

# Media Digest

## Is your dog “hypo”-sensitive?

As previously covered in these pages, dog owners have reported that their pet can detect a drop in blood sugar and warn them of the change. Now, research from Queen's University, Belfast, provides further evidence of this phenomenon.

In a survey of 212 dog owners with diabetes, two-thirds indicated that their dog had reacted at least once to their hypoglycaemia by nuzzling, licking, or jumping on them. Dogs warned one in three owners of a hypoglycaemic episode that the owner was unaware of, and one in five surveyed said their dog woke them during a night-time hypoglycaemic episode.

The canines were most likely responding to a change in their owner's odour, triggered by the hypoglycaemia and resulting in an altered chemical composition of their sweat.



*The Sunday Times,*  
10 May 2009

## Severe hypoglycaemic events raise risk of dementia

New research appears to suggest that aggressive blood sugar control resulting in hypoglycaemia that requires hospitalisation increases the risk of dementia in older adults with type 2 diabetes.

### MEDIA LITE

#### Free-radicals good? Vitamins bad?

German scientists now believe that free-radicals may actually be good for us.

While many hold that the elimination of free-radicals by taking the antioxidant vitamins C and E may prevent tissue damage associated with oxidative stress, new research suggest other factors are at work. Research published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* shows that free-radicals may in fact increase the body's sensitivity to insulin, an ability the body loses in type 2 diabetes.

*BBC News, 11 May 2009*

Researchers at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California, found that people with diabetes who experienced a single episode of hypoglycaemia requiring hospitalisation had a 26% greater

risk of dementia than people with diabetes who had not experienced such an event, rising to a 115% increased risk for those who had experienced two episodes.

*Reuters UK, 14 April 2009*

## Industry **DIGEST**

### Nicotinic acid/laropiprant: New approach for the treatment of dyslipidaemia

Results from a phase III clinical trial testing nicotinic acid/laropiprant in combination with simvastatin have been released.

In people with primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia, 12 weeks treatment with a combination of nicotinic acid/laropiprant and simvastatin reduced low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) levels by nearly 48%, increased high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) levels by approximately 28%, and reduced overall triglyceride levels by 33%.

A total of 609 people participated in the study, published in the *British Journal of Cardiology*. The primary endpoint of the study was a change in LDL-C levels in participants

treated with a combination of 2 g nicotinic acid/laropiprant and simvastatin (20 mg or 40 mg) compared with those treated with nicotinic acid/laropiprant alone. Secondary endpoints included change in LDL-C, HDL-C and triglyceride levels in patients treated with 2 g of the drug and simvastatin (pooled) compared with those treated with simvastatin alone.

In the other treatment arms, 2 g nicotinic acid/laropiprant alone ( $n=192$ ) reduced LDL-C by 17%, increased HDL-C by approximately 23% and reduced triglycerides by nearly 22%. Simvastatin alone (pooled;  $n=585$ ) reduced LDL-C by 37%, increased HDL-C by 6%, and reduced triglycerides by nearly 15%.

### Practice nurses use NICE lipid targets in everyday practice

A new survey of UK healthcare professionals, conducted by TNS Healthcare UK, reveals that the majority of practice nurses who took part ( $n=100$ ) recognise NICE lipid targets as best practice for lipid management for high risk (type 2 diabetes and secondary prevention) patients. Further, the nurses surveyed believed that it would be useful for the Quality

and Outcomes Framework (QOF) to include specific lower lipid targets for these patients, in line with NICE guidance.

The survey (which comprised 100 each of GPs, practice nurses, cardiologists and diabetologists), found that most nurses (69%) would typically treat people with type 2 diabetes to the NICE lipid targets in everyday practice.

### New Clinimed website

CliniMed has a new user-friendly website. In the wound care section you can find information on Clinimed's wound care products and general information on wound care. Products include CliniSorb®, a charcoal dressing for malodorous wounds. There is also information

on skin care products, LBF®, a no-sting barrier wipe that protects the area around a wound, and Appeel®, a no-sting adhesive remover for dressing removal.

Free samples of wound care products can be ordered on-line ([www.clinimed.co.uk](http://www.clinimed.co.uk)).