



Continuous glucose monitoring with structured education in adults with type 2 diabetes managed by multiple daily insulin injections: a multicentre randomised controlled trial

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Abstract

Aims/hypothesis The aim of this study was to compare the effectiveness of stand-alone intermittently scanned continuous glucose monitoring (isCGM) with or without a structured education programme and blood glucose monitoring (BGM) in adults with type 2 diabetes on multiple daily insulin injections (MDI).

Methods In this 24 week randomised open-label multicentre trial, adults with type 2 diabetes on intensive insulin therapy with HbA_{1c} levels of 58–108 mmol/mol (7.5–12.0%) were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1 ratio to isCGM with a structured education programme on adjusting insulin dose and timing according to graphical patterns in CGM (intervention group), isCGM with conventional education (control group 1) or BGM with conventional education (control group 2). Block randomisation was conducted by an independent statistician. Due to the nature of the intervention, blinding of participants and investigators was not possible. The primary outcome was change in HbA_{1c} from baseline at 24 weeks, assessed using ANCOVA with the baseline value as a covariate.

Results A total of 159 individuals were randomised ($n=53$ for each group); 148 were included in the full analysis set, with 52 in the intervention group, 49 in control group 1 and 47 in control group 2. The mean (\pm SD) HbA_{1c} level at baseline was 68.19 ± 10.94 mmol/mol ($8.39 \pm 1.00\%$). The least squares mean change (\pm SEM) from baseline HbA_{1c} at 24 weeks was -10.96 ± 1.35 mmol/mol ($-1.00 \pm 0.12\%$) in the intervention group, -6.87 ± 1.39 mmol/mol ($-0.63 \pm 0.13\%$) in control group 1 ($p=0.0367$ vs intervention group) and -6.32 ± 1.42 mmol/mol ($-0.58 \pm 0.13\%$) in control group 2 ($p=0.0193$ vs intervention group). Adverse events occurred in 28.85% (15/52) of individuals in the intervention group, 26.42% (14/53) in control group 1 and 48.08% (25/52) in control group 2.

Conclusions/interpretation Stand-alone isCGM offers a greater reduction in HbA_{1c} in adults with type 2 diabetes on MDI when education on the interpretation of graphical patterns in CGM is provided.

Trial registration ClinicalTrials.gov NCT04926623.

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Keywords Continuous glucose monitoring · Diabetes education · Flash sensor glucose technology · Insulin · Type 2 diabetes

Abbreviations

BGM	Blood glucose monitoring	FA	Full analysis
CGM	Continuous glucose monitoring	FreEdoM-2	Freestyle Libre-based Education on MDI in type 2 diabetes
DTSQ	Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire	isCGM	Intermittently scanned CGM
		LS	Least squares
		MDI	Multiple daily insulin injections
		TAR	Time above range
		TBR	Time below range
		TIR	Time in range

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Research in context

What is already known about this subject?

- Structured education is necessary for sustained benefits of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) in type 1 diabetes
- RCTs have shown inconsistent results regarding benefits of stand-alone CGM in individuals with type 2 diabetes on multiple daily insulin injections (MDI)
- It remains uncertain if structured education is also required for this population in whom residual endogenous insulin secretion could compensate for dosing errors

What is the key question?

- Is structured education necessary for sustained benefits of stand-alone CGM in individuals with type 2 diabetes on MDI?

What are the new findings?

- Reduction in HbA_{1c} was greater in the group using intermittently scanned CGM (isCGM) combined with a structured education programme than in groups using either isCGM or blood glucose monitoring with conventional education
- Together with a reduction in HbA_{1c} levels, isCGM with structured education reduced time below the target glucose range and time above the target glucose range compared with baseline values

How might this impact on clinical practice in the foreseeable future?

- This RCT provides evidence that stand-alone isCGM offers greater glycaemic benefits in adults with type 2 diabetes on MDI when education on the interpretation of graphical patterns in CGM is provided

Introduction

Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) provides real-time information on high and low glucose patterns, glucose change directions and glycaemic variability that cannot be obtained by HbA_{1c} or a limited number of daily fingerstick blood glucose monitoring (BGM) [1–6]. RCTs in individuals with type 1 diabetes have consistently demonstrated the advantages of both real-time CGM [7–13] and intermittently scanned CGM (isCGM) [14] in either lowering HbA_{1c} levels [7–13] or minimising hypoglycaemia [14–20]. One study that lacked adequate educational support, however, failed to show these benefits [21], thus highlighting the importance of sufficient education in leveraging CGM for effective glycaemic control in type 1 diabetes.

