

Higher doses of oral semaglutide improves blood sugar control and weight loss

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Diabetes is a progressive disease that affects one's ability to control blood sugar levels. For many patients, the condition becomes more severe over time and blood sugar levels grow more difficult to manage.

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists, such as semaglutide, have granted patients more control in lowering of blood sugar.

John Buse, MD, Ph.D., the Verne S. Caviness Distinguished Professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, and an international team of researchers have presented new findings about new higher-dose formulations of oral semaglutide. Their study, which was published in *The Lancet*, found that once-daily oral semaglutide taken at 25 milligrams (mg) and 50 mg did a better job in lowering [blood sugar levels](#) and promoting weight loss than the lowest dose of 14 mg.

"Low doses of GLP-1 receptor agonists are really powerful for reducing A1C, or the average glucose in the [blood](#)," said Buse, who is also co-director of the NC Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute.

"Whereas, the [higher doses](#) that are really good for [weight reduction](#). On average, [patients](#) lost eight kilograms (17.5 lbs) at 50 milligrams, which is nearly twice as much weight loss that we saw with the lowest dose."

The new study is in line with other studies, which are pushing for the use of oral GLP-1 receptor agonists as a treatment for obesity.

In total, 1,606 participants, who were on average male and of 58.2 years of age, participated in the phase three program for regulatory approval. The participants were randomized into three groups and were asked to take oral semaglutide once a day. Each group took a different dosage of semaglutide, either a 14 mg dosage, a 25 mg dosage, or a 50 mg dosage, for 52 weeks.

Blood sugar levels are measured through a percentage, called A1C. According to the American Diabetes Association, most adults with [diabetes](#) need to have an A1C that is less than 7% to be considered healthy. All of the participants in the trial had an A1C between 8.0% and 10.5%. Researchers found that those who received the 25 mg and 50 mg

doses of oral semaglutide were more likely to reach the A1C target of

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