

# The role of GLP-1 in weight management

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# Conflicts of interest

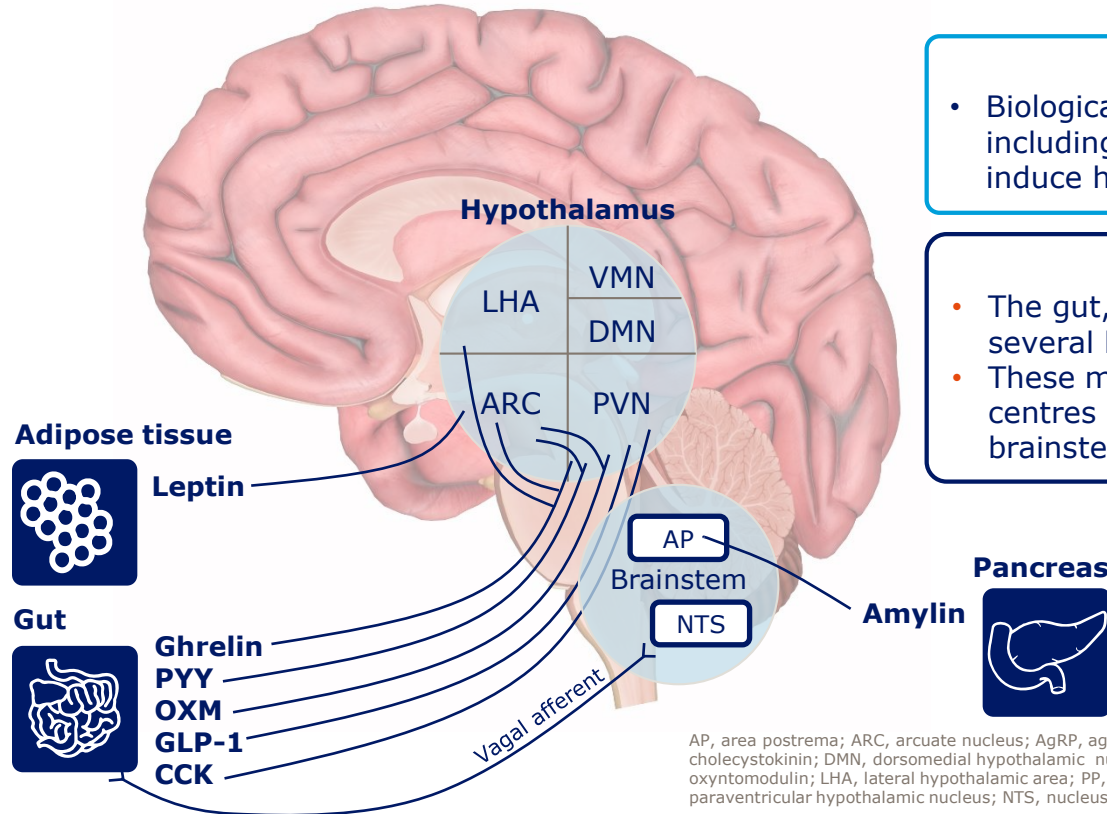
- I'm an employee of Novo Nordisk A/S
- I'm a shareholder in Novo Nordisk A/S

# Session outline

- Homeostatic and hedonic appetite regulation
- GLP-1 physiology
- GLP-1 effects on appetite regulation
- Liraglutide, a human GLP-1 analogue
- Liraglutide effects on appetite regulation and body weight
- Liraglutide in weight management
- Clinical perspectives



