Hed: GLP-1 Studies Show Potential to Reduce Brian Injury Complications and Prevent Strokes

Dek: Studies presented at the Society of Neurointerventional Surgery’s show links between GLP-1s and the prevention of strokes and reductions in brain injury complications.

3Key:

Three studies yielded results showing potential links to GLP-1’s and reduced risk of stroke and brain injuries.

Ozempic shows the ability to prevent strokes in patients.

GLP-1’s can help reduce side effects after strokes or brain hemorrhages.

Three studies presented at the 22nd annual Society of Neurointerventional Surgery’s meeting discussed developments using GLP-1 inhibitors to minimalize the impact of strokes and brain injuries. Medications used in the studies often lower blood sugar, lead to weight loss, and are prescribed to patients suffering from type 2 diabetes and obesity.

Ahmed Elbayomy, MD, the primary author of two study’s presented, research fellow, and data scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, spoke about the promising results from his tests. He said "More research is certainly needed, but seeing the potential protection offered by these medications is a fascinating finding." **(1)**

**Study Results**

“The Impact of Semaglutide (Ozempic) on Morality and Surivival in Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke: A Nationwide and Institutional Retrospective Analysis,” was the first study Elbayomy and his research team presented. Researchers used patient data from the university’s medical center and a global health collaborator to determine if patients using Ozempic reduce the severity of stroke symptoms compared to non-Ozempic users.

Over 2 million patients with experience of a stroke were used in the study, with roughly 44,000 actively using Ozempic. The study results suggest that Ozempic users were less likely to die due to a stroke compared to non-Ozempic users.

The University of Wisconsin-Madisons’ population apart of the study displayed that just 5.26% of Ozempic users died from a stroke, compared to the non-Ozempic users seeing a mortality rate of 26.57%. Similarly, the global health population results say survival rates of strokes are 77.5% for Ozempic users and just 30.95% to non-users.

In the universities’ second study “Association between Ozempic Use and Stroke Risk: A Nationwide Emergency Department Analysis," the sample size was increased to a national scale. The study employed emergency department records of stroke patients and potential Ozempic users. Correlations between potential Ozempic users and reduced chances of a stroke once again presented themselves. To clarify the study’s findings, researchers eager to develop a further understanding of the link between Ozempic use and reduced occurrence of strokes suggest an evaluation of pharmaceutical data to pinpoint the relationship.

The final study, "Impact Of GLP-1 Agonists on Stroke, SAH, and ICH: A Propensity-matched Multi-institutional Cohort Study," was presented by researchers in the University of Texas Medical Branch. This study focuses on GLP-1’s ability to improve patient outcomes for brain hemorrhages and strokes.

The study was conducted using patient records for six-to-twelve months post hemorrhage, and one-to-two years after strokes. This data unveiled that GLP-1 inhibitor use had connection to reduced risk of side effects including:

* Seizures
* Future brain hemorrhage
* Death after brain hemorrhage or stroke

Matias Costa, MD, from the Neurosurgery Department at the University of Texas Medical Branch and author of the third study spoke on the results, saying, "This research could introduce a new perspective to the discussion of preventing and mitigating the devastating effects of stroke and related brain injuries."

**Sources:**

1. Weight Loss Drugs Like Ozempic May Help Prevent Stroke and Reduce Brain Injury-Related Complications, Studies Show *Society of Neurointerventional Surgery* <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/weight-loss-drugs-like-ozempic-may-help-prevent-stroke-and-reduce-brain-injury-related-complications-studies-show-302507630.html>