

Exenatide does not promote weight loss in schizophrenia

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(HealthDay)—For antipsychotic-treated obese patients with

schizophrenia, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RAs) do not appear to promote weight loss, according to a study published online Sept. 26 in *Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism*.

Pelle L. Ishøy, M.D., from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, and colleagues examined the [metabolic effects](#) of the GLP-1RA exenatide once weekly in antipsychotic-treated obese patients with schizophrenia. Patients were randomized to three months of once-weekly injections of exenatide (23 patients) or placebo (22 patients). Forty patients completed the trial.

The researchers found that the exenatide and placebo groups experienced significant ($P = 0.004$) but similar ($P = 0.98$) weight losses (2.24 ± 3.3 kg and 2.23 ± 4.4 kg, respectively) after three months of treatment.

"Treatment with exenatide once-weekly did not promote [weight loss](#) in obese, antipsychotic-treated patients with schizophrenia compared to placebo," the authors write. "Our results could suggest that the body weight-lowering effect of GLP-1RAs involves dopaminergic signaling, but blockade of other receptor systems may also play a role. Nevertheless, anti-obesity regimens effective in the general population may not be readily implemented in antipsychotic-treated patients with [schizophrenia](#)."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical companies, including AstraZeneca, the manufacturer of exenatide.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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