# Homeostatic regulation of appetite



## Homeostatic regulation

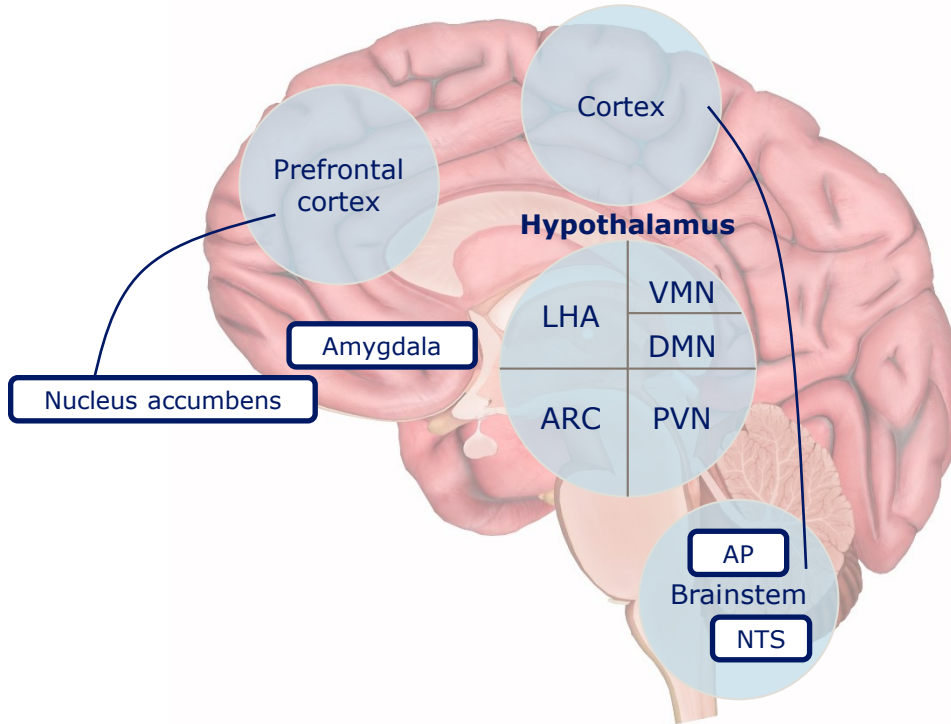
- Biological systems act to maintain body weight, including regulation via peptide hormones that can induce hunger/satiety

## Gut hormone system

- The gut, adipose tissue and pancreas produce several hormones that promote satiety or hunger
- These may influence central appetite control centres either directly via vagal afferents and the brainstem

AP, area postrema; ARC, arcuate nucleus; AgRP, agouti-related peptide; CART, cocaine and amphetamine regulated transcript; CCK, cholecystokinin; DMN, dorsomedial hypothalamic nucleus; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; NPY, neuropeptide Y; OXM, oxyntomodulin; LHA, lateral hypothalamic area; PP, pancreatic polypeptide; PYY, peptide-YY; POMC, pro-opiomelanocortin; PVN, paraventricular hypothalamic nucleus; NTS, nucleus tractus solitarius; VMN, ventromedial hypothalamic nucleus

# Hedonic regulation of appetite



## Hedonic regulation

- Reward of survival behaviours through pleasure
- Operates even in the presence of satiety signals
- Leads to food consumption beyond homeostatic need
- Link between hedonic attraction to food and obesity

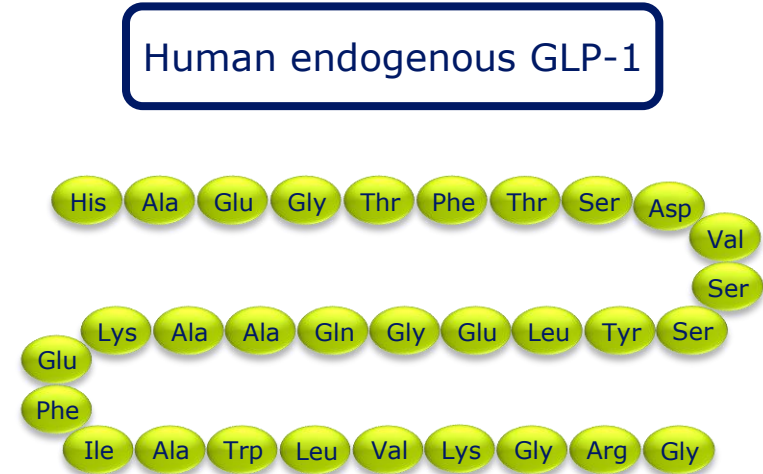
## Hedonic control systems

- Appetite is influenced by homeostatic (metabolic) and hedonic (pleasure, emotional) factors
- Hedonic appetite systems comprise external sensory information processing, reward processing, and cognition and executive functions
- Multiple different areas are involved including the amygdala and the cortex

AP, area postrema; ARC, arcuate nucleus; DMN, dorsomedial hypothalamic; LHA, lateral hypothalamic area; PVN, paraventricular hypothalamic nucleus; NTS, nucleus tractus solitarius; VMN, ventromedial hypothalamic nucleus

