

COM-2025-026

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REVIEW

Drug Information

PharmPix Clinical Department

Drug Information:

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 linked to notable improvement in MASH

Researchers reported that a once-weekly 2.4 mg dose of semaglutide significantly alleviated symptoms of steatohepatitis and liver fibrosis in adults with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) and moderate to advanced liver fibrosis.

MASH is an advanced form of fatty liver disease. This condition is closely associated with what's known as metabolic disorders – this includes obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. According to results from the ESSENCE phase III trial published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, semaglutide 2.4 mg led to more substantial improvements across several liver-related outcomes compared to placebo. Alongside greater reductions in steatohepatitis and liver fibrosis, the treatment also resulted in more pronounced weight loss, decreased insulin resistance, and enhanced noninvasive liver biomarkers.

Of the participants enrolled in the study, 62.9% achieved a resolution of steatohepatitis at 72 weeks with semaglutide compared with 34.3% of the placebo group. Reduction in liver fibrosis was seen among 36.8% of those receiving semaglutide compared with 22.4% of those receiving placebo. A resolution of steatohepatitis plus a reduction in fibrosis symptoms occurred in 32.7% of the semaglutide group and 16.1% of those receiving placebo. The ESSENCE trial is ongoing, and more data is expected to be obtained soon.

Semaglutide met regulatory criteria by demonstrating improvements in liver histology, indicating a potential to reduce the risk of cirrhosis and associated complications. Given its established efficacy in managing type 2 diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease, semaglutide represents a promising therapeutic option for individuals with MASH, a population frequently affected by these comorbid conditions.



Additional information can be found at: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMoa2413258>

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2. PR Newswire. (2025, April 30). Essence phase 3 trial of SEMAGLUTIDE showed significant improvements at 72 weeks in adults with mash, published in *nejm*. PR Newswire: press release distribution, targeting, monitoring and marketing. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/essence-phase-3-trial-of-semaglutide-showed-significant-improvements-at-72-weeks-in-adults-with-mash-published-in-nejm-302443359.html>



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