

NMPA approves Innovent Biologics' mazdutide, first-in-class dual-acting GLP-1 / GCG receptor agonist

Market Event Summary

Addressing obese / overweight patients' unmet need

Background and context

- The current landscape of once-weekly obesity treatments in China is dominated by MNC players, notably Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly, through their GLP-1 receptor agonists—Wegovy (semaglutide) and Mounjaro (tirzepatide), respectively.
- These therapies demonstrate promising weight-loss efficacy due to their potent suppression of appetite-regulating centers. This effect, however, can sometimes result in unhealthy weight loss that may lead to adverse outcomes such as sarcopenia and malnutrition, particularly in elderly patients. These agents have minimal impact on energy expenditure.
- There is high unmet need for effective therapies that ensure weight loss with preservation of muscle mass. We expect this unmet need to be partially met with the entry of mazdutide, a dual-acting GLP-1 /GCG receptor agonist.

Event

- The NMPA approved Innovent Biologics' mazdutide (6 mg) in June 2025 based on positive results from the GLORY-1 pivotal clinical study conducted in Chinese adults with overweight or obesity.
- At weeks 32 and 48, mazdutide 4 mg and 6 mg groups showed significantly greater weight loss vs. placebo. By week 48, mean body weight reductions were 12.0% (4 mg) and 14.8% (6 mg).
- Mazdutide also showcased a reduction of fat content ($\geq 10\%$) in the liver in overweight and obese patients.

Clarivate's takeaways



Commercial implications in obesity

By 2034, Clarivate epidemiologists project approximately 500 million individuals in mainland China will have overweight / obesity, highlighting a commercial opportunity for mazdutide. Given its distinct mechanism of action and promising clinical and dosing profile, mazdutide is expected to secure a substantial share of China's GLP-1 obesity treatment market, which is projected to be approximately \$6 billion in 2034.



Adoption in real-world setting

The approval of mazdutide marks a significant milestone, bringing to market a domestically developed, once-weekly therapy with a unique dual GLP-1 / GCG receptor agonist mechanism. As the third entrant in China's GLP-1 segment for weight loss—after Wegovy and Mounjaro—mazdutide enters an increasingly competitive landscape, particularly given tirzepatide's superior efficacy and the anticipated arrival of Wegovy biosimilars starting in 2027. Nonetheless, Innovent's robust biologics portfolio, strong commercial track record, and established footprint in China will likely support real-world uptake and position mazdutide as an effective domestically produced alternative.



Market access and reimbursement

An NDA for mazdutide 6 mg in type 2 diabetes is also under review, and its NRDL coverage will likely be restricted to this indication. However, given China's significant obesity burden and persistent healthcare cost pressures, NRDL reimbursement for mazdutide 6 mg for obesity is unlikely, meaning patients may need to pay out of pocket.

About the author



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Mr. Arora is involved in primary and secondary market research to create syndicated landscape and forecast content and provide market insights into various therapy areas in China, such as NASH, prostate cancer, gastroesophageal cancer, obesity/overweight, crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis. He has expertise in market forecasting, competitive intelligence, key opinion leader (KOL) identification, KOL profiling, and social media footprint analysis. He holds a master's degree in pharmaceutical management from NIPER Mohali in India.

Clarivate coverage of the China market in 2025

- Type 2 Diabetes
- Obesity/Overweight
- Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Gastroesophageal Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma / Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Heart Failure
- Crohn's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Psoriasis
- Biosimilars in Oncology and Immunology



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