In individuals with type 2 diabetes managed by multiple daily insulin injections (MDI), Beck et al reported that the use of CGM as an adjunct to BGM could improve glycaemic control [22]. However, Haak et al found no reduction in HbA_{1c} in an RCT assessing the efficacy of stand-alone CGM to replace BGM [5]. These inconsistent results may be associated with the provision of a structured education in CGM. Hermanns et al demonstrated the efficacy of a structured education and treatment programme designed for individuals with diabetes using CGM [23]. In fact, we recently showed that a

structured education programme on the adjustment of insulin dose and timing according to the graphical patterns of CGM was a requisite for the sustained benefit of real-time CGM in individuals with type 1 diabetes on MDI [24]. In contrast, an RCT involving individuals with type 2 diabetes not using prandial insulin demonstrated the effectiveness of CGM in glycaemic control without the need for additional educational input beyond standard clinical practice [25]. This suggests that the necessity for educational support in optimising CGM use may vary according to factors such as endogenous insulin secretion and insulin treatment regimens. It remains to be determined whether individuals with type 2 diabetes on MDI would benefit from a structured education programme that goes beyond standard clinical practice, especially considering their potential residual endogenous insulin secretion that might compensate for insulin dosing errors to some extent.

The Freestyle Libre-based Education on MDI in type 2 diabetes (FreEdoM-2) trial assessed whether isCGM could replace BGM effectively in individuals with type 2 diabetes on intensive insulin therapy. The FreEdoM-2 trial also evaluated the need for a structured education programme on the adjustment of insulin dose and timing according to the graphical patterns of CGM. We compared groups using either isCGM with a structured education programme, isCGM with conventional education, or BGM with conventional education.

Methods

Study design and participants This was a prospective open-label multicentre RCT. The trial was conducted at eight tertiary medical centres in South Korea in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants provided written informed consent. This study was approved by the institutional review board (IRB) of Samsung Medical Center (IRB approval no. 2020-11-083-002) and registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (registration no. NCT04926623). The trial protocol is provided in electronic supplementary material (ESM) Methods.

We enrolled participants aged 19–74 years old with type 2 diabetes who were treated with MDI or insulin pump for 12 weeks or more and had HbA_{1c} levels of 58–108 mmol/mol (7.5–12.0%). MDI was defined as an injection of basal insulin plus two or more prandial insulin injections per day. Basal insulin included ultra-long-acting insulin and long-acting insulin but not intermediate-acting insulin. If ultra-long-acting insulin was used in a premixed form, the use of two or more injections of prandial insulin was required for eligibility. People with diabetes who met the current reimbursement criteria of the Korean National Health Insurance service for type 1 diabetes were not eligible. According to these criteria, type 1 diabetes could be diagnosed in insulin users who met at least one of the following criteria: fasting C-peptide ≤ 0.2 nmol/l; glucagon or meal stimulated C-peptide ≤ 0.6 nmol/l; positive for glutamic-acid-decarboxylase and/or other autoantibodies; 24 h urine C-peptide < 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{day}$; or a history of diabetic ketoacidosis at the time of diabetes diagnosis [26]. Key exclusion criteria included severe comorbidities preventing participation in education, acute diabetic complications requiring emergent treatment in the preceding 12 weeks, and pregnancy (ESM Methods provides a complete list of the exclusion criteria). The enrolled participants were considered representative of the target trial population with respect to sex and age.

Randomisation and masking Participants were centrally randomised in a 1:1:1 ratio to isCGM with a structured education programme (intervention group), isCGM with conventional education (control group 1), and BGM with conventional education (control group 2). Prior to the commencement of the study, an independent statistician, not associated with the study, generated a randomisation table with a block size of either 6 or 9. Block randomisation was conducted using SAS (Version 9.4; SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA). After the screening, eligible participants were randomised by an interactive web response system. Due to the nature of the intervention, blinding of participants and investigators was not possible.

Study procedures A flow diagram of the study design is shown in ESM Fig. 1. After informed consent was provided

by participants, age, sex and history of comorbidity and medication were investigated. Sex was determined based on self-report. Participants underwent anthropometric measurements, including height and weight measurements, vital sign measurements, and laboratory tests including HbA_{1c} levels. All participants underwent blinded CGM, which concealed glucose measurements from participants but allowed investigators to review them retrospectively, for 2 weeks immediately before the baseline visit. Then, the participants in the intervention group and control group 1 underwent isCGM from the baseline visit for 24 weeks. Participants in control group 2 were asked to do self-monitoring of blood glucose for 22 weeks and then underwent blinded CGM for 2 weeks (from week 22 to week 24). FreeStyle Libre 1 (Abbott Diabetes Care, Witney, Oxon, UK) was given for both blinded CGM and isCGM during the study period. BGM devices were not provided but the participants were asked to use a glucometer of their own.

A structured education programme was given at baseline (week 0), 4, 8, 12 and 18 weeks. Education at 4, 8 and 18 weeks could be given via telephone calls. The education could be omitted if the percentage of time in range (TIR; the time that blood glucose readings are within the target glucose range [3.9–10.0 mmol/l]) during that time was $\geq 80\%$, upon the judgement of the investigators. The structured education included individual education on adjustment of insulin dose and timing according to blood glucose level and the graphical patterns of the CGM [27]. The summary of education contents was as follows: the ideal dose of basal insulin will result in a flat glucose trend overnight within the target range; appropriate dose and timing of pre-meal rapid-acting insulin bolus will result in postprandial glucose excursion ≤ 10.0 mmol/l with return to target over 4 h; if postprandial glucose excursion is above the target range but returns to target after 4 h, the timing of insulin injection and/or meal composition needs to be adjusted; and, on the contrary, if the postprandial glucose excursion does not return to target after 4 h, the dose of insulin and/or meal composition needs to be adjusted. The time consumed by structured education was recorded on iKooB (iKooB, Seoul, South Korea), a digital patient education platform. For control groups 1 and 2, conventional education was given at baseline and 12 weeks. Conventional education included instructions regarding adjustment of insulin dose according to blood glucose level and how to use the isCGM device. Both structured and conventional education were provided by the diabetes educators at each centre.

