

# CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

*APPLICATION NUMBER:*

**209637Orig1s000**

**SUMMARY REVIEW**

## Cross-Discipline Team Leader Review

<b>Date</b>	(see electronic signature)
<b>From</b>	William H. Chong
<b>Subject</b>	Cross-Discipline Team Leader Review
<b>NDA/BLA #</b>	NDA 209637
<b>Supplement#</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	Novo Nordisk Inc.
<b>Date of Submission</b>	December 5, 2016
<b>PDUFA Goal Date</b>	December 5, 2017
<b>Proprietary Name / Non-Proprietary Name</b>	OZEMPIC (semaglutide)
<b>Dosage form(s) / Strength(s)</b>	Once weekly subcutaneous injection (0.5 mg, or 1 mg)
<b>Applicant Proposed Indication(s)/Population(s)</b>	Adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus
<b>Recommendation on Regulatory Action</b>	<i>Approval</i>
<b>Recommended Indication(s)/Population(s) (if applicable)</b>	<i>Adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus</i>

**Review Team:**

<b>Drug Substance Reviewer</b>	Joseph Leginus
<b>Drug Product Reviewer</b>	Muthukumar Ramaswamy
<b>Quality Microbiology Reviewer</b>	Elizabeth Berr
<b>Quality Process Reviewer</b>	Chaoying Ma
<b>Facilities Reviewers</b>	Vidya Pai (CDER) and Christopher Brown (CDRH)
<b>Quality Technical Lead</b>	Suong Tran
<b>Nonclinical Reviewer</b>	Federica Basso
<b>Carcinogenicity Statistics Reviewer (DB-VI)</b>	Hepei Chen
<b>QT-IRT</b>	Janell Chen
<b>Clinical Pharmacology Reviewers</b>	Shalini Wickramaratne Senarath Yapa and Justin Earp
<b>Clinical Reviewer</b>	Andreea Lungu
<b>Efficacy Statistics Reviewer (DB-II)</b>	Jiwei He
<b>Safety Statistics (DB-VII)</b>	Ya-Hui Hsueh
<b>DMEPA Reviewer</b>	Susan Rimmel
<b>CDRH/GHDB Consultant</b>	Sarah Mollo
<b>Immunogenicity</b>	Mohanraj Manangeeswaran
<b>DPMH Reviewer</b>	Jane Liedtka
<b>DRISK Reviewer</b>	Till Olickal
<b>DMPP Reviewer</b>	Sharon Williams
<b>OPDP Reviewer</b>	Domenic D'Alessandro
<b>Ophthalmology Consultant</b>	Wiley Chambers
<b>Office of Scientific Investigation</b>	Cynthia Kleppinger
<b>Division of Epidemiology</b>	Yandong Qiang
<b>Project Manager</b>	Peter Franks

## 1. Benefit-Risk Assessment

### Benefit-Risk Summary and Assessment

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a condition of chronic impaired glucose homeostasis that results in chronic hyperglycemia and increased risk for microvascular and macrovascular complications. Therapies for T2DM have focused on improving glycemic control. Change in hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c), as better glycemic control has been correlated with better clinical outcomes. While many products approved both as individual drugs and as fixed combination drug products (FCDP), many patients are unable to achieve target glycemic control. Thus, patients and prescribers have been advocating for additional therapeutic options to facilitate individualization of therapy that will improve patients' ability to achieve glycemic control.

Semaglutide is a once weekly glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist that has been developed as an adjunct to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). In controlled clinical trials, use of semaglutide once weekly resulted in reduction in HbA1c (treatment difference compared to placebo of -1.1% to -1.6% at 30 weeks). Additional benefits desirable for patients include a reduction in body weight (treatment difference compared to placebo of -2.2 to -4.7 kg).