# What is GLP-1?

- GLP-1 is a peptide comprised of 31 amino acids
- Member of incretin family
- Secreted predominantly from L-cells in the gut, but also the brain (nucleus tractus solitarius)



Enzymatic degradation by DPP-4

$t_{1/2}$  = 1.5–2 min

DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1;  $t_{1/2}$ , half-life

# GLP-1 secretion and receptor expression

## GLP-1 is secreted by:

Neurons in  
hindbrain



L-cells of  
the gut



## GLP-1R is expressed in:



Brain



Lung



Heart (AV node)



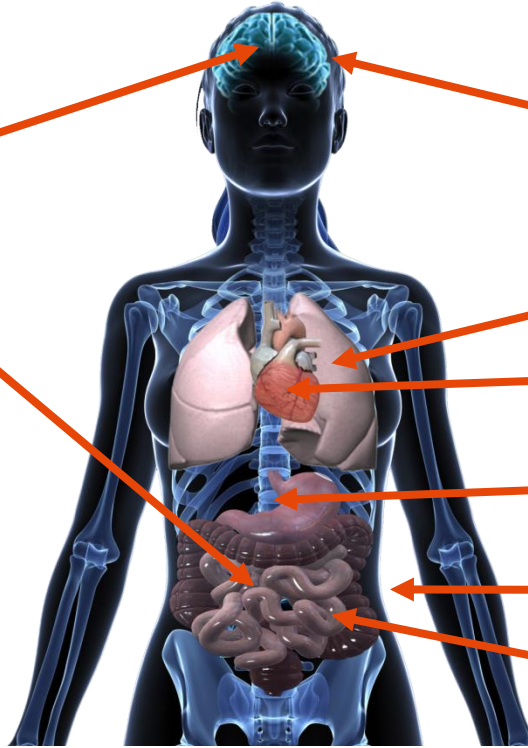
Pancreas



Kidney



GI tract



AV, atrioventricular; GI, gastrointestinal; GLP-1R, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor

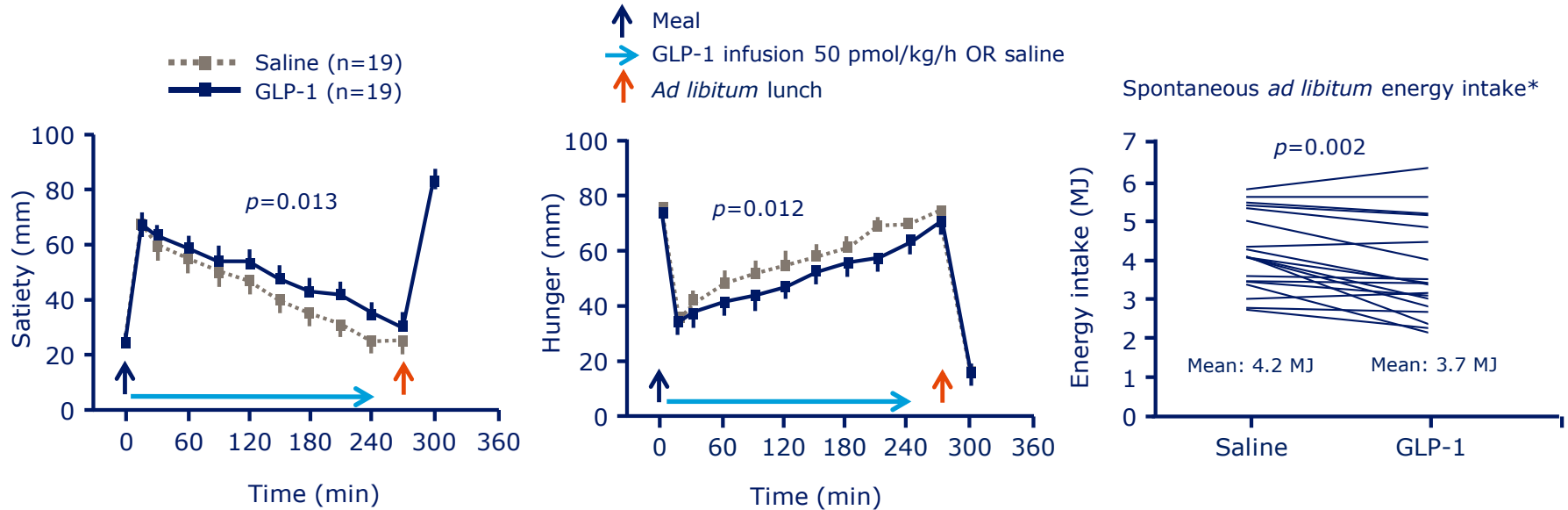
Merchenthaler *et al. J Comp Neurol* 1999;403:261–80; Baggio, Drucker. *Gastroenterology* 2007;132:2131–57; Ban *et al. Circulation* 2008;117:2340–50;

