



Frequently Asked Questions about Semaglutide:

What is Semaglutide?

Semaglutide is an injectable medication which, when used in combination with diet and exercise, helps with blood sugar control in type 2 diabetics. Semaglutide belongs to a class of medications called glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) agonists, which mimic the hormone GLP-1 in your body to lower blood sugar levels after you've eaten a meal and increase satiety.

How does Semaglutide work for weight loss?

GLP-1 agonists like Semaglutide help to control your blood sugar, but people taking them also tend to lose weight. GLP-1, the hormone involved, slows down how fast your stomach empties food and in addition to causing fullness, it causes your pancreas to release insulin, and also blocks a hormone that causes your liver to release sugar. Together, these functions can help you feel less hungry, causing you to eat less food and lose weight.

Does Semaglutide curb your appetite?

Yes, it's believed that Semaglutide helps curb your appetite. In addition to slowing gastric emptying to make you feel full longer. GLP-1 also plays a direct role in how appetite is regulated.

How long does it take to lose weight on Semaglutide?

Most (more than 95%) people see changes as soon as the first one-two weeks! Although weight loss can not ever be guaranteed by any medication, results on semaglutide have been shown to be 3X greater than oral pills on the market today.

How long should you take Semaglutide for weight loss?

Currently, Semaglutide is only FDA-approved for obesity and to help with blood sugar control in type-2 diabetes and to lower the risk of major cardiovascular events (like heart attack and stroke) in people with both type-2 diabetes and heart disease. If you are taking Semaglutide for either of these reasons, you'll take it as directed by your healthcare provider since you are using it to manage a chronic condition. But if you do not have type-2 diabetes and are looking to try Semaglutide to help you lose weight, we'll have a better idea of long-term safety once the FDA reviews data for this new indication. What we do know is that study participants received treatment for a period of 68 weeks (about 1.5 years) during each of the four trials conducted by the company.



What is the starting dose of Semaglutide for weight loss?

All patients start on the lowest dose of Semaglutide at 0.25mgs injected subcutaneously into belly fat every week. All patients increase by 0.25mgs as tolerated (slower if nauseous). Dosing will not be increased until cleared by Dr. Ericsson or Bridget Williamson

Is Semaglutide a type of insulin?

No, Semaglutide is not a type of insulin or a substitute for insulin. Semaglutide does stimulate your pancreas to release insulin when glucose (sugar) is present. Because Semaglutide relies upon your body's own insulin to have this effect, Semaglutide isn't used when your pancreas can't make insulin, such as in patients with type-1 diabetes.

Is Semaglutide a stimulant?

No, Semaglutide is not a stimulant. While other weight loss medications, like phentermine, have stimulating effects that help curb your appetite, Semaglutide works differently (see above).

Is Semaglutide safe?

Yes. Semaglutide is considered to be safe and effective when used as indicated. However, safe doesn't mean there aren't risks. Semaglutide also carries a boxed warning about thyroid C-cell tumors occurring in rodents (with unknown risk in humans). Semaglutide shouldn't be used if you or your family have a history of certain thyroid cancers. Semaglutide should not be used in people with type-1 diabetes or a history of pancreatitis. Semaglutide should be used cautiously for people on other blood sugar lowering medications.

Is Semaglutide covered by my insurance?

No. Semaglutide is not covered by insurance for people who are not diabetic type-2. However, you can get this medication prescribed as part of this Semaglutide Weight Loss Program. If you would like to try to use your insurance, request assistance from your PCP. We are an elective program and do not accept insurance, however sometimes HSA funds are approved for weight loss.

Where will I buy my Semaglutide?

Once enrolled in the program and evaluated by our board certified physician, the medication and supplies will be shipped to your home or to the practice. The cost of the medication is included in the program.

Is Semaglutide approved by the FDA?

YES.



What are the known side effects of Semaglutide?

The common side effects of Semaglutide are:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Stomach pain
- Constipation

Effects like nausea and diarrhea being the most common.

Are there any significant health risks associated with using Semaglutide?

Yes. Semaglutide may cause rare side effects, including:

- Prolonged vomiting. Patients on Semaglutide can develop gastroparesis where the stomach stops moving, and patients vomit considerably. This can lead to dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. Stop using Semaglutide and call your healthcare provider right away if you have vomiting that persists for more than a day.
- Inflammation of your pancreas (pancreatitis). Stop using Semaglutide and call your healthcare provider right away if you have severe pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that will not go away, with or without vomiting. You may feel the pain from your abdomen to your back.
- Changes in vision. Tell your healthcare provider if you have changes in vision during treatment with Semaglutide
- Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia). Your risk for getting low blood sugar may be higher if you use Semaglutide with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar, such as a sulfonylurea or insulin. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include: dizziness or lightheadedness, blurred vision, anxiety, irritability or mood changes, sweating, slurred speech, hunger, confusion or drowsiness, shakiness, weakness, headache, fast heartbeat, and feeling jittery.
- Kidney problems (kidney failure). In people who have kidney problems, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting may cause a loss of fluids (dehydration), which may cause kidney problems to get worse. It is important for you to drink fluids to help reduce your chance of dehydration.
- Serious allergic reactions. Stop using Semaglutide and get medical help right away if you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat; problems breathing or swallowing; severe rash or itching; fainting or feeling dizzy; or very rapid heartbeat.