



Is Liraglutide a Safe and Effective Medication to Treat Hyperglycaemia? A Systematic Review

Ameera Al Onezei, Shahwar I Jiwani, Philemon Gyasi-Antwi, Andrew Meal and Gary G Adams*

Department of Medicine and Health Sciences, The University of Nottingham, UK

Abstract

Background: The aim of this systematic review is to examine the effectiveness of Liraglutide on glycemic control and Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) in patients with Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) mellitus and to investigate whether Liraglutide leads to any Gastrointestinal (GI) adverse effects.

Materials and Methods: seven databases were searched, including CINAHL, MEDLINE, PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane, Joana Briggs Institute (JBI). Only Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) that assessed safety and efficacy of Liraglutide in patients with type 2 diabetes were included. The extracted outcome measures were HbA1c, SBP, and GI disturbances.

Results: 40 RCTs were included with overall numbers of participants were 16,113. Liraglutide as monotherapy or as adjunct treatments to other diabetes treatments showed significant reduction in HbA1c levels in patients with T2D. Nine studies compared Liraglutide to a placebo and Liraglutide was superior to the placebo at HbA1c reduction. Four studies compared Liraglutide to Sitagliptin, five to Glimepiride, and one to Rosiglitazone, in these studies Liraglutide was also superior at HbA1c reduction. Two studies compared it to Metformin, in one of them Liraglutide was superior. One study compared Liraglutide to variety of Oral Anti-Diabetes Medications (OADs); Liraglutide was superior at HbA1c reduction. Ten studies compared Liraglutide to variety of insulin therapy, the combination of Liraglutide plus Insulin showed greater reduction at HbA1c levels than Liraglutide or Insulin alone. In addition, Liraglutide was superior when compared to insulin as part and insulin glargine at HbA1c reduction. Eight studies compared Liraglutide to glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (Exenatide, Dulaglutide, Lixisenatide, Albiglutide, and Semaglutide), Liraglutide was superior to Exenatide, Lixisenatide, and Albiglutide at HbA1c reduction. In most of the included studies Liraglutide showed significant reduction in SBP. Liraglutide can lead to different GI events, most frequently nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, which are transient in nature.

Conclusion: The results of this systematic review indicated that Liraglutide as a monotherapy or as adjunct treatments to other diabetes treatments could significantly lower HbA1c levels and SBP. Although the gastrointestinal adverse event is common with Liraglutide, Liraglutide can be effective choice in T2D treatment.

Abbreviations

T2D: Type 2 Diabetes; SBP: Systolic Blood Pressure; GI: Gastrointestinal; OADs: Oral Antidiabetes Medications; RCTs: Randomized Controlled Trials; GLP-1: Glucagon-Like Peptide-1

Introduction

Diabetes mellitus is defined as a heterogeneous metabolic disorder that clinically manifested by chronic hyperglycemia due to either impaired insulin secretion or defect in insulin action or both [1]. According to World Health Organization, diabetes mellitus is classified as one of four common major types of non-communicable disease worldwide. In 2014, it was estimated that 422 million adults around the world were diagnosed with diabetes, and in 2012, 1.5 million people died because of it (World Health Organization, 2016) [2]. Type 2 diabetes is more prevalent than type 1 [1]. The diagnosis of diabetes must be based on plasma-glucose values of Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG) that are equal to or greater than 126 mg/dL (7.0 mmol/L), or 2-h plasma-glucose values during a 75 g oral glucose-tolerance test that are equal to or greater than 200 mg/dL (11.1 mmol/L) or an A1c Hemoglobin blood test (HbA1c) that is equal to or greater than 6.5% (48 mmol/mol) [3].

Duration of diabetes and intensity of hyperglycaemia are the main leading factors for the

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*Correspondence:

Gary G Adams, Department of Medicine and Health Sciences, The University of Nottingham, UK,
E-mail: Gary.Adams@nottingham.ac.uk

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development of diabetes complication [4]. Diabetes complications are divided into microvascular complications, which is due to damage to the small blood vessels and macrovascular complication that due to damage to larger blood vessels [4,5]. Examples of microvascular complications include 1) Diabetes retinopathy; 2) Diabetes nephropathy 3) Diabetes neuropathy and macrovascular complications.

The principal goal of diabetes treatment is to maintain glycemic control by implementing various lifestyle changes and undergoing pharmacological therapy [6]. There are many classes of drugs available for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, including alpha-glucosidase inhibitors, thiazolidinediones and Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists [6,7]. However, the first choice for the treatment of type 2 diabetes is metformin [7-9]. If the target blood-glucose levels are not achieved within three months through the use of metformin, a second drug combination will be used [9].

Liraglutide

Liraglutide (Victoza[®]) is an injectable synthetic analogue of human Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) that works as GLP-1 receptor agonist [10]. Liraglutide shares 97% amino acid homology to the amino acid structure of native Human GLP-1 [10-12]. This was obtained by substitution of lysine at position 34 to arginine 34 at N-terminal and addition of 16-carbon fatty-acid chain using a glutamic acid spacer that is chemically attached to the lysine at position 26 [11-12]. These changes prolonged the plasma half-life of Liraglutide to 13 hours compared to human GLP-1 half-life, which is ~2 min [11-12].

GLP-1 is gut-derived hormone produced by enteroendocrine L-cells in the distal ileum of the large intestine; the primary stimulus for GLP-1 secretion is food ingestion [13]. The most common action of GLP-1 is on islet beta cells as the effect of GLP-1 receptor activation leads to insulin secretion in glucose-dependent manner [14]. The glucoregulatory actions of GLP-1 is exhibited via slowing of gastric emptying; inhibition of glucagon secretion; promoting satiety, which is associated with weight reduction in both preclinical and clinical studies [13].

Liraglutide has similar effects of GLP-1 but with prolonged half-life of 13 h and maximum concentration reached after 8 h to 12 h of subcutaneous administration [11]. When blood-glucose levels are elevated, Liraglutide stimulates GLP-1 receptors to release insulin, reduce glucagon secretion and inhibit gastric emptying, thus leading to increased control of body weight [10]. This mode of glucose-dependent action is also associated with lower instances of hypoglycemic episodes [15].

Liraglutide was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in January 2010 to improve glycemic control in type 2 diabetes mellitus in addition to when coupled with a balanced diet and exercise [13,16]. Liraglutide is an once-daily subcutaneous injection that can be injected at any time of the day, independently of meals [17]. It is available as 0.6 mg, 1.2 mg and 1.8 mg, the initiation dose is 0.6 mg and after week increase to 1.2 mg then it can be increased to 1.8 mg for more efficiency [17].

Liraglutide also leads to various other non-glycemic benefits such as improvement in systolic blood pressure and the functioning of β -cells [18]. A randomized controlled double-blind study of 9,340 patients over 3.8 years assessed the effect of Liraglutide on the cardiovascular outcome. It concluded that the rate of non-fatal

myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke or the occurrence of first death due to cardiovascular causes in type 2 diabetes patients was lower in patients receiving Liraglutide than placebo [19]. Liraglutide also assists with weight loss, especially for overweight and obese patients with type 2 diabetes [20]. The efficiency of Liraglutide in weight management was investigated in randomized clinical trial of 846 overweight diabetes patients. Patients were randomized to receive 1.8 mg Liraglutide (n=211), 3.0 mg Liraglutide (n=423), or placebo (n=212). The results show weight loss of 6.0% with 3.0 mg Liraglutide, 4.7% weight loss with 1.8 mg Liraglutide and 2.0% with placebo [20]. These features of GLP-1 receptor agonists have made them an attractive choice for patients with type 2 diabetes [15].

Multiple studies have assessed the efficacy and safety of Liraglutide. The Liraglutide Effect and Action in Diabetes (LEAD) program, which was founded by the manufacturer of Liraglutide, Novo Nordisk, consisted of six Randomized Controlled Trails (RCT) that assess the effect of Liraglutide as a form of monotherapy or in combination with other anti-diabetes drugs. In LEAD program, 3,900 patients were recruited from forty countries [11]. An overview of LEAD studies concluded that from the LEAD-1 to LEAD-5 trials, Liraglutide led to a reduction in HbA1c by up to 1.6%, a rapid reduction in FPG and a consistent reduction in postprandial glucose. Liraglutide was also associated with significant weight loss, reduced the risk of hypoglycemia and reduced systolic blood pressure [21].

No large scale systematic review has previously investigated the effectiveness and safety of Liraglutide itself.

The aim of this systematic review is to examine the effectiveness of Liraglutide on glycemic control and Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and to investigate whether Liraglutide leads to any gastrointestinal adverse effects.