Safety findings from the semaglutide development program were generally consistent with what would be expected for a GLP-1 receptor agonist. The most common adverse reactions are nausea and vomiting. The inherent risk for hypoglycemia is low, but this is increased when co-administered with insulin (and likely to be increased when co-administered with insulin and/or as sulfonylureas). While no difference in the incidence of pancreatitis was seen in the development program, patients did have increases in serum amylase and lipase. No notable difference in malignancies (including for medullary thyroid carcinoma) was seen in the development program, but duration of exposure was relatively short and may not be sufficient to fully exclude an increased risk. Findings support that the concern for MTC with long-acting GLP-1 receptor agonists also applies to semaglutide. As expected, semaglutide will carry some risk for anti-semaglutide antibody formation and hypersensitivity reactions. The incidence and titer of anti-semaglutide antibodies was relatively low, and no apparent increased risk for clinically significant hypersensitivity reactions was seen.

In support of the semaglutide new drug application (NDA), the applicant has also completed a cardiovascular outcome trial to exclude excess cardiovascular risk. This trial ran for two years and accrued a total of 254 first major adverse cardiovascular events. Based on this trial, the applicant has adequately established that there is no excess cardiovascular risk with semaglutide.

An unexpected finding from the CVOT was an increased risk for diabetic retinopathy complications. This was seen early in the trial, and the increased risk persisted through the two-year observation period of the trial. The patients at greatest risk were those with

baseline. Though the definitions and means by which events were identified were considered inadequate had the applicant indicated an indication of reduced risk for diabetic retinopathy progression, the finding is nevertheless concerning given that improvement was expected to reduce the risk for complications of diabetes. The applicant has posited that this finding is a result of the glucose-lowering effect of semaglutide and that it is consistent with what would be expected based on findings from other large clinical trials (i.e., the Diabetes Complications Trial [DCCT]). While adjusting for change in HbA1c does attenuate the observed hazard ratio, it may not fully explain the observed finding. The FDA ophthalmology consultant acknowledged that the finding does raise some concerns, but that it was to be expected and that it does not adversely impact the benefit-risk. A public Advisory Committee meeting was convened to discuss the benefits and risks of semaglutide, including the diabetic retinopathy findings. The external ophthalmology experts and other Advisory Committee members expressed opinions similar to that of the FDA ophthalmology consultant.

The finding of increased risk for diabetic retinopathy complications is concerning, but I do not believe it results in an overall unfavorable benefit-risk profile. Diabetic retinopathy is but one of several diabetic complications that is expected to be favorably impacted by improved glycemic control. Findings from the semaglutide development program have not suggested that these other clinical outcomes are similarly adversely impacted. However, as the data on semaglutide for diabetic retinopathy complications are limited. The longest exposure to semaglutide was 3 years, and that in the DCCT there was an early worsening of diabetic retinopathy progression with intense glycemic control which was sustained for approximately three years. Whether longer term treatment with semaglutide would similarly result in a reduced risk of diabetic retinopathy progression is unknown, but it may not be feasible or ethical to conduct such a study. While this uncertainty remains, diabetic retinopathy can be monitored and that there are effective therapies to treat it such that serious adverse clinical outcomes can be avoided with proper ophthalmologic care. The patients at greatest risk were those with diabetic retinopathy at baseline, who would generally be expected to have closer ophthalmology follow-up.

In summary, I believe that semaglutide has a favorable benefit-risk profile. The findings from the development program support the use of semaglutide to improve glycemic control, and the safety profile is generally consistent with other members of the class. The cardiovascular safety of semaglutide has been adequately established. Though there was a finding for increased risk of diabetic retinopathy complications, I do not believe that it is so substantial as to outweigh the benefits. While the finding raises some questions about semaglutide with respect to reducing the risk for diabetic retinopathy progression, improved glycemic control should reduce the risk for other diabetic complications (e.g., diabetic nephropathy, diabetic neuropathy). Further, diabetic retinopathy can be monitored and prevented to prevent serious clinical outcomes (e.g., blindness).

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