Editor’s Note

Hospital Admissions for Hypoglycemia Now Exceed Those for Hyperglycemia in Medicare Beneficiaries

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We were pleased to read the recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report\(^1\) that myocardial infarction, stroke, and hyperglycemia rates have been reduced for patients with diabetes mellitus. However, Lipska et al\(^2\) inform us that during the same time period, from 1999 to 2011, the opposite trend is occurring for hypoglycemia, and rates of hospital admissions for hypoglycemia have risen by 11.7% in US Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, there were 40% more admissions for hypoglycemia than for hyperglycemia over the 12-year period. The 1-year mortality rate after a hypoglycemia admission was higher (22.6%) than the rate after a hyperglycemia admission (17.6%) in 2010. Our patients are now more likely to experience adverse events related to overtreatment of diabetes mellitus. Striving for too low a hemoglobin A\(_1c\) target level puts patients at risk for this dangerous adverse effect.