HbA_{1c} was measured with HLC-723G11 (Tosoh Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) in the central laboratory at baseline, 12 and 24 weeks. Treatment satisfaction was measured by the Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (DTSQ) at baseline, 12 and 24 weeks.

Study outcomes The primary outcome was the change in HbA_{1c} from baseline to week 24. The key secondary outcomes were as follows: change in HbA_{1c} from baseline to week 12; change in percentage of TIR from baseline to weeks 22–24; change in percentage of time above range (TAR) >10.0 mmol/l from baseline to weeks 22–24; change in percentage of TAR >13.9 mmol/l from baseline to weeks 22–24; change in percentage of time below range (TBR) <3.9 mmol/l from baseline to weeks 22–24; change in percentage of TBR <3.0 mmol/l from baseline to weeks 22–24; change in mean glucose level from baseline to weeks 22–24; change in the glucose CV from baseline to weeks 22–24; and change in treatment satisfaction estimated by DTSQ from baseline to 12 and 24 weeks.

Exploratory secondary outcomes included the number of sensor scans (intervention group and control group 1) and frequency of glucose finger-sticks (control group 2). Safety outcomes included all adverse events.

Statistical analysis We calculated that a sample size of 45 per group was necessary to provide at least 80% power to detect a difference in mean HbA_{1c} level between treatment groups (intervention vs control group 2), assuming a population difference of 5.9 mmol/mol (0.54%), SD of 9.8 mmol/mol (0.90%), and a significance level of 5%, based on previous trials [28–30]. Considering the 15% potential loss to follow-up, the sample size was set at 53 per group. We also aimed to compare the intervention group and control group 1; thus, a total of 159 participants were planned to be enrolled.

Analyses followed the intention-to-treat principle and were conducted in a full analysis (FA) set. The FA set included participants who received primary outcome measurements. Per-protocol set analyses were also performed for those who did not violate the study protocol. Safety analysis was done for participants receiving at least one education session (safety set). Missing values in the FA set were imputed using the last-observation-carried-forward approach. Safety set and per-protocol analyses only used the available data.

Data distributions were tested for normality using the Shapiro–Wilk test. The continuous variables at baseline were compared between groups by one-way ANOVA or the Kruskal–Wallis test. For outcome analyses, changes were compared using ANCOVA, with the baseline value as a covariate. Additionally, ANCOVA with both the baseline value and study centre as covariates (not included in the initial statistical analysis plan) was conducted. We first calculated the *p* values for within-group differences. Next, we compared the changes between groups. Multiple comparisons were also done to compare the intervention group with control group 1, and the intervention group with control group 2. Categorical variables are presented as *n* (%), and

Pearson's χ^2 test or Fisher's exact test was used for comparisons between groups. For exploratory secondary analyses, Pearson's correlation analyses were done between the number of sensor scans and CGM metrics.

All statistical analyses were performed using SAS Version 9.4 (SAS Institute). Statistical significance was set at a two-sided *p* value <0.05. Since the multiple comparisons were exploratory analyses, correction for significance level was not performed.

Results

Study recruitment and baseline characteristics of participants Between 1 July 2021 and 27 October 2022, 159 participants were randomised to the intervention group, control group 1 or control group 2 in a 1:1:1 ratio. A total of 148 individuals were included in the FA set, with 52 in the intervention group, 49 in control group 1 and 47 in control group 2. Among them, 52 in the intervention group, 47 in control group 1 and 46 in control group 2 completed the study. The flowchart of study participation is shown in ESM Fig. 2. The mean (\pm SD) total amount of time spent on the structured education programme was 3.12 \pm 0.95 h for each participant.

Table 1 shows the participants' baseline characteristics, which were well-balanced between groups. The mean (\pm SD) age was 57.73 \pm 10.58 years and 85/159 (53.46%) were men. The mean (\pm SD) duration of diabetes was 17.09 \pm 10.10 years and 44/159 (27.67%) had previous experience of using CGM. The mean (\pm SD) fasting C-peptide level was 0.52 \pm 0.52 nmol/l. There was one insulin pump user in control group 2. The most common glucose-lowering drug used by participants, other than insulin, was metformin (86.16%), followed by dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor (42.77%), sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor (41.51%), thiazolidinedione (11.95%), sulfonylurea (8.18%) and glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (3.77%).

