






## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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# Tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg compared with semaglutide 2.4 mg for the treatment of obesity: An indirect treatment comparison

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## Funding information

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## Abstract

**Aim:** To compare the efficacy of tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg with semaglutide 2.4 mg using an indirect treatment comparison.

**Materials and Methods:** Using SURMOUNT-1 and STEP 1 trial data, mean percentage change in body weight from baseline and odds ratio (OR) of achieving 5% or greater weight loss were compared between tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg at week 72 and semaglutide 2.4 mg at week 68 using matching-adjusted indirect comparison of the efficacy estimand. Sensitivity analyses were completed using different methods, including the Bucher method, also using different estimands and/or time points.

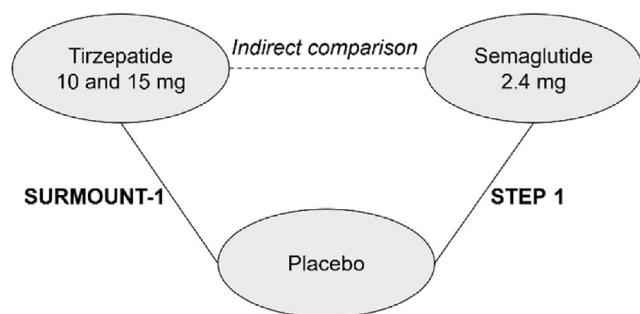
**Results:** Greater reductions in percentage change in body weight were observed with tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg versus semaglutide 2.4 mg (tirzepatide 10 mg mean difference: −4.67% [95% CI −5.91%, −3.43%]; tirzepatide 15 mg mean difference: −5.92% [95% CI −7.16%, −4.68%]; both  $P < .001$ ). Similarly, more participants achieved 5% or greater weight loss with tirzepatide 10 mg (OR 2.61 [95% CI 1.48, 4.57];  $P < .001$ ) and 15 mg (OR 2.75 [95% CI 1.57, 4.81];  $P < .001$ ) compared with semaglutide 2.4 mg. All sensitivity analyses were consistent, except for an OR of achieving 5% or greater weight loss with tirzepatide 10 mg using the Bucher method to analyse the treatment regimen estimand ( $P = .074$ ).

**Conclusions:** Currently there are no direct comparisons of tirzepatide and semaglutide for weight management. Using the matching-adjusted indirect treatment comparison method to compare the efficacy of tirzepatide and semaglutide for chronic weight management, this analysis showed greater weight loss with tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg versus semaglutide 2.4 mg.

## KEYWORDS

incretin-based therapies, obesity, semaglutide, tirzepatide, weight loss





**FIGURE 1** Matching-adjusted indirect treatment comparison of tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg versus semaglutide 2.4 mg using placebo as the common comparator

### 2.1.1 | Study and participant characteristics

Study characteristics and key inclusion criteria of the SURMOUNT-1 and STEP 1 trials are detailed in Table 1. Both trials were double-blind, parallel-group, randomized, placebo-controlled, phase 3, multinational trials with the same key inclusion criteria of a body mass index (BMI) of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or greater, or a BMI of 27 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or greater with at least one weight-related complication, excluding diabetes.<sup>4,6</sup> In SURMOUNT-1 and STEP 1, background therapy to the treatment and placebo arms involved lifestyle interventions, including regular lifestyle counselling sessions, a deficit of 500 calories per day and at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week. There was a difference between the studies regarding the timing of the primary endpoint (72 vs. 68 weeks for SURMOUNT-1 and STEP 1, respectively) (Table 2). The titration of tirzepatide to 15 mg per week was 4 weeks longer than the titration to semaglutide 2.4 mg per week. For the primary analyses, the endpoints were compared at these two time points, consistent with the primary endpoints for these studies.