Materials and Methods

Eligibility criteria

Participants: This systematic review considered RCTs that include adults over the age of 18 with type 2 diabetes mellitus who have inadequate control of their blood-glucose levels. Patients were excluded if they presented with conditions that affect their red blood cells, such as anemia or end-stage kidney disease, or patients who have recently undergone a blood transfusion.

Intervention

This systematic review considered studies that evaluated the effectiveness of Liraglutide as a combination to one or more other diabetes treatment (i.e., metformin, sulfonylurea, Pioglitazone, DPP-4 inhibitors, Glinides and insulin) or as a monotherapy in lowering blood-glucose levels and SBP. The key intervention of interest was the administering of Liraglutide. Any dosages of Liraglutide were considered in the review.

Study type

This systematic review considered only RCTs that investigated the effectiveness of Liraglutide in hyperglycemic control, SBP and GI adverse events.

Comparison

The effect of administering Liraglutide compared to placebo, metformin, insulin, Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist, Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors or any other antidiabetes medications.

Primary outcomes

The primary outcome is to measure the effect of Liraglutide in lowering blood-glucose levels. All included studies assess this effect by measuring HbA1c in order to ensure homogeneous data for a reliable analysis.

Secondary outcomes

Systolic blood pressure: This secondary outcome is to assess the effectiveness of Liraglutide in lowering systolic blood pressure.

Gastrointestinal disturbance

This secondary outcome is to evaluate any gastrointestinal adverse events associated with Liraglutide.

Search strategy

First stage: An initial basic search of PubMed, CINAHL and EMBASE using the basic search words and phrases (i.e., Liraglutide, type 2 diabetes and glycemic control) was done to find potentially relevant studies with no specific time frame. After reviewing the title and abstract of these initial studies, the search words and phrases were expanded.

Second stage: Databases and grey literature sources were searched using the identified keywords and phrases. These databases included: CINAHL, MEDLINE, PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane, Joana Briggs Institute (JBI). The grey literature included: American Diabetes Association, International Diabetes Federation, and Google Scholar.

Third stage: The reference lists of the identified studies also were examined. A search of authors' names who are known to have conducted research in the same field also were carried out in order to find more relevant studies.

Study selection

The titles and abstracts of the studies were examined during the search process and some studies full texts were examined for more details. The RCTs that met the inclusion criteria were included and studies that did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded as well the duplicated studies.

Critical appraisal

All included studies were critically appraised for their methodological validity before being including in the review. Critical appraisal instruments were used from the Joanna Briggs Institute.

All RCTs in this systematic review were assessed for bias and judged according to high, low or unclear levels of bias, based on the Cochrane risk-of-bias tool criteria. The five elements of bias (i.e., selection, performance, attrition, detection and reporting bias) were assessed using this tool.

Selection bias: This can happen due to inadequate generation of randomized sequence or inadequate concealment of allocations before the assignment. All included studies were given either 'Low Risk' of bias if the study describe the way of randomized sequence generation and concealment of allocations or 'Unclear Risk' of bias if the study does not describe the way of randomized sequence generation and concealment of allocations. 'High Risk' of bias was given if the study did not perform the allocation concealment.

Performance bias: Can happen due to participant and personal knowledge of intervention allocation. All included studies were given either 'Low Risk' of bias if the study was double blinded and/or double dummy or 'High Risk' of bias if the study was not blinded.

Detection bias: This can happen due to outcome assessor knowledge of the allocated intervention. In all included studies this domain was not addressed by authors thus it was deleted from the figure chart.

Attrition bias: this can happen due to the way of dealing with incomplete data. All included studies were given either 'Low Risk' of bias if the study explained the way they handled incomplete data (most studies imputed the missing values by last observation carried forward), or 'High Risk' of bias if the study stated that they did not impute the missing values, or 'Unclear Risk' if they did not mention anything about it.

Reporting bias: can happen due to selective reporting. All included studies were given either 'Low Risk' of bias if there is a protocol or clear listed outcome, or 'Unclear Risk' of bias if there was no protocol but clear listed outcome.

Other bias: In this review other bias is referred to the nature of funding that support the study as this medication is manufactured by Novo Nordisk Company that funded most of the included studies.

Data extraction and synthesis

Each included study was summarised and necessary details extracted using the Joanna Briggs Institute data extraction form.

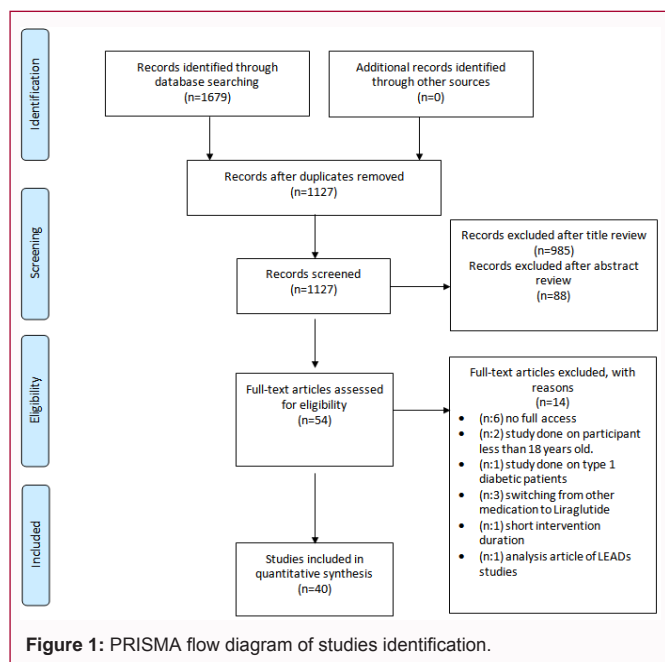
Study method, type of participant, setting (i.e., where the study was done, sample size and interventions), in what dose Liraglutide was administered, was the participant on other medication such as metformin or sulfonylurea or insulin etc, the primary outcome measure of HbA1c, the secondary outcome measures of systolic blood pressure and the gastrointestinal adverse events (e.g., nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, decreased appetite or headache) and authors' conclusions.

Results

Search results: Seven electronic databases identified 1,679 studies: CINAHL (n=25), MEDLINE (n=469), PubMed (n=338), EMBASE (n=413), Cochrane (n=429), Joana Briggs Institute (JBI) (n=5). Initially, all the studies were assessed by title alone. If the titles were found to be relevant, the abstracts were then assessed for eligibility then a full text analysis was carried out. 552 duplicates were removed and 1,073 irrelevant studies were excluded after title and abstract review. Full text examination of the remaining 54 studies based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria and forty studies met the review inclusion criteria. Figure 1 shows PRISMA flow diagram of the studies identification.

Excluded studies: Fourteen studies were excluded out of 54 studies after full text analysis due to: (n:2) studies the participants age was less than 18 years old; (n:1) study the participants with type 1 diabetes mellitus; (n:3) studies were assessing the efficacy and safety of switching from some types of medication to Liraglutide which can interfere with the study's results; (n:1) study short duration of intervention (5 weeks); (n:1) study analysis of three RCTs (LEAD 1, LEAD 2 and LEAD 4).

Characteristics of included studies: All the included studies are Randomized Control Trials. The publication date of included studies ranged from 2004 to 2016. Half of the included trials (n:20) are multinational; (n:7) were carried out in Japan; (n:5) in USA; (n:3) in China; (n:1) in Netherlands; (n:1) in Sweden; (n:1) in Germany; (n:1) in Scandinavia and UK; and one study did not mention the origin (Feinglos et al, 2004). Most of the trials (n:35) are multicentre



and the remaining are single-centre except in (Feinglos et al, 2004). The duration of the RCTs ranged from 8 weeks to 104 weeks: (n:17) studies for 26 weeks; (n:6) studies for 52 weeks; (n:6) studies for 24 weeks; (n:3) studies for 12 weeks; (n:2) studies for 16 weeks; (n:2) studies for 14 weeks; (n:1) study for 8 weeks; (n:1) study for 32 weeks; (n:1) study for 36 weeks; (n:1) study for 104 weeks.

See Table 1 for the summary of the studies characteristics.

Characteristics of participants: In all the trials, the overall number of participant is 16,113 with studies sample size ranged from 37 subjects to 1,663 subjects. Participants are aged 18 years old and above with mean age ranged between 52.0 ± 10.2 years and 61.8 ± 8.2 years. All the participants with type 2 diabetes and the mean duration of the disease ranged from 2.6 ± 2.9 years to 17.9 ± 8.4 years. All trials included both male and female subjects with varying percentages among studies. Mostly, each included study has a number of patients discontinuing the trial due to the side effect of Liraglutide, the number of participant and completers in each study (Table 1) [22-61].

