

On the question of cardiovascular mortality
due to tolbutamide and phenformin, we consider
that the UGDP trial has raised suspicions that
cannot be dismissed on the basis of other
evidence presently available.

We find most of the criticism levelled against the UGDP findings on this point unconvincing. The possibility that deaths may have been allocated to cardiovascular causes preferentially in the groups receiving oral therapy exists, and, in view of the 'nonsignificance' of differences in total mortality, some reservations about the conclusion that the oral hyperglycemics [sic] are toxic must remain. Nonetheless, we consider the evidence of harmfulness moderately strong. The risk is clearly seen in the group of older women* * * Whether it affects all subgroups of patients cannot be decided on the basis of the available data, owing to the small number of deaths involved in these subgroups* * *