Primary outcomes were based on the efficacy estimand (referred to as the ‘trial product estimand’ in the STEP programme). The efficacy estimand represented the average treatment effect of tirzepatide relative to placebo for all participants who had undergone randomization, if the treatment was administered as intended (according to the hypothetical strategy in the ICH E9 [R1] addendum14). For continuous outcomes, the relative treatment effect was evaluated with the mean difference. For binary outcomes, the relative treatment effect was evaluated with the odds ratio (OR).

MAIC was performed using R version 4.1.2.

## 2.2 | Outcomes

The co-primary endpoints were the percentage change in body weight from baseline to week 72 (SURMOUNT-1) or week 68 (STEP 1) and the percentage of participants achieving at least 5% weight reduction at week 72 (SURMOUNT-1) or week 68 (STEP 1). The predetermined primary outcomes for SURMOUNT-1 were with tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg; the outcomes of the 5 mg dose were considered secondary endpoints. The co-primary endpoints were controlled for type 1 error rate in both trials. Mean treatment difference (95% CI) and OR (95% CI) are reported.

**TABLE 2** Overview of the study characteristics and key inclusion criteria of the SURMOUNT-1 and STEP 1 trials

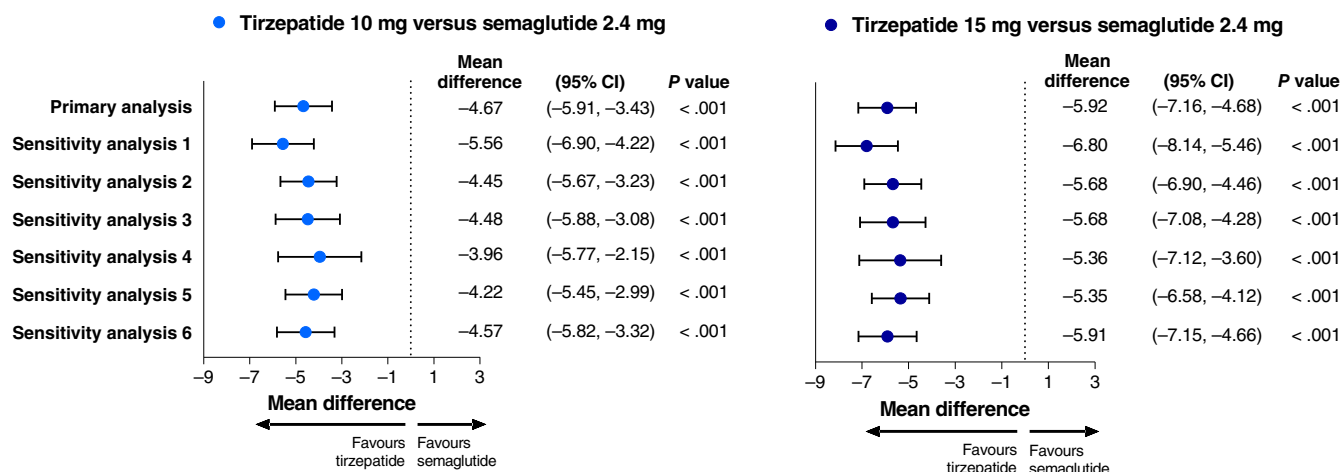
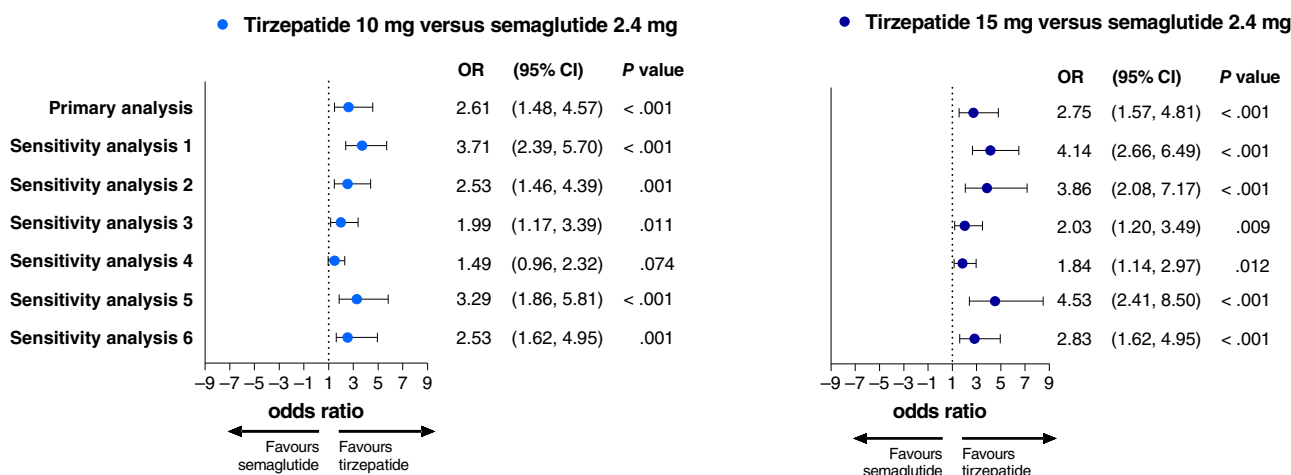
Trial name	SURMOUNT-1	STEP 1
Study design	Double-blind, parallel-group, randomized, placebo-controlled, phase 3, multinational	Double-blind, parallel-group, randomized, placebo-controlled, phase 3, multinational
Key inclusion criteria	BMI $\geq 30$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> or BMI $\geq 27$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> with $\geq 1$ weight-related complication, excluding diabetes	BMI $\geq 30$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> or BMI $\geq 27$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> with $\geq 1$ weight-related complication, excluding diabetes
Time of primary endpoint	72 wk	68 wk
Randomized treatment	Tirzepatide 5, 10 and 15 mg	Semaglutide 2.4 mg
No. of randomized patients (ratio)	2539 (1:1:1:1)	1961 (2:1)
Key regions of enrolment	United States, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil	United States, France, Germany, India, UK
Time of study conduct	2019-2022	2018-2021
Co-primary endpoint	Percentage change in body weight from baseline to week 72 and a weight reduction of 5% or more at week 72 for 10- and 15-mg doses	Percentage change in body weight from baseline to week 68 and a weight reduction of 5% or more at week 68