Characteristics of intervention: The main intervention in all included studies is administering Liraglutide. The predominant doses of Liraglutide in most of the trials are: 0.6 mg, 1.2 mg or 1.8 mg all per day. Three studies were dose findings in which they used less doses [62].

Risk of bias in included studies: The Cochrane Collaboration’s tool for assessing risk of bias consists of six domains: Selection bias, performance bias, detection bias, attrition bias, reporting bias, and other bias [63]. Each domain were assessed by answering pre-specified questions and the level of bias expressed by ‘Low Risk’, ‘High Risk’ and ‘Unclear Risk’ (Figure 2).

Results and Discussion

The aim of this review was to assess the efficacy of Liraglutide in lowering HbA1c levels among type 2 diabetes patients as a primary outcome and its efficacy on SBP as a secondary outcome, as well as any associated GI disturbances. The results show that Liraglutide is effective on both HbA1c and SBP and that it can lead to various GI

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Ahmann 2015	?	?	+	?	+	-
Aroda 2016	+	+	+	+	?	-
Buse 2009	+	+	-	+	+	-
Buse 2013	+	+	-	?	+	?
Charbonnel 2013	+	+	-	-	+	?
DeVries 2012	+	+	-	+	+	-
De wit 2014	+	+	-	?	+	-
Dungan 2014	+	-	-	?	+	?
D’Alessio 2015	+	-	-	+	+	?
Feinglos 2004	?	?	+	?	+	-
Garber 2009	+	+	+	+	+	-
Garber 2011	+	+	+	+	+	-
Gough 2015	?	?	-	+	+	-
Kaku 2010	?	?	+	?	?	-
Kaku 2016	+	+	-	?	+	-
Lane 2014	?	?	-	?	+	?
Li 2012	+	+	-	?	+	+
Lind 2015	+	+	+	+	+	-
Madsbad 2004	?	?	+	?	+	-
Marre 2009	?	?	+	+	+	-
Mathieu 2014	?	?	-	+	+	-
Meier 2015	+	+	-	?	+	?
Miyagawa 2015	+	+	+	+	+	?
Nauck 2009	+	+	+	+	+	?
Nauck 2016a	+	+	-	+	+	-
Nauck 2016b	+	+	-	+	?	-
Pratley 2010	+	+	-	+	+	-
Pratley 2011	+	+	-	+	+	-
Pratley 2014	+	+	-	+	+	-
Rosenstock 2013	+	+	-	+	+	-
Russell-Jones 2009	+	+	+	+	+	-
Seino 2008	+	+	+	?	+	-
Seino 2011	?	?	+	?	+	-
Seino 2016	+	+	+	+	+	-
Tanaka 2015	?	?	-	?	+	?
Vanderheiden 2016	+	+	+	?	+	-
Vilsboll 2007	?	?	+	?	?	?
Yang 2011	?	?	+	+	+	-
Zang 2016	+	+	-	+	+	-
Zinman 2009	+	+	+	+	+	-

Figure 2: Summary of risk of bias in included studies (RevMan 5.3). (Key: (+) Low risk of bias, (-) High risk of bias, (?) Unclear risk of bias).

disturbances.

Theme 1: Liraglutide and HbA1c

The HbA1c level was the primary outcome measure of all included studies. The studies’ results advocate Liraglutide’s use as an effective treatment management of type 2 diabetes. In 16 of the studies (10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 37, 38, and 40), the interventions comprised multiple arms, including different dosages of Liraglutide and the comparator. In these trials, it is shown

Table 1: Summary of the included studies result.

	Author	Study type	Study duration	Participant	Intervention	Background medication	Outcomes		
1	Ahmann et al. [22]	RCT Multicenter Multinational Double-blind	26 weeks	- 450 Pts randomized	- Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 225)	Basal insulin analogue (≥ 20 U/day) ± metformin (≥ 1500 mg/day).	1. HbA1c:		
				- 364 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 8.25% ± (0.85%)		
				- Male: 56.8%			7.0% to 10.0%		
				- Female: 43.2%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.3%		
							After placebo: estimated change -0.1%		
							2. SBP:		
				-T2D duration: 12.1 ± 6.9 Years			After Liraglutide: -5.78 mmHg ↓ from baseline.		
							After placebo: -0.76 mmHg ↓ from baseline.		
							3. GI events:		
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:		
								Liraglutide	placebo
							Nausea	50	7
							Diarrhea	24	11
							Vomiting	20	2
		Dyspepsia	16	2					
		Nasopharyngitis	13	14					
		Headache	8	16					
		Lipase increased	17	5					
		Decreased appetite	22	5					
2	Aroda et al. [23]	RCT Multicenter Multinational Double-blind	26 weeks+15 weeks run-in period	-346 Pts randomized	-Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day + Placebo. (pts number 172)	Metformin (≥ 1500 mg)	1. HbA1c:		
				- 291 Pts completed	Before: mean SD 7.6 ± 0.6%				
				- Male: 58.4%	After Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day + Insulin Degludec: estimated change -1.04% from baseline				
				- Female: 41.6%	After Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day + Placebo: estimated change -0.16% from baseline				
					2. SBP:				
				-T2D duration			From week 0 to week 26, mean blood pressure decreased slightly in both treatment groups.		
							3. GI events:		
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:		
								Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day + Placebo	Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day + Insulin Degludec
							Diarrhea	13	10
		Nasopharyngitis	11	14					
		Lipase increased	13	10					

Study ID	Author	Study Design	Duration	Randomized	Completed	Gender	T2D duration	Mean Age	Intervention	Comparison	1. HbA1c:					
											Before	After Liraglutide	After Exenatide			
3	Buse et al. [24]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	26 weeks	464 Pts randomized	389 Pts completed	Male: 52%	Female: 48%	T2D duration	Mean (SD): 8.2 ± 6.0 Years	Mean(SD)Age: 56.7 ± 10.3 years	Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day: (pts number 233)	Exenatide 10 µg twice a day: pts number 231	Maximum dose of metformin, sulphonylurea, or both.	1. HbA1c:		
														Before: mean SD 8.2 ± 1.0%		
														After Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day: estimated change -1.12% from baseline		
														After Exenatide 10 µg twice a day: estimated change -0.79% from baseline		
														2. SBP:		
														After Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day: -2.51 mmHg ↓ from baseline.		
														After Exenatide 10 µg twice a day: -2.0 mmHg ↓ from baseline.		
														3. GI events:		
														Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:		
															Liraglutide	Exenatide
Nausea	60	65														
Diarrhea	29	28														
Vomiting	14	23														
Dyspepsia	21	11														
Nasopharyngitis	27	31														
Headache	21	24														
Constipation	12	6														
4	Buse et al. [25]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	26 weeks	911 Pts randomized	791 Pts completed	Male: 54.5%	T2D duration: 8.5 ± 6 Years	Mean(SD)Age: 57 ± 9.5 years	Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 450)	Exenatide: 2 mg/week (pts number 461)	maximum or near maximum dose of oral antihyper-glycaemic drugs (metformin, sulphonylurea, metformin plus sulphonylurea, or metformin plus pioglitazone)	1. HbA1c:				
												Before: mean SD 8.45 ± 1.0%				
												After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.48%				
												After Exenatide: estimated change -1.28%				
												2. SBP:				
												After Liraglutide: -3.45 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
												After Exenatide: -2.48 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
												3. GI events:				
												Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:				
													Liraglutide	Exenatide		
Nausea	93	43														
Diarrhea	59	28														
Vomiting	48	17														
Dyspepsia	27	11														
Nasopharyngitis	32	31														
Headache	38	27														
Decreased appetite	29	17														
Constipation	22	21														
Abdominal pain	8	12														

5	Charbonnel et al. [26]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	26 week	· 653 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 253) · Sitagliptin: 100 mg/day (pts number 269)	metformin monotherapy ≥ 1,500 mg/day	1. HbA1c:		
				· 532 Pts completed			Before: baseline 7.0-11.0%, mean SD 8.15 ± 1.0%		
				· Male: 55%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.4% ↓ from baseline		
				· T2D duration: 7.9 ± 5.5 Years			After Sitagliptin: estimated change -1.3% ↓ from baseline.		
				· Mean(SD)Age: 57 ± 10.4 years			2. SBP:		
							After Liraglutide : -1.9 mmHg ↓ from baseline		
							After Sitagliptin: 0.9 mmHg ↓ from baseline		
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:		
								Liraglutide	Sitagliptin
							Nausea	63	10
	Diarrhea	35	7						
	Vomiting	21	6						
	Dyspepsia	11	4						
	Constipation	6	4						
	Abdominal pain	16	5						
6	DeVries et al. [27]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	26 weeks	· 323 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 161)	metformin (≥ 1500 mg/day)	1. HbA1c:		
				Before: mean SD 8.25 ± 0.75%					
				After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : estimated change +0.02% ↓ from baseline					
				After insulin detemir + Liraglutide 1.8 mg : estimated change -0.51% ↓ from baseline					
				2. SBP:					
				After Liraglutide 1.8mg: -3.13 mmHg					
				After insulin detemir + Liraglutide 1.8 mg: -1.65 mmHg					
				3. GI events:					
				Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:					
							Liraglutide	insulin detemir + Liraglutide	
	Nausea	9	6						
	Diarrhea	11	19						
	Nasopharyngitis	30	23						
	Headache	13	10						
	Lipase increased	6	18						
	· Female: 46.2%								
	· T2D duration								
	Mean (SD): 8.3 ± 5.9Years								
	· Mean(SD)Age: 57 ± 9.6 years								

