Creavy RA, Hackstadt AJ, McGowan LED, Hung AM, et al. Metformin use and incidence cancer risk: evidence for a selective protective effect against liver cancer. Cancer Causes Control. 2018;29:823-32. doi: 10.1007/ s10552-018-1058-4.
18. Zheng J, Xie SH, Santoni G, Lagergren J. Metformin use and incidence cancer risk: evidence for a selective protective effect against liver cancer. Cancer Causes Control. 2018;29:823-32. doi: 10.1007/ s10552-018-1058-4.
19. de Jong RG, Burden AM, de Kort S, van Herk-Sukel MP, Vissers PA, Janssen PK, et al. No Decreased Risk of Gastrointestinal Cancers in Users of Metformin in The Netherlands; A Time-
Effect of metformin use on gastric cancer in patients T2D

20. Dulska A, Patasius A, Linkeviciute-Ulinska D, Zabulien L, Smailyte G. A cohort study of antihyperglycemic medication exposure and survival in patients with gastric cancer. Aging (Albany NY). 2019;11:7197-205. doi: 10.18632/aging.102245.

21. Cho MH, Yoo TG, Jeong SM, Shin DW. Association of Aspirin, Metformin, and Statin Use with Gastric Cancer Incidence and Mortality: A Nationwide Cohort Study. Cancer Prev Res (Phila). 2021;14:95-104. doi: 10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-20-0123.

22. Seo HS, Jung YJ, Kim JH, Lee HH, Park CH. The Effect of Metformin on Prognosis in Patients With Locally Advanced Gastric Cancer Associated With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. Am J Clin Oncol. 2019;42:909-917. doi: 10.1097/COC.0000000000000627.

23. Chung WS, Le PH, Kuo CJ, Chen TH, Kuo CF, Chiou MJ, et al. Impact of Metformin Use on Survival in Patients with Gastric Cancer and Diabetes Mellitus Following Gastrectomy. Cancers (Basel). 2020;12:2013. doi: 10.3390/cancers12082013.

24. Chen X, Chen Y, Li T, Jun L, Lin T, Hu Y, et al. Impact of diabetes on prognosis of gastric cancer patients performed with gastrectomy. Chin J Cancer Res. 2020;32:631-4. doi: 10.21147/j.issn.1000-9604.2020.05.08.

25. You JH, Song SO, Kang MJ, Cho YY, Kim SW, Suh SH, et al. Metformin and Gastrointestinal Cancer Development in Newly Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes: A Population-Based Study in Korea. Clin Transl Gastroenterol. 2020;11:e00254. doi: 10.14309/ctg.0000000000000254.

26. Kim J, Hyun HJ, Choi EA, Kim Y, Bae YJ, Kang HT. Metformin use reduced the risk of stomach cancer in diabetic patients in Korea: an analysis of Korean NHIS-HEALS database. Gastric Cancer. 2020;23:1075-83. doi: 10.1007/s10120-020-01085-1.

27. Shuai Y, Li C, Zhou X. The effect of metformin on gastric cancer in patients with type 2 diabetes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Clin Transl Oncol. 2020;22:1580-90. doi: 10.1007/s12094-020-02304-y.

28. Li P, Zhang C, Gao P, Chen X, Ma B, Yu D, et al. Metformin use and its effect on gastric cancer in patients with type 2 diabetes: A systematic review of observational studies. Oncol Lett. 2018;15:1191-9. doi: 10.3892/ol.2017.7370.

29. Zhou XL, Xue WH, Ding XF, Li LF, Dou MM, Zhang WJ, et al. Association between metformin and the risk of gastric cancer in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus: a meta-analysis of cohort studies. Oncotarget. 2017;8:55622-31. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.16973.

30. Seo SI, Park CH, Kim TJ, Bang CS, Kim JY, Lee KJ, et al. Aspirin, metformin, and statin use on the risk of gastric cancer: A nationwide population-based cohort study in Korea with systematic review and meta-analysis. Cancer Med. 2022;11:1217-31. doi: 10.1002/cam4.4514.