Knowledge of PCSK9 and Continued Educational Gaps: Evaluating the Impact of CME

**Introduction**

Recent data has led to an aggressive lipid-lowering therapy to address cholesterol levels. Despite clear evidence supporting the rationale for effective intervention for reducing cardiovascular risk, reduction of LDL-C is widely recognized as the most cost-effective approach. Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9 (PCSK9) inhibitors represent an exciting addition to the armamentarium of lipid-lowering therapies. The current study compares the results of a novel educational intervention that aimed to improve knowledge of the PCSK9 inhibitors among US cardiologists.

**Methods**

This CME activity was developed for cardiologists and healthcare professionals (HCPs) with clinical experience in hypercholesterolemia management. The educational activity was a 25-minute, interactive, web-based Learning Assessment (LLA).

The LLA compared individual participant/post-assessment responses to pre-assessment answers to determine whether knowledge of PCSK9 inhibitors had improved. The educational activity was designed to close existing knowledge gaps and improve risk reduction by physician and patient. A knowledge gap analysis was performed to identify areas requiring education.

**Results**

Data were collected on 330 total participants. The mean age was 55 years, and 79% were men. Prior to the education, only 33% of cardiologists were able to identify the correct binding site of PCSK9 inhibitors. However, the number of cardiologists believing that the reduction in LDL-C was between 66% and 75% increased from 14% to 66% post-activity. Fifty-five percent of the participating cardiologists believed the reduction in LDL-C was in the range of 66% to 75%, with 66% being the actual result from this trial.

**Conclusions**

This study demonstrates the success of a targeted educational intervention on improving the knowledge of PCSK9 inhibitors among US cardiologists. The results of this study also support the need for ongoing education on the latest scientific updates in this field. The findings illustrate the importance of providing continued education to healthcare professionals to ensure optimal patient outcomes.