7	De wit et al. [28]	RCT Single center open-label	26 weeks	· 50 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day added on Insulin (pts number 26)	Metformin, Sulfonylurea or Sulfonylurea and metformin.	1. HbA1c:							
				· 47 Pts completed			· Male: 62%	· Female: 38%	· Insulin: (pts number 24)	· T2D duration	· Mean(SD) Age: 58 ± 9 years	Before: mean SD 7.4 ± 0.6%	After Liraglutide 1.8 mg added on Insulin: estimated change -0.77% from baseline	After insulin: estimated change +0.01% from baseline
				Mean(SD): 7.9 ± 6.0 Years			2. SBP:			After Liraglutide 1.8 mg added on Insulin: -7.0 mmHg ↓ from baseline.	After insulin: -3.0 mmHg			
							3. GI events:			Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:				
				8			Dungan et al. [29]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	26 weeks	· 599 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 300)	metformin (≥ 1500 mg/day)	1. HbA1c:	
· 538 Pts completed	· Male: 48%	· Female: 52%	· Dulaglutide 1.5 mg/week (pts number 299)		· T2D duration: 7.2 ± 5.4 Years	· Mean (SD)Age: 56.65 ± 9.6 years				Before: baseline 7.0-10.0%, mean SD 8.1 ± 0.8%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.36% from baseline	After Dulaglutide: estimated change -1.42% from baseline.
	2. SBP:				After Liraglutide: -2.82 mmHg ↓ from baseline.	After Dulaglutide: -3.36 mmHg ↓ from baseline.								
	3. GI events:				Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:									

9	D'Alessio et al. [30]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	24 weeks	· 978 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 470)	metformin at a minimum dose of 1 g/day, alone or in combination with sulphonylurea, glinides or a dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor for >3 months.	1. HbA1c: Before: mean SD 9.0 ± 1.1% After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: estimated change -1.79% from baseline After insulin glargine: estimated change -1.94% from baseline			
				· Male: 54.4%	· insulin glargine: (pts number 474)		2. SBP: After Liraglutide: -3.1 mmHg ↓ from baseline. After insulin glargine: no change.			
				· Female: 45.6%			3. GI events: Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
				· T2D duration				Liraglutide	insulin glargine	
				· Mean (SD): 9 ± 6 Years			Nausea	146	13	
				· Mean (SD) Age: 57 ± 9 years			Diarrhea	62	18	
							Vomiting	46	8	
							Dyspepsia	25	4	
							Constipation	26	6	
							Nasopharyngitis	35	38	
		Headache	29	24						
10	Feinglos et al. [31]	RCT Multicenter double-blind USA	12 weeks	· 210 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.045 mg/day: (pts number 37)	None	1. HbA1c: Before: mean SD 7.0 ± 1.2% After Liraglutide: 0.045 mg/day: estimated change +1.28% from baseline 0.225 mg/day: estimated change +0.86% from baseline 0.45 mg/day: estimated change +0.22% from baseline 0.6 mg/day: estimated change +0.16% from baseline 0.75 mg/day: estimated change +0.30% from baseline After Metformin: estimated change +0.09% from baseline			
				· 179 Pts completed	· Liraglutide 0.225 mg/day		2. GI events: Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
					(pts number 35)			Lira groups	Metformin	
				· Male: 40%	· Liraglutide 0.45 mg/day: (pts number 33)			n:176	n:34	
				· Female: 60%			Nausea	7	2	
				· T2D duration	· Liraglutide 0.6 mg/day (pts number 34)		Vomiting	4	1	
				· Mean(SD): 4.7 ± 4.8 Years						
				· Mean(SD)Age: 53.5 ± 8.8 years	· Liraglutide 0.75 mg/day: (pts number 37)					
					· Metformin 1000 mg twice/day (pts number 34)					

11	Garber et al. [32]	RCT Multicenter double-blind	52 week	· 746 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 251)	None	1. HbA1c:			
				Before: mean SD 8.3 ± 1.1%						
				After Liraglutide 1.2 mg : estimated change -0.84% from baseline						
				After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : estimated change -1.14% from baseline						
				After Glimepiride: 8 mg/day: estimated change -0.51% from baseline.						
				2. SBP:						
				After Liraglutide 1.2 mg: -2.1 mmHg						
				After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: -3.6 mmHg ↓ from baseline.						
				After Glimepiride: 8 mg/day: -0.7mmHg ↓ from baseline.						
				3. GI events:						
				Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:						
	Liraglutide 1.2 mg	Liraglutide 1.8 mg	Glimepiride							
Nausea	69	72	21							
Diarrhea	39	46	22							
Vomiting	31	23	9							
Nasopharyngitis	17	9	13							
Headache	27	18	23							
Constipation	21	28	12							
Flatulence	4	13	4							
12	Garber et al. [33]	RCT Multicenter *Participants completing the 1-year randomized, double-blind, double-dummy period (Garber et al., 2009) could continue open-label treatment for an additional year	2 years (104 week)	· 746 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 110)	None	1. HbA1c:			
				Before: mean SD 8.0 ± 1.0%						
				After Liraglutide 1.2 mg : estimated change -0.9% from baseline						
				After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : estimated change -1.1% from baseline						
				After Glimepiride: 8 mg/day: estimated change -0.6% from baseline.						
				2. SBP:						
				After Liraglutide 1.2 mg: -1.35 mmHg ↓ from baseline.						
				After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : -2.37 mmHg						
				After Glimepiride: 8 mg/day: -0.49 mmHg						
				3. GI events:						
				Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:						
	Liraglutide 1.2 mg	Liraglutide 1.8 mg	Glimepiride							
Nausea	72	75	21							
Diarrhea	44	48	23							
Vomiting	33	25	10							
Nasopharyngitis	23	16	18							
Headache	28	18	23							
Constipation	21	29	12							
Flatulence	4	13	5							

13	Gough et al. [34]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	52 weeks	· 1663 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day	metformin ± pioglitazone	<p>1. HbA1c:</p> <p>Before: mean SD 8.3 ± 0.9%</p> <p>After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.24% from baseline</p> <p>After Insulin Degludec: estimated change -1.40% from baseline</p> <p>After IDegLira: estimated change -1.84% from baseline</p> <p>2. SBP:</p> <p>- No significant difference in systolic blood pressure between Liraglutide and IDegLira.</p> <p>- The mean change between IDegLira and insulin degludec was -1.54 mmHg.</p> <p>3. GI events:</p> <p>The most frequently reported AEs were headache, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, nasopharyngitis and upper respiratory tract infection.</p>	
					(pts number 414)			
				· 1311 Pts completed	· Insulin Degludec 100 U/ml: (pts number 413)			
				· Male: 50.3%				
				Female: 49.7%	· (IDegLira) Insulin degludec 100 U/ml plus Liraglutide 3.6mg/m (pts number 833)			
				· T2D duration				
				Mean (SD): 6.9 ± 5.5 Years				
				· Mean (SD) Age: 55 ± 9.9 years				
14	Kaku et al. [35]	RCT Japan double-blind	24 weeks	· 264 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.6 mg/day: (pts number 88)	Sulphonylureas (glibenclamide, glicazide or glimepiride)	<p>1. HbA1c:</p> <p>Before: mean SD 8.42 ± 0.91%</p> <p>After Liraglutide 0.6 mg/day: estimated change -1.46% from baseline</p> <p>After Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day: estimated change -1.56% from baseline</p> <p>After Placebo: estimated change -0.40% from baseline</p> <p>2. SBP:</p> <p>Systolic blood pressure did not change in any of the treatment groups during the treatment period.</p> <p>3. GI events:</p> <p>More subjects in the two Liraglutide groups reported gastrointestinal adverse events during the first 4 weeks</p>	
				241 Pts completed	· Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day (pts number 88)			
				· Male: 64%				
				· Female: 36%				
				· T2D duration	Placebo (pts number 88)			
				Mean(SD): 10.3 ± 7.0 Years				
				· Mean(SD)Age:				
				59.7 ± 10.4 years				

