

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Diabetes

Manuscript NO: 59633

Title: Novel glucose-lowering drugs for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

Reviewer's code: 00037577

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BM BCh, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Australia

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: Chen-Chen Gao

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-10-13 21:36

Reviewer performed review: 2020-10-13 21:47

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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This systematic review and meta-analysis indicates that DPP4 inhibitors, GLP-1RAs, and SGLT2 inhibitors all improved ALT and/or AST and reduced liver fat in NAFLD patients. In the Abstract, the authors state that the difference between GLP-1RAs and SGLT2 inhibitors in ALT change was significant in favour of GLP-1RAs, but in the Results section they say the difference was not significant – please reconcile this inconsistency. The limitations of the available data need further discussion. While ALT and AST changes were the primary outcome measure, these are only really indirect endpoints. A more important endpoint is differences in the rate of progression of fibrosis or the emergence of cirrhosis. Similarly, all the trials are relatively short in duration compared to the timescale of progression of NAFLD; this represents a major limitation. It would be interesting to see some analysis of how closely the changes in ALT or liver fat are related to the loss in body weight associated with these drug classes – ie. are the benefits for NAFLD in proportion, or out of proportion, to their propensity to induce weight loss? The authors talk about a “decrease in ALT change” in the Abstract and the Results section. What they mean is a “decrease in ALT”. Similarly, although the manuscript is accompanied by an English Editing Certificate, there are a number of errors of English expression, particularly in the area of singulars vs plurals and in the use of the definite and indefinite article. There also seems to be a typo where we are told that “two independent investigators (XXX and XXX) conducted systematic searches”.