Vrang *et al. Prog Neurobiol* 2010;92:442–62; Pyke *et al. Endocrinology* 2014;155:1280–90

# GLP-1 increases satiety and reduces hunger

In normal weight subjects

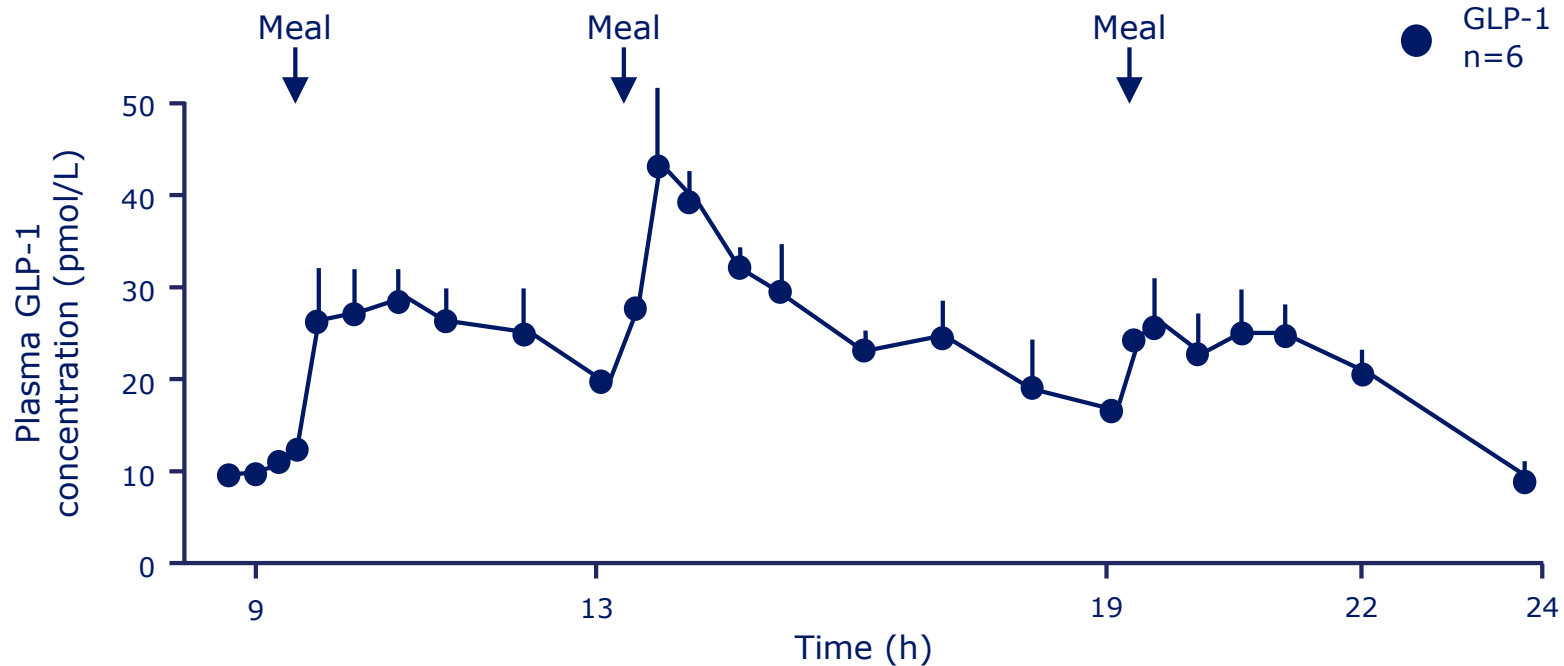
- Infusion increased plasma GLP-1 from 10 pmol/L to 60–90 pmol/L