15	Kaku et al. [36]	RCT Japan open-label	52 weeks	· 360 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day (pts number 240)	single OAD (glinide, metformin, α-glucosidase inhibitor or thiazolidinedione)	1. HbA1c:			
				· 332 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 8.1 ± 0.8%			
							After Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day: estimated change -1.21% from baseline			
							After Additional OAD: estimated change -0.94% from baseline			
							2. SBP:			
				· Male: 72.8%			After Liraglutide: -4.0 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
				· Female: 27.2%			After Additional OAD: -3.91 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
				· T2D duration			3. GI events:			
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
								Liraglutide	Additional OAD	
	Nausea	31	4							
	Diarrhea	20	9							
	Constipation	44	12							
	Nasopharyngitis	89	47							
	Headache	12	4							
	Abdominal pain	19	1							
16	Lane et al. [37]	RCT Single center open-label USA	24 weeks	· 37 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 1.2mg or 1.8mg per day: (pts number 21)	>100 units of insulin daily with or without metformin	1. HbA1c:			
				· Male: 46%			Before: mean SD 8.1 ± 0.8%			
				· Female: 54%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -0.65% from baseline			
				· T2D duration			After Insulin up-titration: estimated change -0.39% from baseline			
				Mean(SD): 17.1 ± 7.1 Years			2. GI events:			
				Mean(SD)Age: 59.7 ± 10.8 years			In Liraglutide group 24% experiencing mild to moderate nausea in the first 4 weeks which resolved by 12 weeks, and only one subject experienced vomiting.			
17	Li et al. [38]	RCT China open-label	16 weeks	· 90 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 1.2 mg/day Added on Insulin: (pts number 42)	Insulin injections for at least 3 months at a dose of at least 10 U/day	1. HbA1c:			
							Before: mean SD 8.7 ± 0.9%			
							After Liraglutide 1.2 mg/day Added on Insulin: estimated change -1.9% from baseline			
							After Insulin-increasing dose: estimated change -1.77% from baseline.			
				· 84 Pts completed			2. GI events:			
				· Male: 59.5%			GI events (diarrhoea, constipation, nausea and vomiting) are most frequently reported in Liraglutide-added group.			
				· Female: 40.5%						
· T2D duration										
Mean(SD): 9.0 ± 3.6 Years										
· Mean(SD)Age: 52 ± 10.2 years										

18	Lind et al. [39]	RCT Multicenter double blind	24 weeks	· 124 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 1.8mg/day: (pts number 64)	Multiple daily insulin injections with or without Metformin.	1. HbA1c: Before: mean SD 8.1 ± 0.8% After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.55% from baseline After Placebo: estimated change -0.42% from baseline				
				· 122 Pts completed			2. SBP: After Liraglutide: -5.69 mmHg ↓ from baseline. After Placebo: +1.98 mmHg ↑ from baseline.				
				· Male: 64.6%			3. GI events: Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:				
				· Female: 35.4%				Liraglutide	Placebo		
				· T2D duration			GI events	30	8		
				Mean(SD): 17.1 ± 7.8 Years			Nausea	21	1		
				· Mean(SD)Age: 63.6 ± 7.9 years			Diarrhea	5	3		
19	Madsbad et al. [62]	RCT double blind	12 weeks	· 193 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.045 mg/day: (pts number 26)	None	1. HbA1c: Before: mean SD 7.6% After Liraglutide 0.045 mg/day: estimated change +0.25% from baseline After Liraglutide 0.225 mg/day: estimated change -0.34% from baseline After Liraglutide 0.45 mg/day: estimated change -0.30% from baseline After Liraglutide 0.60 mg/day: estimated change -0.70% from baseline After Liraglutide 0.75 mg/day: estimated change -0.75% from baseline After Glimepiride: estimated change -0.74% from baseline After Placebo: estimated change -0.42% from baseline				
				· 122 Pts completed			Liraglutide 0.225 mg/day: (pts number 24) Liraglutide 0.45 mg/day: (pts number 27) Liraglutide 0.60 mg/day: (pts number 30) Liraglutide 0.75 mg/day: (pts number 28) Glimepiride 1-4mg: (pts number 26) Placebo: (pts number 29)	2. GI events: Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
				· Male: 64.6%					Liraglutide groups 135 pts	Placebo	Glimepiride
				· Female: 35.4%				Nausea	10	1	0
				· T2D duration				Diarrhea	5	0	0
				Mean(SD): 17.1 ± 7.8 Years				Vomiting	3	0	0
				· Mean(SD)Age: 56.6 years				Constipation	3	0	0

20	Marre et al. [40]	RCT Multicenter Multinational double-dummy	26 weeks	· 1041 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 0.6 mg/day. (pts number 233)	Glimepiride (2– 4 mg/day)	1. HbA1c:			
				Before: mean SD 8.4 ± 1.0%						
				After Liraglutide 0.6 mg: estimated change -0.6% from baseline						
				After Liraglutide 1.2 mg: estimated change -1.08% from baseline						
				After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: estimated change -1.13% from baseline						
				After Placebo: estimated change +0.23% from baseline						
				After Rosiglitazone: estimated change -0.44% from baseline.						
				2. SBP:						
				After Liraglutide 1.2mg OR 1.8mg: -2.6 to -2.8 mmHg ↓ from baseline.						
				After Placebo OR Rosiglitazone: -0.9 to -2.3 mmHg ↓ from baseline.						
3. GI events:										
The percentage of GI events With Liraglutide 1.2mg which was the highest:										
Nausea		10.50%								
Diarrhea		7.90%								
Vomiting		4.40%								
21	Mathieu et al. [41]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	26 weeks	· 177 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day: (pts number 88)	insulin degludec (IDeg) once daily + metformin	1. HbA1c:			
				Before: mean SD 7.7 ± 0.7%						
				After Liraglutide: estimated change -0.74% from baseline						
				After Insulin Aspart: estimated change -0.39% from baseline						
				2. GI events:						
				Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:						
					Liraglutide		Insulin Aspart			
				Nausea	18		0			
				Diarrhea	9		0			
				Vomiting	5		0			
Nasopharyngitis	9	11								
Lipase increase	6	0								
· 894 Pts completed				· Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 228)						
· Male: 49.2%				Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 234)						
· Female: 50.8%										
· T2D duration										
Mean(SD): 6.5 Years		· Placebo: (pts number 114)								
Mean(SD)Age: 56 ± 10		· Rosiglitazone: 4 mg/day. (pts number 232)								

24	Nauck et al. [44] LEAD2	RCT Multicenter Multinational double-blind, double- dummy	26 weeks	· 1091 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 0.6 mg/day. (pts number 242) · Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 241) Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 242) Glimepiride: 4 mg/day. (pts number 244) Placebo: (pts number 122)	Metformin	1. HbA1c:			
				· 880 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 8.4 ± 1.0%			
				· Male: 58.4%			After Liraglutide 0.6 mg : estimated change -0.69% from baseline			
				· Female: 41.6%			After Liraglutide 1.2 mg : estimated change -0.97% from baseline			
				T2D duration			After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : estimated change -1.0% from baseline			
				Mean (SD): 11.4 ± 7.4 Years			After Glimepiride: estimated change -0.98% from baseline.			
				Mean (SD) Age: 56.6 ± 9.4 years.			After Placebo: estimated change +0.09% from baseline			
							2. SBP:			
							After Liraglutide 0.6 mg: -0.6 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							After Liraglutide 1.2 mg: -3.2 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: -2.7 mmHg ↓ from baseline.										
After Glimepiride: +0.4 mmHg ↑ from baseline.										
After Placebo: -1.8 mmHg ↓ from baseline.										
3. GI events:										
GI events (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea) were reported by 35% of the subjects in 0.6mg Liraglutide group and 40% in 1.2mg and 44% in 1.8mg Liraglutide group, and 17% in glimepiride and placebo groups.										
25	Nauck et al. [45] (A)	RCT Multicenter Multinational Open-label	26 wee	· 404 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 202) Lixisenatide: 20mg/day, 1h prior to morning or evening meal. · Lixisenatide: 20mg/day, 1h prior to morning or evening meal. (pts number 202) · T2D duration: 6.4 ± 5.1 Years · Mean (SD) Age: 56 ± 10.3.	Metformin 1000 to 3000 mg/day	1. HbA1c:			
				340 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 8.4% ± (0.8%)			
				· Male: 60%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.8% with 74.2% of Pts reached <7%.			
				· Female: 40%			After Lixisenatide: estimated change -1.2% with 45.5% of Pts reached <7%.			
				· T2D duration: 6.4 ± 5.1 Years			2. SBP:			
				· Mean (SD) Age: 56 ± 10.3.			After Liraglutide: -4.7 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							After Lixisenatide: -3.5 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							3. GI events:			
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
							Liraglutide	Lixisenatide		
Nausea	44	44								
Diarrhea	25	20								
Vomiting	14	18								
Dyspepsia	11	6								
Nasopharyngitis	13	20								
Headache	15	17								
Lipase increased	17	5								
Decreased appetite	13	5								

