

COM-2024-078

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REVIEW **Drug Information**
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Remember that medical literature is dynamic and is continuously changing as new scientific knowledge is developed. We exhort the frequent revision of treatment guidelines to assure that your recommendations are consistent with the most updated information.

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QUESTIONS

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The clinical team wants to communicate the latest up-to-date drug information requested.

Semaglutide Improves Liver Fibrosis in New Trial Analysis

Novo Nordisk's semaglutide is marketed as Ozempic™ to treat patients with diabetes and Wegovy™ is marketed for weight loss. However, the ESSENCE trial has demonstrated that semaglutide also improves fatty liver disease in obese patients.

Background:

ESSENCE is an ongoing phase 3 trial evaluating the effect of once-weekly subcutaneous semaglutide 2.4 mg in adults with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) that have moderate to advanced liver fibrosis (stage 2 or 3). ESSENCE is a two-part trial where 1,200 planned participants were randomised 2:1 to receive semaglutide 2.4 mg or placebo, on top of standard of care for up to 240 weeks.

MASH is a severe form of fatty liver disease. It is a leading cause of liver-related mortality, especially for those with hypertension and type 2 diabetes, and affects between 1.5% and 6.5% of U.S. adults.

Results:

Part 1 of the ESSENCE trial evaluated the effect of once-weekly semaglutide 2.4 mg on liver tissue compared to placebo on top of standard of care for the first 800 randomised patients at 72 weeks. Results showed that 37% of the 800 adults with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) and moderate-to-advanced liver fibrosis showed improvement in liver fibrosis without a worsening of steatohepatitis, compared to 22.5% of those receiving a placebo. Additionally, 62.9% of the treated patients experienced complete resolution of steatohepatitis without any deterioration in liver fibrosis, while only 34.1% of placebo patients achieved the same outcome.

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2. Denise Myshko (2024, November 4). *Semaglutide improves liver fibrosis in new trial analysis.* Managed Healthcare Executive. <https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/semaglutide-improves-liver-fibrosis-in-new-trial-analysis>



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