Abbreviation: BMI, body mass index.

## 2.3 | Sensitivity analysis

Six different sensitivity analyses were conducted to assess the robustness of the findings of the primary analysis, as detailed in Table 3. The efficacy estimand was the base case, whereas the treatment regimen estimand was specifically evaluated in two sensitivity analyses. The treatment regimen estimand (termed ‘treatment policy estimand’ in STEP 1) assessed the average treatment effect of tirzepatide relative to placebo for all participants who had undergone randomization, regardless of treatment discontinuation. Week 72 (SURMOUNT-1) and week 68 (STEP 1) time points were the base case and other time points were specifically evaluated in some sensitivity analyses. As with the primary analysis, sensitivity analyses 1 and 2 were conducted with the MAIC method. Sensitivity analysis 1 used the treatment regimen estimand, while sensitivity analysis 2 compared 68-week data from SURMOUNT-1 with 68-week data for STEP 1. To test the robustness of the primary analysis and sensitivity analyses 1 and 2, sensitivity analyses 3, 4 and 5 were conducted using the Bucher method,<sup>12</sup> where the relative treatment effect was directly calculated with the aggregate data. Sensitivity analyses 3 and 5 used



**(A) Percentage change in body weight****(B)  $\geq 5\%$  body weight reduction from baseline**

**FIGURE 2** Indirect treatment comparison of tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg versus semaglutide 2.4 mg in the change from baseline in A, Percentage change in body weight, and B,  $\geq 5\%$  body weight reduction from baseline at endpoint. Primary and sensitivity analyses