26	Nauck et al. [46] (B)	RCT Multicenter Multinational double-blind for Semaglutide open-label for the active control Liraglutide	12 weeks	· 415 Pts randomized	Diet and exercise or metformin monotherapy	1. HbA1c:				
				341 Pts completed		· Liraglutide: 1- 1.2 mg/day (n: 45) 2- 1.8 mg/day (n:50)	Before: mean SD 8.1 ± 0.9 %			
							After Liraglutide:			
							1.2 mg/day: estimated change -1.2% from baseline			
							1.8 mg/day: estimated change -1.3% from baseline			
							After semaglutide:			
							0.1 mg/week: estimated change -0.6% from baseline			
							0.2 mg/week: estimated change -0.9% from baseline			
							0.4 mg/week: estimated change -1.1% from baseline			
							0.8 mg/week: estimated change -1.4% from baseline			
							1.6 mg/week: estimated change -1.7% from baseline			
							After Placebo: estimated change -0.5% from baseline			
							2. SBP			
							After Liraglutide:			
							1.2 mg/day: -4.9 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							1.8 mg/day: -5.7 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							After semaglutide:			
							0.1 mg/week: +2.4 mmHg ↑ from baseline.			
							0.2 mg/week: -3.8 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							0.4 mg/week: -1.8 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
		0.8 mg/week: -6.2 mmHg ↓ from baseline.								
		1.6 mg/week: -6.2 mmHg ↓ from baseline.								
		After Placebo: -3.8 mmHg ↓ from baseline.								
		3. GI events:								
		Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:								
			Lira groups n:95	Sema groups n:227	Placebo n:46					
		Nausea	14	74	2					
		Diarrhea	9	33	0					
		Vomiting	10	40	1					
		Dyspepsia	9	19	1					
		Nasopharyngitis	3	15	4					
		Headache	6	22	3					
		Decreased appetite	2	9	0					
		Constipation	4	8	0					
		Mean (SD) Age: 54 ± 10.1 years	· Placebo (n:46)							
		· Male: 64.8%	· Semaglutide: 1- 0.1 mg/week (n:47) 2- 0.2 mg/week (n:44) 3- 0.4mg/week (n:49) 4- 0.8 mg/week (n:44) 5- 1.6 mg/week (n:45)							
		· Female: 35.2%								
		· T2D duration								
		Mean (SD): 2.6 ± 2.9 Years								

27	Pratley et al. [47]	RCT Multinational Open-label	26 weeks	· 658 Pts randomized	Metformin (≥ 1500 mg daily for ≥ 3 months)	1. HbA1c:				
				554 Pts completed		· Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 221)	Before: baseline 7.5% to 10.0% , mean 8.5%			
							After Liraglutide 1.2 mg : estimated change -1.24% from baseline			
				· Male: 53%		Liraglutide:	After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : estimated change			
							-1.50% from baseline			
				· Female: 47%		1.8 mg/day. (pts number 218)	After Sitagliptin: estimated change -0.90% from baseline.			
							2. SBP:			
				· T2D duration: 6.2 ± 5.1 Years			After Liraglutide 1.2 mg: -0.55 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : -0.72 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
				· Mean(SD)Age: 55.3 ± 9.2		Sitagliptin: 100 mg/day (pts number 219)	After Sitagliptin: -0.94 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							3. GI events:			
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
								Liraglutide 1.2 mg	Liraglutide 1.8 mg	Sitagliptin
							Nausea	46	59	10
Diarrhea	16	25	10							
Vomiting	17	21	9							
Dyspepsia	7	14	5							
Nasopharyngitis	21	28	26							
Headache	20	25	22							
Decreased appetite	7	12	2							
Constipation	10	11	6							

28	Pratley et al. [48]	RCT Multinational Open-label Extension to Pratley et al, 2010	52 weeks	· 497 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 155)	metformin monotherapy (≥ 1500 mg/day)	1. HbA1c:				
				· 436 Pts completed			Before: baseline 8.4-8.5%				
				· Male: 53%	Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 176)		After Liraglutide 1.2 mg : estimated change -1.29% from baseline				
				· Female: 47%			After Liraglutide 1.8 mg : estimated change -1.51% from baseline				
				· T2D duration: 6.2 ± 5.1 Years			After Sitagliptin: estimated change -0.88% from baseline.				
				· Mean(SD)Age: 55.3 ± 9.2	· Sitagliptin: 100 mg/day (pts number 166)		2. SBP:				
							After Liraglutide 1.2 mg: -0.37 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
							After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: -2.55 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
							After Sitagliptin: -1.03 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
							3. GI events:				
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:				
								Liraglutide 1.2 mg (Patients)	Liraglutide 1.8 mg (Patients)	Sitagliptin (Patients)	
							Nausea	48	60	12	
							Diarrhea	20	27	14	
Vomiting	18	23	11								
Dyspepsia	8	15	5								
Nasopharyngitis	27	32	31								
Headache	21	29	27								
Decreased appetite	8	12	3								
Constipation	10	13	8								

29	Pratley et al. [49]	RCT Multicenter Multinational open-label	32 weeks	· 841 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 406)	One or more oral antidiabetes drugs (metformin, thiazolidinedione or Sulfonylurea)	1. HbA1c:			
				686 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 8.16 ± 0.86%			
				· Male: 50%	Albiglutide 50mg/week (pts number 404)		After Liraglutide: estimated change -0.99% from baseline			
				· Female: 50%			After Albiglutide: estimated change -0.78% from baseline			
				· T2D duration			2. SBP:			
				Mean(SD): 8.3 ± 5.8 Years	After Liraglutide: less than 1 mmHg ↓ from baseline.					
				· Mean(SD)Age: 55.6 ± 10 years	After Albiglutide: less than 1 mmHg ↓ from baseline.					
					3. GI events:					
					Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:					
					Liraglutide		Albiglutide			
Nausea	119	40								
Diarrhea	55	60								
Vomiting	38	20								
Headache	22	22								
Nasopharyngitis	28	24								
Lipase increase	28	22								

30	Rosenstock et al. [50]	RCT Multicenter Multinational	52 weeks + 12 weeks run-in period	· 323 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 161)	Metformin	1. HbA1c:			
							Before: mean SD 7.6 ± 0.65%			
				randomized	1.8 mg/day. (pts number 161)		After Liraglutide: no change from baseline.			
				· 222 Pts completed			After Liraglutide + insulin detemir: estimated change -0.45% from baseline			
				Male: 54.8%			2. SBP:			
				· Female: 45.2%			After Liraglutide: -4.89 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
				· T2D duration			After Liraglutide + insulin detemir: -2.07 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
				Mean(SD): 8.5 ± 5.9 Years	Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day + insulin detemir. (pts number 162)		3. GI events:			
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
								Liraglutide	Liraglutide + insulin detemir	
			Nausea	12	9					
			Diarrhea	14	21					
			Vomiting	9	10					
			Headache	15	13					
			Nasopharyngitis	38	32					
			Lipase increase	7	20					
			· Mean (SD) Age: 57 ± 9.6 years							

31	Russell-Jones et al. [51] LEAD5	RCT Multicenter Multinational	26 weeks	· 581 Pts randomized	Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 232)	All in combination with metformin (1 g twice daily) and glimepiride (4 mg once daily)	1. HbA1c:				
				· 522 Pts completed				Before: mean SD 8.26% ± (0.9%)			
				· Male: 55.4%				After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.33%			
				· Female: 44.6%				After placebo: estimated change -0.24%			
							· Placebo. (pts number 115)	After insulin glargine: estimated change -1.09%			
								2. SBP:			
								After Liraglutide: -4.0 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
								After placebo: -1.4 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
								After insulin glargine: 0.54 mmHg ↑ from baseline.			
								3. GI events:			
		Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:									
			Liraglutide	placebo	insulin glargine						
			Nausea	32	4	3					
			Diarrhea	23	6	3					
			Vomiting	15	4	1					
			Dyspepsia	15	1	4					
			Nasopharyngitis	21	10	26					
			Headache	22	9	13					
			· T2D duration: 9.4 ± 6.1 Years								
			· open-label insulin glargine (pts number 234) (100 IU/ml injected once daily)								
			· Mean(SD)Age: 57.5 ± 9.8 years								