Change in HbA_{1c} Figure 1 and Table 2 present the change in HbA_{1c} levels. The mean (\pm SD) HbA_{1c} level at baseline was 68.19 \pm 10.94 mmol/mol (8.39 \pm 1.00%). At week 12, the least squares (LS) mean change (\pm SEM) from baseline in HbA_{1c} was -10.74 ± 1.28 mmol/mol ($-0.98\pm 0.12\%$) in the intervention group, -6.18 ± 1.34 mmol/mol ($-0.57\pm 0.12\%$) in control group 1 (*p*=0.0152 vs intervention group) and -4.45 ± 1.34 mmol/mol ($-0.41\pm 0.12\%$) in control group 2 (*p*=0.0009 vs intervention group). For the primary outcome, the LS mean change in HbA_{1c} from baseline to 24 weeks was -10.96 ± 1.35 mmol/mol ($-1.00\pm 0.12\%$) in the intervention group, -6.87 ± 1.39 mmol/mol ($-0.63\pm 0.13\%$) in control group 1 (*p*=0.0367 vs intervention group) and -6.32 ± 1.42 mmol/mol ($-0.58\pm 0.13\%$) in control group 2 (*p*=0.0193 vs intervention group). Additional analyses,

Table 1 Baseline characteristics of study participants

Characteristic	Intervention (isCGM with structured education) (N=53)	Control 1 (isCGM with conventional education) (N=53)	Control 2 (BGM with conventional education) (N=53)	<i>p</i> value
Age, years	59.51±9.82	56.58±11.86	57.11±9.94	0.4053
Age group, <i>n</i> (%)				0.8127
19–29 years	0 (0.00)	1 (1.89)	0 (0.00)	
30–39 years	2 (3.77)	7 (13.21)	4 (7.55)	
40–49 years	8 (15.09)	8 (15.09)	8 (15.09)	
50–59 years	11 (20.75)	10 (18.87)	14 (26.42)	
60–69 years	25 (47.17)	23 (43.40)	22 (41.51)	
70–75 years	7 (13.21)	4 (7.55)	5 (9.43)	
Male sex, <i>n</i> (%)	26 (49.06)	33 (62.26)	26 (49.06)	0.2898
Body weight, kg	71.55±13.09	75.70±16.86	71.75±14.76	0.4294
BMI, kg/m ²	26.89±4.65	27.33±4.63	26.97±4.74	0.9496
Fasting C-peptide, nmol/l	0.51±0.66	0.48±0.45	0.56±0.42	0.2994
Hypertension, <i>n</i> (%)	26 (49.06)	30 (56.60)	26 (49.06)	0.6684
Dyslipidaemia, <i>n</i> (%)	22 (41.51)	22 (41.51)	25 (47.17)	0.7942
Smoking status, <i>n</i> (%)				0.1335
Current smoker	10 (18.87)	13 (24.53)	12 (22.64)	
Past smoker	14 (26.42)	14 (26.42)	5 (9.43)	
Never smoker	29 (54.72)	26 (49.06)	36 (67.92)	
Diabetes duration, years	18.29±12.31	16.51±9.60	16.46±7.91	0.9144
Insulin delivery method, <i>n</i> (%)				1.0000
MDI	53 (100.00)	53 (100.00)	52 (98.11)	
Insulin pump	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.89)	
Diabetes medication other than insulin, <i>n</i> (%) ^a				
Metformin	49 (92.45)	43 (81.13)	45 (84.91)	0.2283
Sulfonylurea	7 (13.21)	4 (7.55)	2 (3.77)	0.2401
GLP-1 RA	2 (3.77)	3 (5.66)	1 (1.89)	0.8717
DPP-4 inhibitor	25 (47.17)	24 (45.28)	19 (35.85)	0.4509
TZD	7 (13.21)	7 (13.21)	5 (9.43)	0.7873
SGLT2 inhibitor	19 (35.85)	20 (37.74)	27 (50.94)	0.2284
Previous experience of CGM, <i>n</i> (%)	13 (24.53)	15 (28.30)	16 (30.19)	0.8026

Continuous variables are presented as mean ± SD; categorical variables are presented as *n* (%)

^aNo participant received glinide or α-glucosidase inhibitor

Continuous variables were compared by using one-way ANOVA or the Kruskal–Wallis test and categorical variables were compared by using Pearson's χ^2 test or Fisher's exact test

DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; SGLT2, sodium–glucose cotransporter 2; TZD, thiazolidinedione

including ANCOVA with baseline values and study centre as covariates (ESM Table 1) and per-protocol set analyses (data not shown), yielded similar results.

ESM Fig. 3 presents the proportion of participants achieving the target HbA_{1c} level of less than 53 mmol/mol (7%) at weeks 12 and 24. At week 24, 38.46% of participants in the intervention group achieved the target whereas 16.33% in control group 1 ($p=0.0153$ vs intervention group) and 19.15% in control group 2 ($p=0.0467$ vs intervention group) achieved the target HbA_{1c} levels.

