



PARKINSON'S DISEASE NEWS

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DIABETIC DRUG ASSESSED FOR USE IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Exenatide is a type 2 diabetes treatment that differs in its pharmacological action and structure from insulin. Exenatide is an injected glucagon-like peptide-1 agonist. The possible means of how it might affect Parkinson's Disease is not known. It has no direct effect on dopamine.

The effects of exenatide were assessed in people with moderate Parkinson's Disease. The primary outcome was the adjusted difference in the Movement Disorders Society Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (MDS-UPDRS) motor subscale (part 3).



After over a year, off-medication scores on part 3 of the MDS-UPDRS had improved by only 1.0 point in people taking exenatide and worsened in people taking a placebo. Although it has been claimed that exenatide can slow down Parkinson's Disease the efficacy is too mild to justify such claims. Injection site reactions and gastrointestinal symptoms were common adverse events in both groups.

In four previous studies the efficacy was also found to be mild. Unusually, the effects of exenatide on Parkinson's Disease had continued to some extent beyond its use. In those studies exenatide was well tolerated but weight loss was common. Other adverse effects of the use of exenatide were nausea, injection-site induration, dyslipidemia, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache and hypoglycaemia.

Reference : The Lancet [2017] S0140-6736(17)31585-4390 (D.Athauda, K.Maclagan, S.S. Skene, M.Bajwa-Joseph, D.Letchford, K.Chowdhury, S.Hibbert, N.Budnik, L.Zampedri, J. Dickson, Y.Li, I.Aviles-Olmos, T.T.Warner, P.Limousin, A.J.Lees) Complete abstract : [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31585-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31585-4/fulltext)

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