32	Seino et al. [52]	RCT Multicenter double-blind Japan	14 weeks	· 226 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.1 mg/day: (pts number 45)	With or without oral antidiabetes drug monotherapy	1. HbA1c:			
							Before: mean SD 8.30%			
				· 210 Pts completed	· Liraglutide 0.3 mg/day (pts number 46)		After Liraglutide 0.1 mg/day: estimated change -0.79% from baseline			
				· Male: 66.8%			After Liraglutide 0.3 mg/day: estimated change -1.22% from baseline			
				· Female: 33.2%	· Liraglutide 0.6 mg/day: (pts number 45)		After Liraglutide 0.6 mg/day: estimated change -1.64% from baseline			
				· T2D duration			After Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day: estimated change -1.85% from baseline			
				Mean(SD): 7.6 ± 5.4 Years	· Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day (pts number 44)		After placebo: estimated change +0.09% from baseline			
				Mean(SD)Age: 57.3 years			Placebo (pts number 46)	2. GI events:		
		Incidences of gastrointestinal disorders were placebo, 24%; Liraglutide 0.1 mg/day, 18%; 0.3 mg/day, 15%; 0.6 mg/day, 31%; 0.9 mg/day, 30%.								
33	Seino et al. [53]	RCT Multicenter double-blind Japan	52 weeks	· 264 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.6 mg/day: (pts number 88)	sulfonylurea (glibenclamide, gliclazide or glimepiride)	1. HbA1c:			
				· 210 Pts completed			· Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day (pts number 88)	Before: mean SD 8.82 ± 0.91 %		
				Male: 64%				After Liraglutide 0.6 mg/day: estimated change -1.09% from baseline		
				Female: 36%			After Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day: estimated change -1.28% from baseline			
				· T2D duration			After placebo: estimated change -0.06% from baseline			
				Mean(SD): 10.3 ± 7.0 Years	Placebo (pts number 88)		2. GI events:			
				Mean(SD)Age: 59.7 ± 10.4 years			Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
								Liraglutide 0.6 mg	Liraglutide 0.9 mg	placebo
		Diarrhea	4	6	6					
		Constipation	6	7	3					
34	Seino et al. [54]	RCT Multicenter double-blind Japan	36 weeks	· 257 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day (pts number 127)	Insulin therapy (basal insulin, premixed insulin or basal-bolus regimen)	1. HbA1c:			
				· 246 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 8.8 ± 0.9 %			
				· 246 Pts completed			After Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day: estimated change -1.68% from baseline			
				· Male: 56%			After placebo: estimated change -0.88% from baseline			
				· Female: 44%			2. SBP			
							After Liraglutide: -3.12 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
							After placebo: +2.46 mmHg ↑ from baseline.			
					· Placebo (pts number 130)		3. GI events:			
· T2D duration	Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:									
			Liraglutide	placebo						
		Nausea	14	7						
		Diarrhea	15	4						
		Dyspepsia	7	0						
		Constipation	15	2						
		Headache	8	6						
		Nasopharyngitis	55	40						
		· Mean (SD): 14.51 ± 8.73 Years								
		· Mean (SD) Age: 60.5 ± 11.2 years								

35	Tanaka et al. [55]	RCT Japan open-label	24 weeks	· 47 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.9 mg/day (pts number 22)	None	1. HbA1c:			
				· 46 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 7.85 ± 0.7%			
				· Male: 63%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -0.80% from baseline			
				· Female: 37%			After metformin: estimated change -0.95% from baseline			
				· T2D duration			2. SBP			
				Mean(SD): 5.15 ± 4.0 Years			No significant change in systolic blood pressure.			
				Mean(SD)Age: 53 ± 11 years			3. GI events			
				· Metformin 1500 mg/day or more (pts number 24)			Constipation was more frequent in the Liraglutide group.			
							Diarrhea more frequent in the metformin group.			
36	Vanderheiden et al. [56]	RCT Single-center double-blind	6 Month	· 71 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day (pts number 35)	None	1. HbA1c:			
				· 66 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 9.0% ± 1.2%			
				· Male: 37%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.1%			
				· Female: 63%			After Placebo: No change 0%			
				· T2D duration: 17.9 ± 8.4Years			2. SBP:			
				Mean (SD) Age: 54.2 ± 7.4.			· Placebo: (pts number 36)			
							After Liraglutide: -1 mmHg ↓ from baseline.			
	After Placebo: -3 mmHg ↓ from baseline.									
							3. GI events:			
							In Liraglutide: 13 of 35 adverse events			
							In placebo: 13 of 36 adverse events			
37	Vilsboll et al. [57]	RCT double-blind	14 weeks	· 165 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide 0.65 mg/day (pts number 40)	None	1. HbA1c:			
				· 140 Pts completed	Before: mean SD 8.30 %					
				· Male: 60.7%	· Liraglutide 1.25 mg/day (pts number 42)		After Liraglutide 0.65 mg/day: estimated change -0.98% from baseline			
				· Female: 39.3%	After Liraglutide 1.25 mg/day: estimated change -1.40% from baseline					
				· T2D duration	· Liraglutide 1.90 mg/day (pts number 41)		After Liraglutide 1.90 mg/day: estimated change -1.45% from baseline			
					· Placebo: (pts number 40)		After placebo: estimated change +0.29% from baseline			
							2. SBP:			
				· Male: 60.7%			Systolic blood pressure decreased significantly			
				Mean(SD): 5.5 ± 9.8 Years			1.90 mg vs. placebo: -7.9 mmHg [-12.9 to -2.9], P=0.0023;			
							1.25 mg vs. placebo: -5.2 mmHg [-10.2 to -0.2], P=0.0417;			
							0.65 mg vs. placebo: -7.4 mmHg [-12.4 to -2.4], P=0.0041.			
							3. GI events:			
							Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
			Liraglutide groups (n:123)	Placebo (n:40)						
		Nausea	9	1						
		Diarrhea	26	5						
		Vomiting	4	0						

38	Yang et al. [58]	RCT Multicenter Multinational double-blind double-dummy	16 weeks	· 929 Pts randomized	· Liraglutide: 0.6 mg/day. (pts number 231)	Metformin (2000 mg daily).	1. HbA1c:				
				· 779 Pts completed			Before: mean SD 8.6 ± 1.0%				
				· Male: 55.3%	· Liraglutide: 1.2 mg/day. (pts number 233)		After Liraglutide 0.6 mg: estimated change -1.14% from baseline				
							After Liraglutide 1.2 mg: estimated change -1.36% from baseline				
				· Female: 44.7%	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day. (pts number 233)		After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: estimated change -1.45% from baseline				
				Mean(SD): 7.5 ± 5.5 Years	· Glimepiride: 4 mg/day (pts number 231)		After Glimepiride 4 mg: estimated change -1.39% from baseline				
							2. SBP:				
				· Mean(SD)Age: 53.3 ± 9.5 years			In Liraglutide groups: -3 mmHg ↓ from baseline				
		In Glimepiride group: -0.91 mmHg ↓ from baseline									
		3. GI events:									
		GI events (diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting) are most frequently reported in Liraglutide groups than in Glimepiride group.									
39	Zang et al. [59]	RCT Multicenter open-label China	26 weeks	· 368 Pts	· Liraglutide: 1.8 mg/day (pts number 184)	metformin monotherapy	1. HbA1c:				
				Male: 59.6%			Before: baseline 8.4-8.5%				
				Female: 40.4%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.51% from baseline				
				· T2D duration:			After Sitagliptin: estimated change -0.88% ↓ from baseline.				
							2. SBP:				
							After Liraglutide: -4.31 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
							After Sitagliptin: -2.76 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
								3. GI events:			
								Number of patients reporting GI events in each group:			
									Liraglutide 1.8 mg	Sitagliptin	
		Nausea	27	1							
		Diarrhea	15	4							
		Lipase increased	11	8							
		Decreased appetite	20	1							
40	Zinman et al. [60] LEAD4	RCT Multicenter Multinational Double-blind	26 weeks	· 533 Pts randomized	Liraglutide 1.2 mg/day (pts number 178)	metformin (1 g twice daily)	1. HbA1c:				
				· 407 Pts completed	Liraglutide 1.8 mg/day (pts number 178)		Before: mean SD 8.6 ± 1.0%				
				Male: 56.6%			After Liraglutide: estimated change -1.1 from baseline.				
				Female: 43.4%	· T2D duration: Mean(SD): 9 ± 6 Years		After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: estimated change -1.1 from baseline.				
				After Placebo: estimated change -0.8 from baseline.							
				· Mean(SD) Age: 55 ± 10 Years	Placebo: (pts number 177)		2. SBP:				
							After Liraglutide: -6.7 ± 1.1 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
							After Liraglutide 1.8 mg: -5.6 ± 1.1 mmHg ↓ from baseline.				
		After Placebo: -1.1 ± 1.2 mmHg ↓ from baseline.									
		3. GI events:									
		GI events (diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting) are most frequently reported in Liraglutide groups than in placebo. It was reported by 45% in 1.2 mg Liraglutide, 56% in 1.8mg Liraglutide and 19% in Placebo.									

that higher doses of Liraglutide are more effective in lowering HbA1c levels. Scott [64] states that Liraglutide is dose-dependent when it comes to reducing HbA1c levels, postprandial plasma glucose levels, and fasting plasma glucose, and that it improves glucose levels over a 24 h dosage interval.