Change in CGM metrics Figure 2 and Table 2 show the change in CGM metrics during the study period. TIR gradually increased as the education on the interpretation of the graphical patterns in CGM was repeated in the intervention group, with the improvement more prominent in the latter half of the study period (Fig. 2a). At week 24, LS mean change (± SEM) in TIR was +11.65±2.61% in the intervention group ($p<0.0001$ for within-group difference). In contrast, participants in control group 1 showed an increase in TIR at weeks 2, 12 and 18, but not at week 24. The

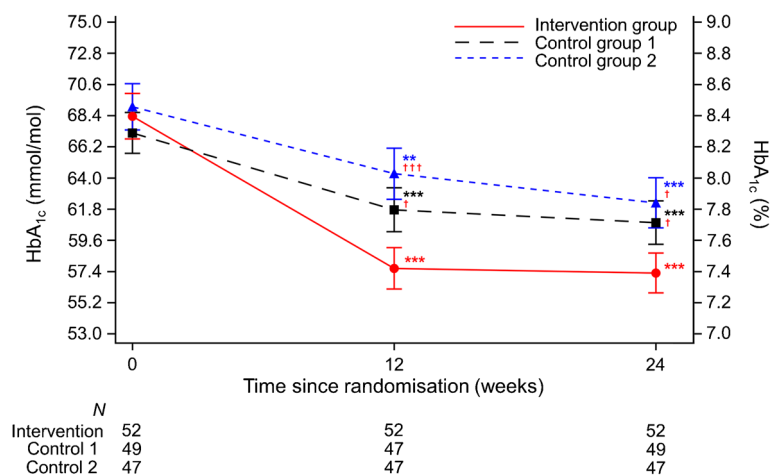


Fig. 1 Change in HbA_{1c} levels over time. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. At week 12, LS mean change \pm SEM from baseline in HbA_{1c} was -10.74 ± 1.28 mmol/mol ($-0.98 \pm 0.12\%$) in the intervention group, -6.18 ± 1.34 mmol/mol ($-0.57 \pm 0.12\%$) in control group 1 and -4.45 ± 1.34 mmol/mol ($-0.41 \pm 0.12\%$) in control group 2. At week 24, LS mean change in HbA_{1c} from baseline was -10.96 ± 1.35 mmol/mol ($-1.00 \pm 0.12\%$) in the intervention group, -6.87 ± 1.39

mmol/mol ($-0.63 \pm 0.13\%$) in control group 1 and -6.32 ± 1.42 mmol/mol ($-0.58 \pm 0.13\%$) in control group 2. Intervention group, isCGM with structured education; control group 1, isCGM with conventional education; control group 2, BGM with conventional education. ** $p < 0.01$ and *** $p < 0.001$ for within-group differences; † $p < 0.05$ and ††† $p < 0.001$ for between-group differences

difference in TIR at week 24 between the groups was not statistically significant.

In the intervention group, TAR showed a gradual decrease from baseline, with a more notable reduction in the latter half of the study period (Fig. 2b,c), although the differences in TAR at week 24 between groups were not significant. In control group 1, TAR significantly decreased from baseline at weeks 2 and 12 but this improvement was not maintained later in the study. At week 24, the LS mean (\pm SEM) change in TAR > 10.0 mmol/l and TAR > 13.9 mmol/l in the intervention group was $-10.42 \pm 2.75\%$ ($p = 0.0002$ for within-group difference) and $-7.90 \pm 2.08\%$ ($p = 0.0002$ for within-group difference), respectively.

TBR < 3.9 mmol/l during the whole follow-up period (weeks 2–24) was in an acceptable range ($< 4\%$) [1] in all groups (Fig. 2d). However, at week 24, only participants in the intervention group had a reduced TBR < 3.9 mmol/l compared with baseline (LS mean \pm SEM: $-1.15 \pm 0.44\%$; $p = 0.0093$ for within-group difference). TBR < 3.0 mmol/l decreased from baseline and remained in an acceptable range ($< 1\%$) [1] during the whole follow-up period (weeks 2–24) in both the intervention group and control group 1 (Fig. 2e). CV for glucose values also significantly decreased from baseline in both intervention and control group 1 at the end of the trial (Table 2).

Other secondary outcomes Treatment satisfaction estimated by DTSQ significantly increased from baseline in both the intervention group and control group 1, at weeks 12 and 24 (ESM Fig. 4). The intervention group showed a greater improvement in DTSQ compared with control group 2.

The mean number of sensor scans per day was higher in the intervention group than in control group 1, with a similar clock-time distribution between groups (ESM Fig. 5a, 11.34 ± 5.36 vs 9.51 ± 6.25 , $p = 0.0207$). The number of daily mean frequency of sensor scans was correlated with TIR in both the intervention group ($r = 0.50$, $p = 0.0002$) and control group 1 ($r = 0.28$, $p = 0.0481$) (ESM Fig. 5b). The mean frequency of glucose finger-sticks in control group 2 was 2.43 ± 1.20 per day.

Adverse events Adverse events occurred in 28.85% (15/52) of individuals in the intervention group, 26.42% (14/53) in control group 1, and 48.08% (25/52) in control group 2 (ESM Table 2). A device adhesion problem occurred in one participant in control group 1. Diabetic ketoacidosis did not occur in any of the three groups.