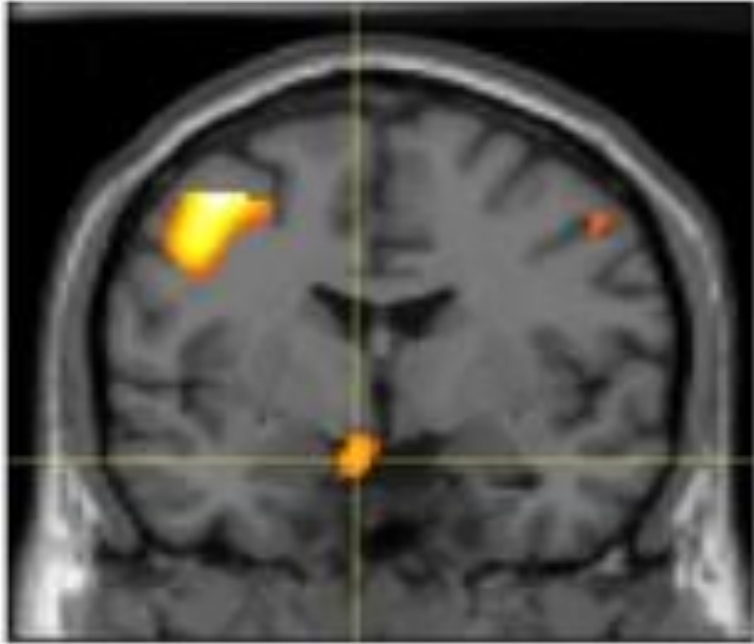
\*At an *ad libitum* lunch during GLP-1 or saline infusion in 19 healthy normal-weight male subjects. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM. GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; SEM, standard error of mean



# GLP-1 is released in response to food intake



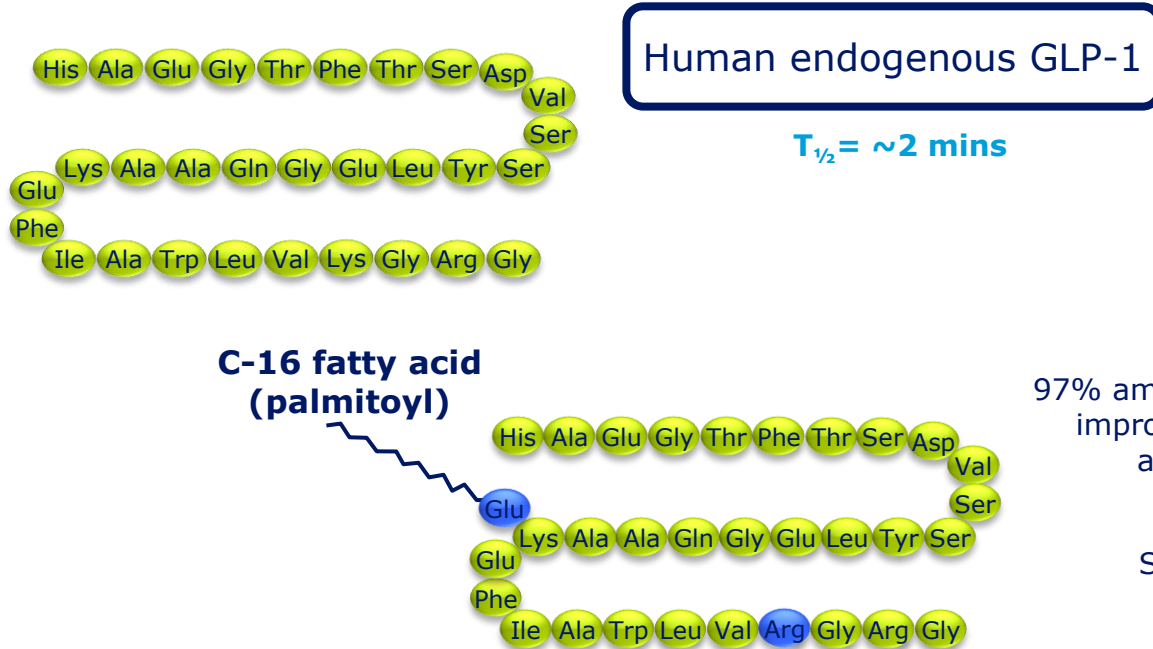
# GLP-1 activates areas of brain involved in appetite regulation



- The postprandial GLP-1 response is associated with activation of areas of the human implicated in regulation of appetite and food intake
- Peak postprandial increases in plasma GLP-1 concentrations are correlated with increases in regional cerebral blood flow in the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and the hypothalamus