## 4 | DISCUSSION

Semaglutide 2.4 mg and tirzepatide represent new classes of antiobesity medications with powerful efficacy, with weight loss of 15% or greater.<sup>13</sup> This is the first comparison of tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg with semaglutide 2.4 mg on percentage change in body weight and participants achieving 5% or greater reduction in body weight from baseline in patients with obesity and overweight and no diabetes. Across analyses, additional weight reduction of 4.0%-5.6% and 5.4%-6.8% was observed for tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg, respectively, compared with semaglutide 2.4 mg. Consistent with this, participants were more probable to achieve 5% or greater body weight loss with either tirzepatide 10 or 15 mg than semaglutide 2.4 mg. In the absence of a head-to-head trial, data on comparative efficacy can help providers make relevant clinical decisions to support individualized care once tirzepatide is approved for chronic weight management<sup>14</sup> and inform pharmacoeconomic assessments.

Intentional weight loss has been shown to improve clinical outcomes in people with obesity and additional benefits are observed with greater weight loss. For example, sustained weight loss ranging from 5% to 16% can result in clinically meaningful improvements in metabolic health and weight-related complications, such as cardiovascular risk factors as well as quality of life, depression, genitourinary function and fertility, among others.<sup>15,16</sup> Given the relationship between weight loss magnitude and clinical outcomes benefit, it could be expected that the difference in the magnitude of weight loss observed for semaglutide 2.4 mg (16.9%) and tirzepatide 15 mg (20.9%) in their respective clinical trials could result in differential clinical benefits, although this will require future research. In this ITC, the magnitude of difference in body weight reduction was 4.7% and 5.9% with tirzepatide 10 and 15 mg, respectively, compared with semaglutide 2.4 mg. The best evidence for the impact of weight loss on mortality and long-term outcomes will come from appropriately powered randomized controlled trials.





during the trial, after anonymization, with the exception of pharmacokinetic or genetic data. Data are available to request 6 months after the indication studied has been approved in the United States and European Union and after primary publication acceptance, whichever is later. No expiration date of data requests is currently set once data are made available. Access is provided after a proposal has been approved by an independent review committee identified for this purpose and after receipt of a signed data-sharing agreement. Data and documents, including the study protocol, statistical analysis plan, clinical study report, and blank or annotated case report forms, will be provided in a secure data-sharing environment. For details on submitting a request, see the instructions provided at [www.vivli.org](http://www.vivli.org). Open access funding provided by IReL.

## FUNDING INFORMATION

Eli Lilly and Company.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

SW reports receiving honoraria and travel expenses and has participated in academic advisory boards for Novo Nordisk, Bausch Health, Eli Lilly and Janssen. SW is also the medical director of a medical clinic specializing in weight management and diabetes. CWIR reports grants from the Irish Research Council, Science Foundation Ireland, Anabio and the Health Research Board. He serves on advisory boards of Novo Nordisk, Herbalife, GI Dynamics, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, Glia, Keyron and Boehringer Ingelheim. CWIR is a member of the Irish Society for Nutrition and Metabolism outside the area of work commented on here. ERH, RM, MY, AH, HK, MCB, AS and L-EG-P are employees and shareholders of Eli Lilly and Company. DW is a previous employee and shareholder of Eli Lilly and Company.

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## PEER REVIEW

The peer review history for this article is available at <https://www.webofscience.com/api/gateway/wos/peer-review/10.1111/dom.15148>.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Eli Lilly and Company provides access to all individual participant data collected during the trial, after anonymization, with the exception of pharmacokinetic or genetic data. Data are available to request 6 months after the indication studied has been approved in the US and EU and after primary publication acceptance, whichever is later. No expiration date of data requests is currently set once data are made available. Access is provided after a proposal has been approved by an independent review committee identified for this purpose and

after receipt of a signed data sharing agreement. Data and documents, including the study protocol, statistical analysis plan, clinical study report, blank or annotated case report forms, will be provided in a secure data sharing environment. For details on submitting a request, see the instructions provided at [www.vivli.org](http://www.vivli.org).

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

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