Discussion

This study demonstrates that when BGM is replaced with stand-alone CGM, improved glycaemic control is achievable with structured education in individuals with type 2 diabetes on MDI. For the primary outcome of a reduction in HbA_{1c}, isCGM with a structured education programme was superior not only to BGM but also to isCGM with conventional education. The superiority in HbA_{1c} reduction was explained by a gradual decrease in TAR; this effect was more prominent in the latter half of the study period, as education on the interpretation of the graphical patterns of CGM was repeated in the intervention group. Importantly, this was achieved

Table 2 Efficacy endpoints at week 24

Endpoint	Intervention (isCGM with structured education) (N=52)	Control 1 (isCGM with conventional education) (N=49)	Control 2 (BGM with conventional education) (N=47)	<i>p</i> value for between-group differences		
				Comparison among all groups ^a	Intervention vs control 1 ^b	Intervention vs control 2 ^b
HbA_{1c}, mmol/mol						
Baseline	68.37±11.51	67.19±10.06	69.03±11.16	0.7059	0.5893	0.7655
Week 24	57.31±10.13	60.86±10.73	62.26±12.05			
Change from baseline	-10.96±1.35	-6.87±1.39	-6.32±1.42	0.0355*	0.0367*	0.0193*
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	<0.0001*	<0.0001*	<0.0001*			
HbA_{1c}, %						
Baseline	8.41±1.05	8.30±0.92	8.47±1.02	0.7059	0.5893	0.7655
Week 24	7.39±0.93	7.72±0.98	7.85±1.10			
Change from baseline	-1.00±0.12	-0.63±0.13	-0.58±0.13	0.0355*	0.0367*	0.0193*
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	<0.0001*	<0.0001*	<0.0001*			
TIR (3.9–10.0 mmol/l), %						
Baseline	50.87±22.88	52.62±22.40	54.41±18.81	0.7192	0.6826	0.4179
Week 24	62.74±18.45	54.89±22.59	58.03±19.04			
Change from baseline	+11.65±2.61	+3.62±2.75	+6.31±2.87	0.0999	0.0359*	0.1716
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	<0.0001*	0.1891	0.0298*			
TAR (>10.0 mmol/l), %						
Baseline	45.83±24.46	45.04±24.28	43.57±19.67	0.8870	0.8634	0.6283
Week 24	35.85±18.38	43.33±23.92	39.10±20.56			
Change from baseline	-10.42±2.75	-3.02±2.90	-6.87±3.03	0.1841	0.0663	0.3869
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	0.0002*	0.2986	0.0252*			
TAR (>13.9 mmol/l), %						
Baseline	19.78±19.20	19.27±20.21	16.29±13.79	0.5956	0.8868	0.3409
Week 24	11.62±13.01	16.91±20.20	13.99±11.21			
Change from baseline	-7.90±2.08	-2.68±2.19	-4.97±2.29	0.2253	0.0863	0.3461
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	0.0002*	0.2232	0.0322*			
TBR (<3.9 mmol/l), %						
Baseline	3.30±5.63	2.33±3.52	2.02±3.25	0.3076	0.2629	0.1454
Week 24	1.40±2.21	1.78±3.37	2.86±4.01			
Change from baseline	-1.15±0.44	-0.62±0.46	+0.49±0.48	0.0416*	0.4035	0.0128*
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	0.0093*	0.1783	0.3113			
TBR (<3.0 mmol/l), %						
Baseline	0.88±2.62	0.56±1.32	0.46±1.11	0.4963	0.3866	0.2625
Week 24	0.16±0.43	0.22±0.80	0.38±1.03			
Change from baseline	-0.46±0.11	-0.39±0.11	-0.22±0.12	0.3383	0.6666	0.1487
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	<0.0001*	0.0009*	0.0667			
Mean glucose, mmol/l						
Baseline	10.17±2.48	10.29±2.66	10.03±1.97	0.8712	0.8068	0.7710
Week 24	9.39±1.72	10.09±2.64	9.50±1.79			

Table 2 (continued)

Endpoint	Intervention (isCGM with structured education) (<i>N</i> =52)	Control 1 (isCGM with conventional education) (<i>N</i> =49)	Control 2 (BGM with conventional education) (<i>N</i> =47)	<i>p</i> value for between-group differences		
				Comparison among all groups ^a	Intervention vs control 1 ^b	Intervention vs control 2 ^b
Change from baseline	−0.89±0.28	−0.24±0.30	−0.77±0.31	0.2549	0.1147	0.7654
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	0.0019*	0.4110	0.0144*			
CV, %						
Baseline	36.38±10.32	34.35±8.09	35.21±6.46	0.4858	0.2328	0.4969
Week 24	32.88±6.54	32.80±6.44	35.95±7.39			
Change from baseline	−2.69±0.85	−2.20±0.89	+0.54±0.93	0.0275*	0.6899	0.0113*
<i>p</i> value for within-group differences ^a	0.0018*	0.0150*	0.5632			

Baseline and week 24 data are presented as mean ± SD; change from baseline is presented as LS mean difference ± SEM

^aThe baseline values are compared using a one-way ANOVA and the changes from baseline are compared using ANCOVA with baseline value as a covariate

