

Abstract

Assessing Health Care Professionals' Knowledge and Confidence of Semaglutide Use in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes

Purpose: Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RA) are a commonly used medication class in management in type 2 diabetes mellitus. Semaglutide and dulaglutide are the only GLP-1 RA with the association of increased rates of retinopathy complications versus placebo shown in prospective, randomized clinical trials. This study was designed to provide education to health care professionals, specifically targeting the gap found in understanding the use of semaglutide in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Methods: The study was designed using a survey given before and after an educational video about GLP-1 RA and diabetic retinopathy. Participation was anonymous, and all participants were members of the Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES). The survey consisted of demographic questions, and used knowledge and confidence questions regarding GLP-1 RA and the association of worsening diabetic retinopathy complications. The primary outcome was to assess health care professionals' baseline knowledge and confidence of semaglutide use in patients with type 2 diabetes. The secondary outcome was to assess the impact of GLP-1 RA medical detailing intervention on health care professionals' knowledge and confidence of use in patients with type 2 diabetes.

Results: A total of 26 and 18 ADCES members completed the pre-survey and post-survey respectively. More participants correctly answered each question in the post-survey as compared to the pre-survey. More participants reported feeling fairly confident for all questions in the confidence section of the survey.

Conclusion: Our study brought to light a lack of established, uniform guidance on the use of GLP-1 RA in patients with diabetes and diabetic retinopathy. This study aimed to highlight the need for more guidance and information regarding the use of GLP-1 RA and monitoring parameters involving diabetic retinopathy. The results of this study could provide increased awareness to the lack of direction in the area and prompt further studies to provide better care and improve patient outcomes.