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Global Survey illustrates Type 2 Diabetes people Undervalue their Cardiovascular Risk

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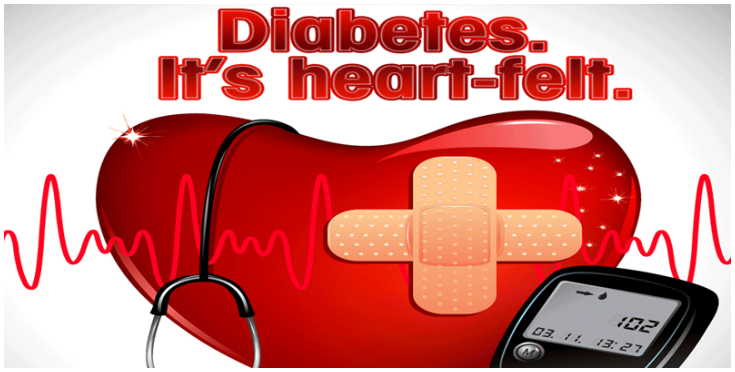
Globally, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the most common cause of death in people with type 2 diabetes



The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) presented the interim results of the first ever multi-country online survey on CVD risk awareness and knowledge among people living with type2 diabetes.

The result indicates low levels of awareness and limited dialogue between patients and healthcare professionals. The global survey ‘Taking Diabetes to Heart’ developed in partnership with Novo Nordisk, runs until March 2018 and is open to all people with type2 diabetes.

Diabetes currently affects 425 million adults worldwide, with most cases being type2 diabetes. Cardiovascular disease, which includes stroke, coronary heart disease and peripheral artery disease, is the leading cause of disability and death in people with type 2 diabetes.

The survey has been done in 32 countries and from these 943 responses received. Interim conclusions showed that, One third of the respondents living with type 2 diabetes consider their risk of CVD to be low.26% of respondents had either never learned about CVD or received information on CVD several years following their type 2 diabetes diagnosis.1 in 6 respondents had never discussed their type 2 diabetes and CVD risk with a healthcare professional.

"The interim results of Taking Diabetes to Heart reiterate the importance of raising awareness of the association between type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease to promote prevention, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment to help reduce the current burden that the two conditions represent," said Dr Shaukat Sadikot, outgoing IDF President.

He stated further, "With the world facing an increase in the prevalence of type 2 diabetes, better understanding the link between these conditions is needed more than ever."

Survey is done to gather information on current gaps in education and CVD risk behaviour among people with type2 diabetes, and to put in place advocacy and patient support strategies and tactics to improve health and wellbeing among populations.

"Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of disability and death among people living with type 2 diabetes. Too few individuals with diabetes are being informed by healthcare professionals of their cardiovascular risk and the impact that risk may have on their longevity and quality of life," said Alan Moses, senior vice president and chief medical officer of Novo Nordisk.

"We encourage more people in the diabetes community to complete the Taking Diabetes to Heart survey to strengthen the global findings that will inform future efforts to help improve outcomes."

The results of Taking Diabetes to Heart will serve to define the actions that are required to improve the health outcomes of people with type 2 diabetes.

The initiative will culminate in a comprehensive report with country-specific results and resources to help support knowledge and awareness of CVD among people with type 2 diabetes around the world.