Based on the results of the included studies, Liraglutide is proven to be effective in lowering HbA1c levels as a monotherapy or as adjunct treatments to other oral antidiabetes agents or insulin.

Liraglutide was assessed as a monotherapy in 7 trials (10, 11, 12, 19, 23, 35 and 37). In study (10), Liraglutide showed a greater reduction in HbA1c level compared to metformin while in study (35), there was no significant difference between them, with the estimated mean changes in HbA1c level being -0.80% for Liraglutide and -0.95% for Metformin. However, in both trials (10, 35), the maximum Liraglutide dose used was less than 1 mg/day. In addition, when comparing Liraglutide to Dulaglutide (23), there was no significant difference between them as the estimated change in HbA1c level after 26 weeks was -1.33% for Liraglutide and -1.43% for Dulaglutide. Studies (11, 12, and 19), showed that Liraglutide monotherapy reduces HbA1c significantly more than Glimpiride monotherapy and more than a placebo (37). 12 studies (3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20, 29, 31, 32 and 33) assessed Liraglutide's efficacy as an adjunct treatment to different oral antidiabetes drugs, such as sulphonylureas, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor, and metformin. The results of these studies showed a significant reduction in HbA1c levels among Liraglutide groups. In addition, Liraglutide was given together with insulin therapy as a background treatment in some studies (1, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 34, and 36). These studies showed a significant reduction in HbA1c levels, with the mean estimated changes ranging from 0.65% to 1.9% from the baseline. Another 12 studies (2, 5, 6, 8, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 38, 39, and 40) assessed Liraglutide's efficacy as an adjunct treatments to metformin, with metformin being the background treatment in both the Liraglutide and control groups. When Liraglutide was compared to Liraglutide plus insulin therapy, both arms in combination with metformin (2, 6, and 30), Liraglutide plus insulin therapy was more effective than Liraglutide, with the estimated mean changes in HbA1c levels in these studies (2, 6, and 30) for Liraglutide and Liraglutide plus insulin therapy being -0.16% and -1.04%, +0.02% and -0.51% and no change and -0.45%, respectively. In addition, in study (8), Dulaglutide was more effective than Liraglutide (both with metformin), with the estimated mean changes in HbA1c being -1.42% and -1.36%, respectively. However, Liraglutide was superior to Glimpiride (24 and 38), Lixisenatide (25), and the placebo (40) when both arms were given in combination with metformin, with a significant reduction in HbA1c levels in the Liraglutide groups and the mean estimated changing from -1.0% to -1.8% from the baseline in these studies. In studies (5, 27, 28, and 39), Liraglutide was superior to Sitagliptin when both were given in combination with metformin, with a significant reduction in HbA1c levels in the Liraglutide groups. The estimated mean changes in HbA1c levels in the Liraglutide groups in these studies were -1.4%, -1.50%, and -1.51 respectively.

The efficacy of Liraglutide on HbA1c has also been proven in observational studies. Kesavadev et al. [65] carried out a prospective, open label, single arm, and single centre observational study over 24 weeks to assess the efficacy 1.8 mg of Liraglutide in 195 Indian patients with type 2 diabetes. The study results showed a reduction in HbA1c level from 8.14% to 6.96% at week 24, with 49.23% of the treated patients reaching HbA1c <7.0% and 41.03% reaching HbA1c ≤ 6.5%.

In addition, Feher et al. [66] performed a real-world observational study to assess the efficacy of Liraglutide compared to Lixisenatide by utilizing The Health Improvement Network Database, which includes electronic medical records for over 13 million patients in the United Kingdom. They assessed 579 patients using Liraglutide and 213 patients using Lixisenatide, all with type 2 diabetes and aged over 18 years old, and it was found that Liraglutide decreases HbA1c levels significantly more than Lixisenatide and that patients are more likely to achieve their target HbA1c level with Liraglutide.

Theme 2: Liraglutide and SBP

The overall results of the included studies that measured SBP showed a significant reduction in SBP. However, the included studies did not assess SBP as a primary end point. In studies comparing Liraglutide to GLP-1 receptors agents, Liraglutide was not always better at reducing SBP. As GLP-1 receptors agents are known to be associated with lowering SBP ≈2 mmHg [67]. Study (8) compared Liraglutide with Dulaglutide and the results were -2.82 mmHg decreased from the baseline with Liraglutide and -3.36 mmHg decreased from the baseline with Dulaglutide. However, in study (23), the significant reduction of Liraglutide was more than that of Dulaglutide at -2.10 mmHg and -0.62 mmHg, respectively.

Also, when Liraglutide was compared to Semaglutide (26), Semaglutide was superior in reducing SBP but without a significant difference (-6.2 mmHg from the baseline with Semaglutide and -5.7 mmHg with Liraglutide). The results of studies (22 and 25), showed a superior significant reduction in SBP with Liraglutide compared to Lixisenatide. This is also supported by an observational study comparing Liraglutide and Lixisenatide. In this observational study, the reduction of SBP was greater in the Liraglutide group than the Lixisenatide one, but the results were not significantly different [66].

The efficacy of Liraglutide on SBP was also proven in a real-world observational study that found that mean SBP reduced from 129.31 mmHg to 119.59 mmHg [65]. The efficacy of Liraglutide in reducing SBP is agreed on by many studies and reviews [34,46,64,68]. However, a recent analysis study they suggests that this blood pressure reduction effect is more likely to happen in patients with better glycemic control while patients with higher HbA1c are more likely to respond with glycemic control improvement [69-74]. Therefore, treatment based on individualized evaluation is encouraged.

Theme 3: Liraglutide and GI disturbances

It is known that Liraglutide can cause different types of GI disturbance as in all included studies the percentage of patients who experienced GI events varied from low to high percentages. These adverse GI events, especially nausea, are not only seen with Liraglutide but with all GLP-1 receptor agonist agents and one possible cause is the delayed gastric emptying effect of GLP-1 receptors [75-82]. The results of the included studies that compared Liraglutide to a placebo, OAD medications, and insulin showed a higher rate of patients reporting GI events among the Liraglutide groups. Contrastingly, in the studies that compare Liraglutide to GLP-1 receptor agents such as Exenatide, Dulaglutide, Lixisenatide, and Semaglutide, the number of patients reporting GI events tends to be high in both groups [82-88].

Although GI disturbances are frequently reported with Liraglutide, it appears to be dose dependent and transient [46,64,75,89-95]. Less cases of GI events were reported in the trials that used a small doses of Liraglutide. For example, in study (10), Liraglutide was given in 5 arms and the given doses were between 0.045 mg to 0.75 mg for 176

patients and nausea was reported by 7 patients and vomiting by only 4 patients. The same situation occurred in study (19), which compared 135 patients, with 10 of them reporting nausea, 5 reporting diarrhea, 3 reporting vomiting, and 3 reporting constipation.

It is noticeable that in the studies that initiated a run-in period of about 12 weeks prior to randomization (2, 6, and 30), the rate of reported GI events was less than in the other studies. This is due to dose titration and the transient GI effects of Liraglutide. Most of the included studies indicate that the GI disturbances are transient in nature and resolved within the first four to eight weeks of Liraglutide initiation. Also, to minimize the GI side effects, starting with a small dose and gradually increasing the dose is recommended [46,75,96-103].

Conclusion

Liraglutide is effective in lowering HbA1c levels and maintaining it within the normal range. Liraglutide as a monotherapy or in a combination with other diabetes treatment showed a significant reduction in HbA1c levels in most of the included studies. Liraglutide was superior to placebo, metformin, sitagliptin, glimepiride, rosiglitazone, exenatide, lixisenatide and albiglutide at HbA1c reduction.

Furthermore, beside glycemic control, Liraglutide could lead to significant reduction in systolic blood pressure, which can reach up to -7.0 mmHg. The gastrointestinal adverse events mostly nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, were also common with Liraglutide use, which can affect the continuity of treatment. However, based on the included studies, these GI disturbances are transient in nature and can be resolved within 4 to 8 weeks of Liraglutide initiation.

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