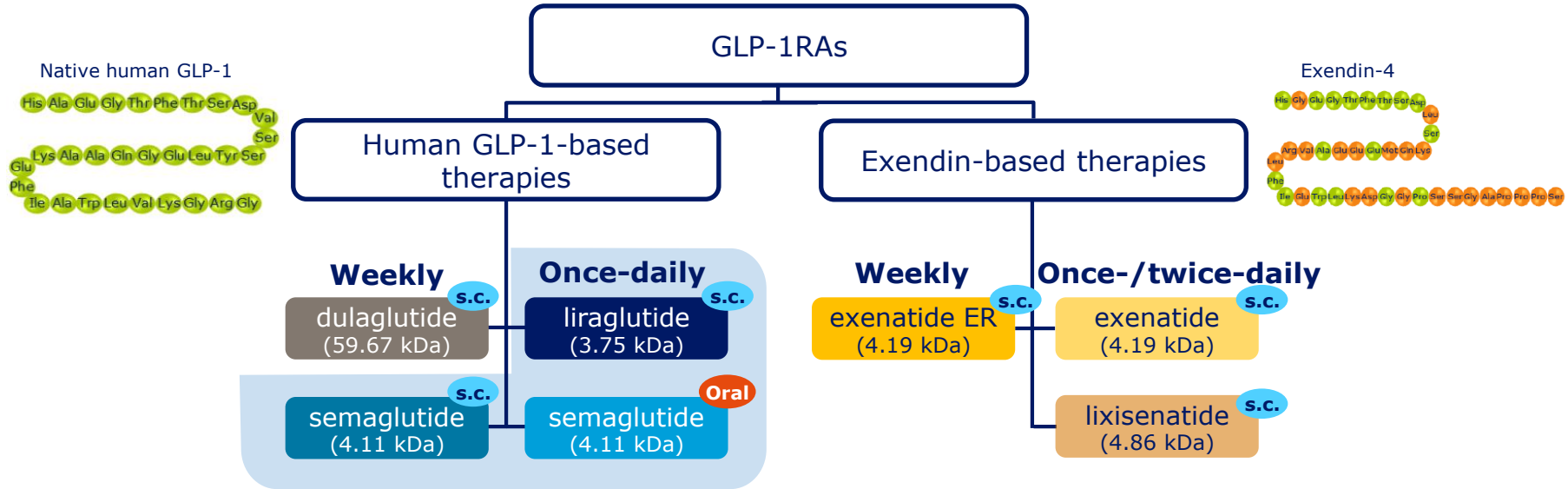
GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; PET, positron emission tomography

# Liraglutide is a once-daily, human GLP-1 analogue



DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; PK, pharmacokinetics;  $T_{1/2}$ , plasma half-life

# GLP-1RAs vary in molecular structure and size



ER, extended release; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; GLP-1RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; s.c., subcutaneous.

# GLP-1RAs have multifactorial effects

## Pharmacological effects of GLP-1RAs

### Pancreas

- ↑ Beta-cell function<sup>1</sup>
- ↓ Beta-cell apoptosis<sup>1</sup>
- ↑ Insulin biosynthesis<sup>1</sup>
- ↑ Glucose-dependent insulin secretion<sup>1</sup>
- ↓ Glucose-dependent glucagon secretion<sup>1</sup>

### Brain

- ↓ Body weight<sup>5</sup>
- ↓ Food intake<sup>6</sup>
- ↑ Satiety<sup>7,8</sup>

