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Introduction: Patients with Type 2 diabetes (T2D) are commonly initiated onto premixed insulin (premix) when oral antidiabetic agents (OADs) no longer provide adequate glycaemic control. This subanalysis examined how patients in European countries rated their treatment satisfaction as part of a clinical trial.

Methods: Men and women (n=364), aged 45–75 years with T2D and HbA_{1c}=7.5–10.5% on OADs, received either glargine+OADs (glimepiride and metformin) or twice-daily premix (30% regular/70% NPH insulin) without OADs in this multinational (n=10), multicentre (n=66), parallel-group, open-label, randomized clinical trial. Patients completed the 8-item Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (DTSQs; status version) at baseline and endpoint, and the DTSQc (change version) at endpoint. Treatment satisfaction scores ranged from 36.0 to 0 (DTSQs) and 18 to −18 (DTSQc): higher scores indicate greater/improved satisfaction. Treatment group differences were evaluated using ANCOVA, (treatment and language entered as fixed factors; baseline values as covariates).

Results: At baseline, there was no difference in treatment satisfaction between treatment groups ($p_{[treatment]}$=0.36) though there was a significant effect of language ($p_{[language]}$=0.0027). Improvements in DTSQs score were, in the total sample, greater for patients in the glargine+OAD group (baseline=26.9±7.3; baseline–endpoint difference=4.0±8.2) compared with premix (baseline=26.3±7.1; difference=2.3±9.5; $p_{[treatment]}$=0.0022; $p_{[language]}$=0.35). Dutch and English subsamples were exceptions where ceiling effects on the DTSQs at baseline were greater than other language groups and limited the improvements in DTSQs scores from baseline to endpoint in these Dutch (baseline: glargine+OAD=30.3±5.7, premix=29.3±5.0; difference glargine+OAD=3.0±5.3, premix=4.3±6.4) and English (baseline: glargine+OAD=31.1±1.9, premix=31.7±6.7; difference: glargine+OAD=1.5±3.1, premix=3.0±7.9) patients. Significantly higher scores for DTSQc were reported by the

glargine+OAD group (glargine+OAD=14.0±5.3; premix=11.5±6.7; p=0.0028); a pattern seen in all countries.

Discussion: Ceiling effects at baseline distorted DTSQs results in two countries. The DTSQc overcame the ceiling effects and showed that initiating insulin therapy with glargine+OADs is associated with significant improvements in treatment satisfaction in all countries involved.

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