

Semaglutide and Tirzepatide Features

1. Mechanism of Action

Your digestive tract releases a hormone called a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1). This tells your body to make more insulin and controls your feelings of fullness. Semaglutide and tirzepatide are agonists, which means that they attach to a receptor in the body and activate it. They can mimic GLP-1 giving you the feeling of fullness—that's why these are often referred to as GLP-1 drugs.



2. Administration

Semaglutide can be taken as an oral tablet taken daily or an injection once per week. You've probably seen it under the brand names Rybelsus or Ozempic for type 2 diabetes and Wegovy for weight loss. But tirzepatide can only be taken by injection—no tablet offered. You might notice it on the shelves of the drugstore branded as Mounjaro for type 2 diabetes and sometimes as Zepbound for weight loss.

3. Side Effects

Both semaglutide and tirzepatide can come with some similar side effects. Here's a breakdown:

- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Headaches
- Fatigue



4. Dosage and Maintenance

When it comes to dosage, semaglutide typically starts at lower doses of 1.7 or 2.4 mg per week, while tirzepatide kicks things up a notch with options of 5, 10, or 15 mg weekly. They have varied dosages because each medication works just a bit differently. Both semaglutide and tirzepatide require careful adjustments based on how your body reacts, so doctors will typically begin your treatment with lower levels.

5. Cost Comparison

According to a study conducted in 2022, the 68-week treatment of semaglutide cost about \$23,000. That correlates with a price of approximately \$1845 per 1% reduction in body weight. And the average individual shelled out about \$17,500 for a 72-week treatment of tirzepatide—yep, you heard us right. That's \$985 for every 1% reduction in your body weight. But don't worry too much—many insurance plans do cover GLP-1 medication treatments.



6. Effectiveness

When it comes to their effectiveness for weight loss, semaglutide and tirzepatide each have their perks. Semaglutide is known to be effective for shedding pounds, but tirzepatide might have a slight edge since some studies hint that it could help you lose even more. But the research isn't all in yet, especially on whether the higher dosage of tirzepatide packs an extra punch.