### Stomach

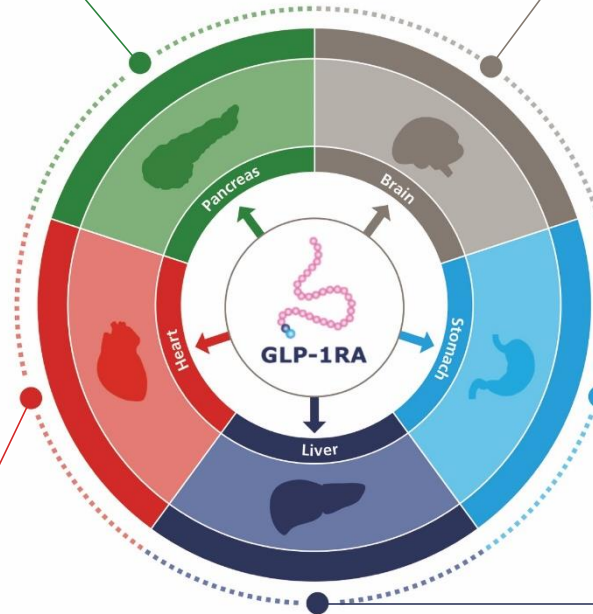
- ↓ Gastric emptying<sup>9</sup>

### Liver

- ↓ Endogenous glucose production<sup>10</sup>
- ↑ Hepatic insulin sensitivity<sup>10</sup>
- ↓ De novo lipogenesis<sup>10</sup>
- ↓ Lipotoxicity<sup>10</sup>
- ↓ Steatosis<sup>11</sup>

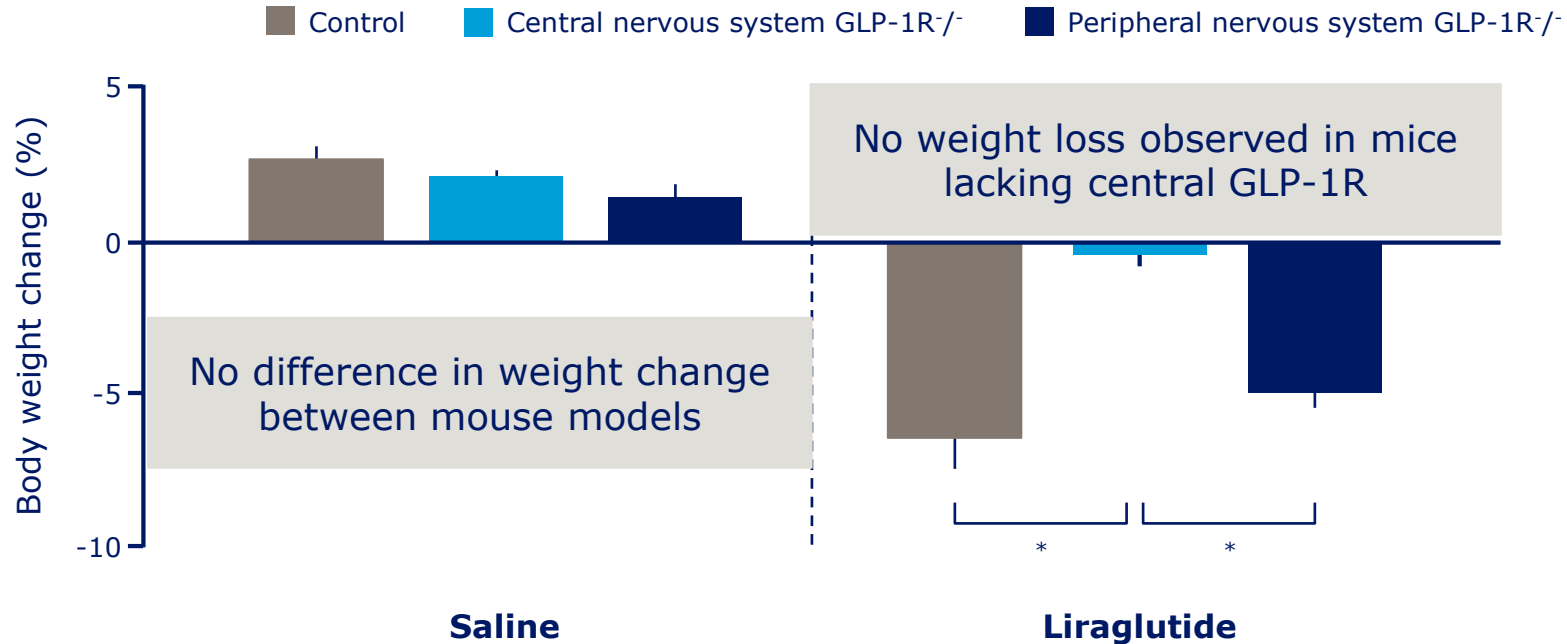
- ↓ Cardiovascular risk<sup>2</sup>
- ↓ Fatty acid metabolism<sup>3</sup>
- ↑ Cardiac function<sup>3</sup>
- ↓ Systolic blood pressure<sup>3</sup>
- ↓ Inflammation<sup>4</sup>

