



Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease
EASD Study Group

Summary of the 6th Annual Meeting Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease (D&CVD) EASD Study Group 31 October-2 November 2013, Prague, Czech Republic

The Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease (D&CVD) EASD Study Group aims at promoting advancement of knowledge on all aspects of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The Study Group also focuses on bringing researchers together, establishing collaborations in this field and on organizing annual meetings to promote the scientific exchange.

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease EASD Study Group was held in Prague, Czech Republic, 31 October – 2 November 2013. The meeting was organized in conjunction with Czech Diabetes Society of the Czech Medical Association J.E. Purkyně.

The 137 participants came from 23 countries: 17 European countries, USA, Brazil, 2 North African countries and 2 Middle East countries.

The success of the meeting was highlighted by the fact that 46 abstracts were submitted prior to the meeting. 17 were selected for oral presentations and 29 were selected for poster presentations. The accepted posters were grouped into poster session chaired and discussed on the last day. Each poster was presented by the first author and was discussed.

The educational structure of the meeting was characterized by a mixture of invited state-of-the-art lectures on latest topics of diabetes and CVD and oral presentations focusing on up-to-date experimental and clinical research data.

The opening symposium included epidemiological data of cardiovascular disease both in diabetes and prediabetes. Risk factors and their role in the huge proportion of diabetic patients suffering from macrovascular disease were introduced.

The next day the programme continued by overview of genetic factors influencing vascular changes as well as development of cardiomyopathy and by describing the role of adipose tissue as a source of hormones and tissue factors regulating the vascular wall physiology.



A symposium focused on the treatment of diabetes associated with coronary artery disease was done with invited lectures summarizing results of the main studies from the past 15 years. Besides special significance of hypoglycemia originating from intensive treatment of diabetes (studies like ACCORD, VADT) and the following conclusions involving the needs of tailored treatment or individualized treatment targets, the new studies with gliptins have been discussed. Recent data of such studies (SAVOR and EXAMINE) have been presented which could not answer the long-term effect of gliptin administration on cardiovascular outcomes yet. New data from incretin-based studies (both GLP-1 receptor agonists and DPP-4 inhibitors) have been demonstrated.

Specific interest was focused on the role of hypoglycemia, postprandial hyperglycemia and glycemic variability in another symposium which included invited lectures of cardiologists and diabetologists. It demonstrated the effect of large glucose excursions in the initiation of inflammation as a consequence of more reactive oxygen species produced with subsequent activation of the vessel wall manifested by changes in different cell adhesion molecules.

The various features of endothelial cells and the whole vascular wall impairment in diabetes were addressed in a symposium, which included invited lectures on the role of GLP-1 in endothelial dysfunction in diabetes and of artery stiffness. Acute hemodynamic changes and the effect of the endothelial function improvement in the INSUVASC study have been introduced.

The next day symposium concentrated to the role of autonomic neuropathy, arterial hypertension and hyperlipoproteinemia summarized the needs of the proper treatment strategies and the prevention possibilities in development of cardiovascular disease in diabetes.

The highlight was presented by two state-of-the art lectures. One concentrated on new insights in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular disease with specific role of fatty acid metabolism in diabetes, the second introduced the current view where we are on the way in the knowledge of successfully treated diabetic patients with macrovascular disease. It documented that many clinical studies did not bring sufficient hard data which are necessary to provide final decisions.

Intervention strategies have been presented by two invited cardiologists. The SWEETHEART study organized by German cardiologists and showing the effect of screening programme on early and effective treatment was followed by current recommendations or guidelines for the treatment of acute coronary syndrome suggested by European cardiologists.

Final block of lectures covered various topics oriented on life-style modification (physical activity and new dietary possibilities) or results from specific treatment studies.



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In the poster sessions, studies on atherosclerosis, peripheral and cerebrovascular disease, oxidative stress and endothelial dysfunction, coronary artery disease and heart dysfunction, new pathways, new treatments and new strategies were presented.

In summary, the 6th Annual Meeting of the D & CVD EASD Study Group were characterized by highly stimulating lectures and presentations, a fruitful scientific exchange and the creation of a platform which should be the basis for a network for future collaborations. The D & CVD EASD Study Group feels that the target of creating a reference congress for diabetes and CVD has been successfully achieved with the 6th Annual Meeting of the D & CVD EASD Study Group. Future Annual Meetings of the D & CVD EASD Study Group will continue to effectively achieve this goal.

Prof. Jan Škrha President Local Organising Committee 6 th Annual Meeting of the D&CVD EASD Study Group	Prof. Antonio Ceriello President Executive Committee D&CVD EASD Study Group
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