^b*p* values by multiple comparisons

**p*<0.05

in the intervention group with a significantly reduced TBR <3.9 mmol/l and CV from baseline.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first multicentre RCT achieving the primary endpoint of reducing HbA_{1c} levels with stand-alone isCGM in individuals with type 2 diabetes on MDI. Although Beck et al reported that CGM use improved glycaemic control in individuals with type 2 diabetes receiving MDI [22], this study used CGM as an adjunct to BGM performed at least four times a day, not as stand-alone CGM. A previous RCT by Haak et al, assessing the efficacy of stand-alone isCGM, found no reduction in HbA_{1c}, which was designated as the primary outcome [5]. Although one RCT showed a greater reduction of HbA_{1c} as a secondary outcome with stand-alone isCGM, the primary endpoint of the study was patient satisfaction, which did not meet statistical significance during the trial [30]. In contrast to the study by Haak et al, our study found that stand-alone isCGM could effectively control blood glucose levels if it is provided with structured education on the interpretation of the graphical patterns of CGM. The benefit of stand-alone isCGM in individuals with type 2 diabetes who are on MDI is encouraging because many people do not check their blood glucose level frequently enough to optimally adjust insulin regimens with BGM [31].

Although previous studies have reported that structured education on the interpretation of CGM can improve glycaemic control in type 1 diabetes [32, 33], we did not know whether this is also important in type 2 diabetes. While Hermanns et al included individuals with type 2 diabetes in their study, most of the participants had type 1 diabetes [23]. The current study demonstrates that a structured education programme on

the adjustment of insulin dose and timing according to the graphical patterns of CGM [27] is also essential for achieving profound and sustained benefits from stand-alone isCGM in individuals with type 2 diabetes on MDI. At least in part, these findings could be explained by the effect of educating appropriate timing for mealtime bolus insulin injection, by interpreting the graphical patterns of the CGM. Even with the same insulin doses, a mealtime bolus 15–20 min before a meal reduces postprandial glucose excursion by approximately 30% and also reduces postprandial hypoglycaemia compared with insulin administration immediately before the meal or after the meal [34]. Moreover, participants who had adjusted their prandial insulin based on peak postprandial glucose obtained by BGM would have benefited from CGM-based prandial insulin dose adjustment, which uses 4–5 h of postprandial glucose to differentiate the problem in timing and prandial insulin dose. This could explain the intervention group's gradual improvement of TIR and TAR, which was achieved along with a reduction in TBR during the study period.

A notable distinction of our study is that we compared three groups: isCGM with a structured education programme; isCGM with conventional education; and BGM with conventional education. By comparing these three groups, we demonstrated that a structured education programme is essential for significant and sustained glycaemic benefits from stand-alone isCGM in individuals with type 2 diabetes on MDI. A reduction in HbA_{1c} of −10.96±1.35 mmol/mol (−1.00±0.12%) in the intervention group in this study is impressive because CGM was associated with a modest reduction in HbA_{1c} of 1.9 mmol/mol (0.17%) in a meta-analysis of RCTs comparing

