

Off-label subcutaneous Semaglutide for weight management

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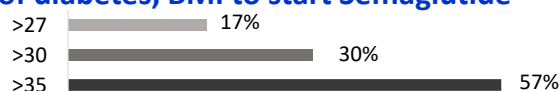
Background: In 2019 subcutaneous Semaglutide 1 mg was approved for the treatment of diabetes. Recognition of its effect on weight has led to its use as a treatment for obesity and it is currently allowed in Israel for off-label use through a dedicated authorization granted by the Ministry of Health.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted in Israel during April 2022. A digital questionnaire was disseminated to physicians who prescribed Semaglutide 1 mg for weight loss utilizing an authorized off-label path.

Results: 127 physicians filled-out the questionnaire: 51% were primary care physicians, 28% endocrinologists and 21% specialists in internal medicine.

Pre therapy considerations

In the absence of diabetes, BMI to start Semaglutide



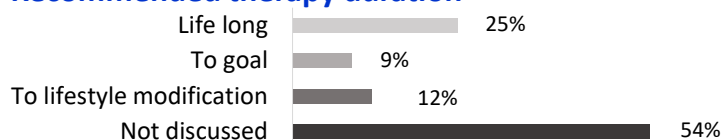
In the absence of any obesity related comorbidity, BMI to start Semaglutide therapy



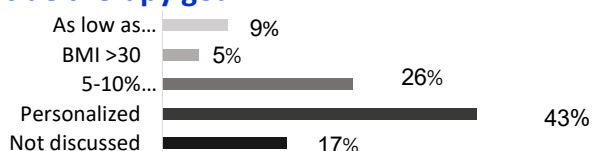
Line of therapy that semaglutide serves



Recommended therapy duration



Semaglutide therapy goal

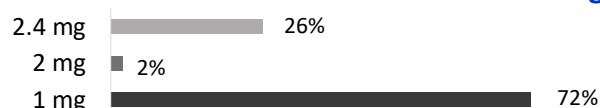


Therapy practices and recommendations

Initial recommended weekly dose of Semaglutide



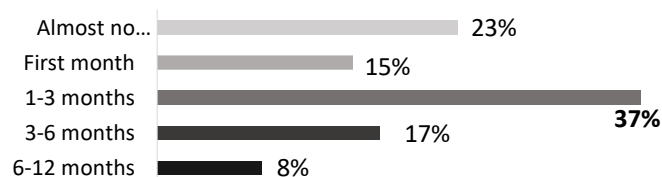
Maximal recommended weekly dose of Semaglutide



Time of dose increase



Time of Withdrawal



Top reasons for withdrawal



Occurrence and duration of side effects:

Side effect	% physician reporting						
	Occurrence				Duration		
	N	Rare	10%<	>10%	N	< 3 weeks	>3 weeks
Nausea	127	8%	32%	68%	127	65%	21%
Vomiting	127	39%	85%	15%	127	54%	3%
Constipation	127	35%	72%	27%	127	33%	27%
Diarrhea	127	20%	71%	28%	127	53%	21%
Headache	127	57%	91%	9%	127	30%	9%

Dysphoria, fatigue, and malaise were reported to occur in less than 10% of the patients by 93%, 80%, an 79%, respectively.

Conclusion: The diverse approaches regarding the utilization of off-label therapy in Israel highlight the necessity to guide physicians and standardize the treatment regimen.