

Zepbound tops Wegovy in a head-to-head obesity trial

Market Event Summary

Zepbound confirmed as the strongest antiobesity drug in H2H study

The SURMOUNT-5 study design

- SURMOUNT-5 is an open-label, H2H study comparing tirzepatide with semaglutide in obese or overweight patients with comorbidities, excluding diabetes.
- The objective of the study is to demonstrate the superiority of Zepbound over Wegovy in percent change in body weight at 72 weeks. Key secondary endpoints measured categorical weight loss, such as the percentage of patients achieving $\geq 25\%$ of weight reduction.
- The study randomized 751 patients in the United States and Puerto Rico to receive the maximum tolerated dose of Zepbound (10 mg or 15 mg) or Wegovy (1.7 mg or 2.4 mg).

Top-line results

- On December 4, 2024, Eli Lilly released top-line data from SURMOUNT-5 indicating that Zepbound is superior to Wegovy.
- Zepbound led to a weight loss of 20.2% compared with 13.7% for Wegovy, representing a 47% greater weight loss. All five key secondary endpoints also favored Zepbound. For example, 31.6% of patients receiving Zepbound achieved $\geq 25\%$ weight loss, compared with 16.1% of patients receiving Wegovy.
- Eli Lilly did not report safety data but indicated that most AEs were mild to moderate and gastrointestinal in nature, consistent with previous SURMOUNT trials.

Clarivate's takeaways



Weight loss efficacy: SURMOUNT-5 is the first H2H study supporting the superiority of tirzepatide over semaglutide at doses approved for obesity. Previously, tirzepatide has shown superior glycemic control and weight loss to semaglutide in randomized (SURPASS-2) and observational studies (STROBE), albeit at the doses approved for T2D.



Safety and tolerability: Although no safety data have been reported, we believe that the differences will be small and unlikely to emerge as a key differentiator influencing prescribing decisions.



Early uptake of Zepbound: Zepbound has had strong uptake in its first full year in the United States, driven by its excellent efficacy and lower price than Wegovy. SURMOUNT-5 will further solidify its position as a leading antiobesity treatment.



Disease outcomes: Wegovy is indicated for the secondary prevention of CVD in obese patients and will maintain this advantage over Zepbound until the completion of Zepbound's CVOT in 2027 (SURMOUNT-MMO). Unlike Wegovy's CVOT, this trial includes primary prevention patients. If successful, it will be a key positive differentiator and support a much broader CV indication than that of Wegovy.



Competitive landscape: Zepbound is set to become the market sales leader, in part by eroding Wegovy's patient share. However, we expect Novo Nordisk will protect its obesity franchise by switching Wegovy patients to its emerging therapy, CagriSema, a product we expect to have similar weight loss efficacy to Zepbound.

Obesity

- [Disease Landscape & Forecast](#) | Obesity / Overweight (G7), providing comprehensive market intelligence insights.
- [Treatment Algorithms: Claims Data Analysis - Obesity / Overweight \(US\)](#), with details on the treatment journey and brand usage practices based on patient-level claims data.
- [Unmet Need](#) | Obesity / Overweight (US and EU), providing a detailed, expanded analysis of the unmet needs associated with obesity / overweight therapies, including an Excel-based Target Product Profile Simulator.
- [Epidemiology](#), with diagnosed incidence and prevalence data for obesity / overweight; coverage includes G7 countries.
- [Access and Reimbursement](#) | Obesity / overweight (US), providing insights on the impact of payer policies on prescribing behavior in obesity / overweight.
- [China In-Depth](#) | Obesity / Overweight.

Coverage of GLP-1 receptor agonists and T2D

- [Current Treatment: Physician Insights](#) | GLP-1 and GIP / GLP-1 receptor agonists, exploring the current trends in prescribing and medical practice for GLP-1-related products in T2D and obesity.
- [Disease Landscape & Forecast](#) | Type 2 Diabetes (G7), providing comprehensive market intelligence insights.
- [Treatment Algorithms: Claims Data Analysis - Type 2 Diabetes \(US\)](#), with details on the treatment journey and brand usage practices based on patient-level claims data.
- [Epidemiology](#), with diagnosed incidence and prevalence data for T2D; coverage includes G7 countries.
- [Current Treatment: Physician Insights](#) | Type 2 Diabetes (US), exploring the current prescribing trends of physicians treating T2D.
- [Unmet Need](#) | Type 2 Diabetes (US and EU), providing a detailed, expanded analysis of the unmet needs associated with oral T2D therapies, including an Excel-based Target Product Profile Simulator.
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- [China In-Depth](#) | Type 2 Diabetes .

About the author



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Carles has authored reports on cardiovascular and metabolic indications, including obesity, acute coronary syndrome, and hyperkalemia. Previously, he was a researcher at the Francis Crick Institute in London and the Institute for Research in Biomedicine in Barcelona. He holds a Ph.D. and an M.Sc. in genetics, both from the University of Barcelona, and a B.Sc. in biology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Clarivate coverage of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and GLP-1-related products

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