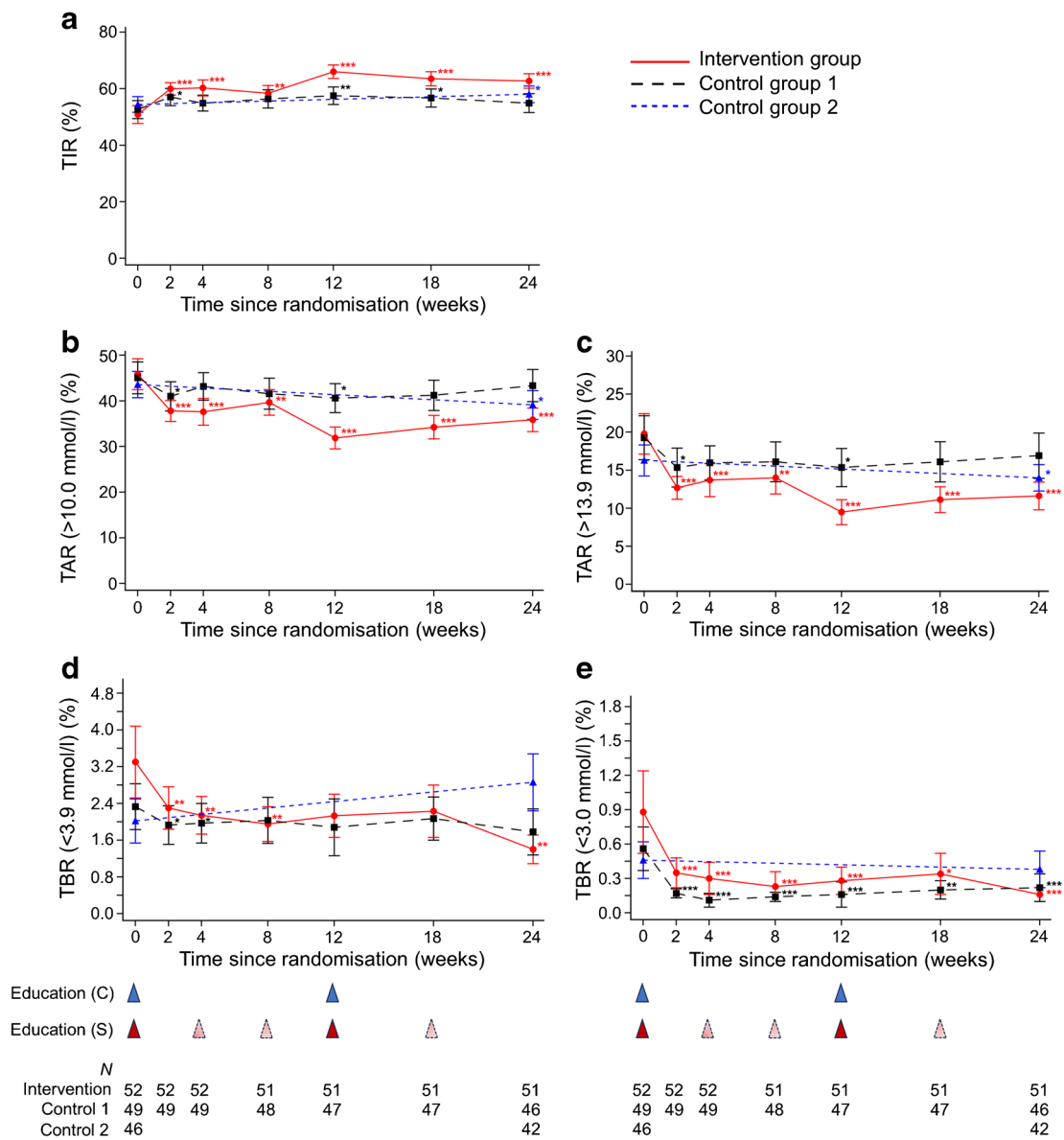


Fig. 2 Change in CGM metrics over time. (a) TIR. (b) TAR >10.0 mmol/l. (c) TAR >13.9 mmol/l. (d) TBR <3.9 mmol/l. (e) TBR <3.0 mmol/l. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. At baseline and 12 weeks, conventional education, Education (C), and structured education, Education (S), were provided face-to-face (represented by triangles with solid lines). Structured education at 4, 8 and 18 weeks could be delivered either face-to-face or via telephone calls, or it could be

omitted if the percentage of time spent in range (3.9–10.0 mmol/l) was ≥80%, as determined by the investigators (indicated by triangles with dotted lines). Intervention group, isCGM with structured education; control group 1, isCGM with conventional education; control group 2, BGM with conventional education. **p*<0.05, ***p*<0.01 and ****p*<0.001 for within-group differences

CGM with BGM in type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes [35]. This was consistent with the results of our previous study with individualised education for individuals with type 1 diabetes using CGM [24]. In that study, the difference in TIR between groups was remarkable (15.3%) [24] compared with those of a previous study providing group education (3.8%) [23]. The intervention group in the current study benefited from diabetes education tailored to individual needs, with a mean education duration of 3.1 h per participant. However, it might prove challenging to implement such a long education duration in busy

clinical practice. Therefore, we advocate for policies that support time-intensive education, such as government funding for a systematic education programme.

Notably, a significant difference was observed in TBR <3.9 mmol/l and CV when comparing the intervention group with control group 2 but not when comparing the intervention group with control group 1. Given that Haak et al also reported a reduction in hypoglycaemia with isCGM [5], we speculate that isCGM alone might be effective for reducing hypoglycaemia regardless of the intensity of education.

In contrast to the current study, research on individuals with type 2 diabetes using basal insulin or oral glucose-lowering agents without prandial insulin [25, 36] has shown that CGM can successfully lower HbA_{1c} even in a primary care setting with conventional education [25]. The discrepancy would be explained by the relative importance of CGM-based adjustment of prandial insulin in individuals with type 2 diabetes on intensive insulin therapy, this being more complicated than CGM-based lifestyle modification in those not on prandial insulin.

A limitation of our study is that the trial was conducted in tertiary medical centres where systematic education was delivered by specialists in diabetes, thus the effect of isCGM with education in primary care settings could be different. Second, the study was conducted only in South Korea, which could limit the generalisability of the results. Additionally, we did not conduct sex-based analyses. However, based on a previous study [23], structured education seems to be generally effective across different settings and among ethnically diverse populations. Third, although we planned to allow enrolment of insulin pump users, only one insulin pump user participated in this study, limiting the extrapolation of the results to insulin pump users. Fourth, study centres were not used as stratifying variables during randomisation; this could influence the effectiveness of isCGM with education across different centres. However, efficacy endpoint analyses using ANCOVA with both baseline values and study centre as covariates (ESM Table 1) yielded results consistent with the primary analyses using ANCOVA with only the baseline value as a covariate (Table 2). Finally, this study was not powered for comparison of CGM metrics between groups, and could only clarify the significant superiority of isCGM combined with structured education in terms of HbA_{1c} improvement.

In conclusion, this RCT demonstrates that stand-alone isCGM combined with structured education offers a greater reduction in HbA_{1c} in adults with type 2 diabetes on MDI compared with either isCGM with conventional education or BGM with conventional education. Unlike in type 2 diabetes without the requirement of prandial insulin, educational support beyond conventional diabetes education covering the adjustment of insulin dose and timing according to the graphical patterns of CGM would be a requisite for such benefit.

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