### Heart



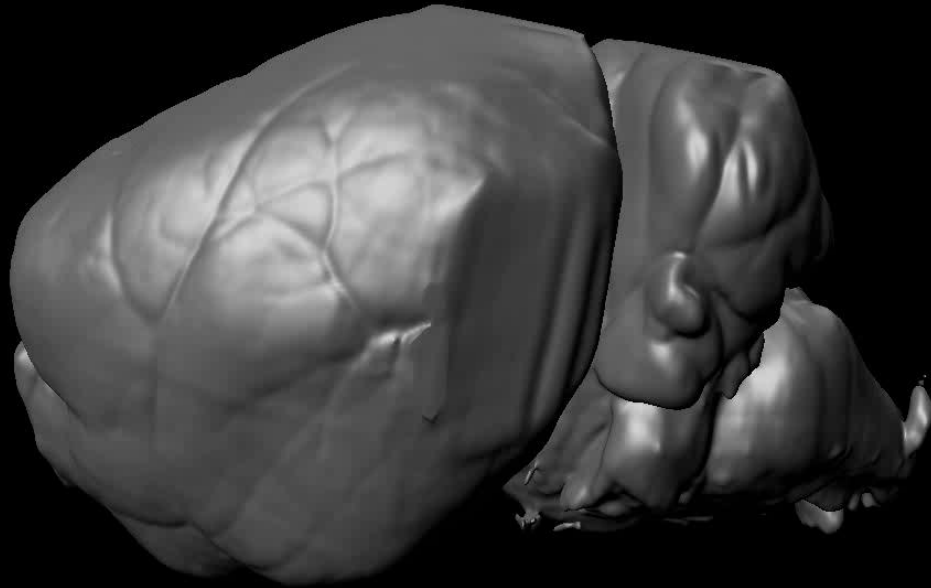
GLP-1RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist

# Central GLP-1 receptors mediate the weight lowering effects of liraglutide in mice



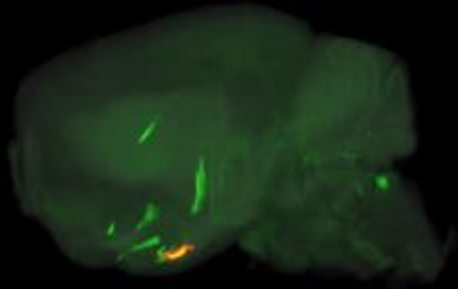
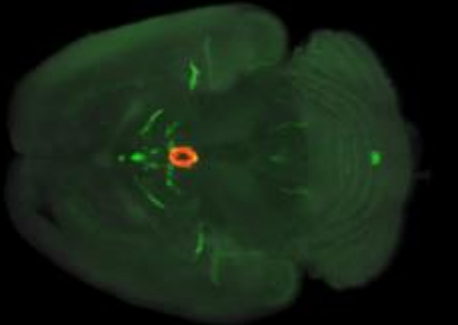
\*  $p < 0.05$ . GLP-1R, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor

# Liraglutide<sup>750</sup> was detectable in the mouse brain following peripheral administration

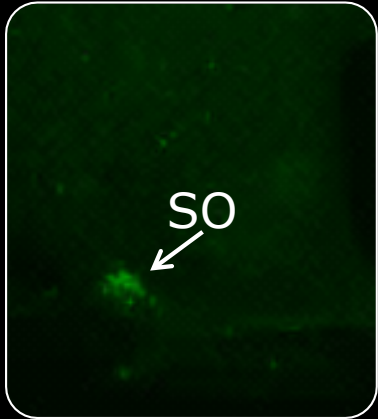


Peripheral (sc) injection of 120 nmol/kg <sup>fluoro</sup>liraglutide in mice for 4 days  
Liraglutide<sup>750</sup>

# Liraglutide<sup>750</sup> was detectable in multiple regions of the mouse brain



Liraglutide<sup>750</sup>

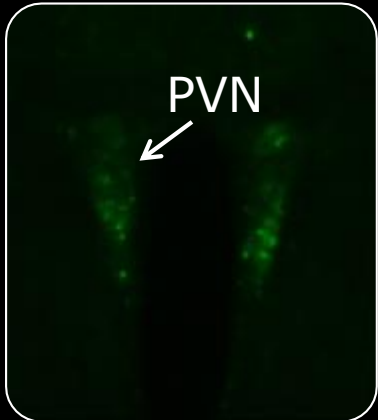


SO



SO

SOD



PVN



ME

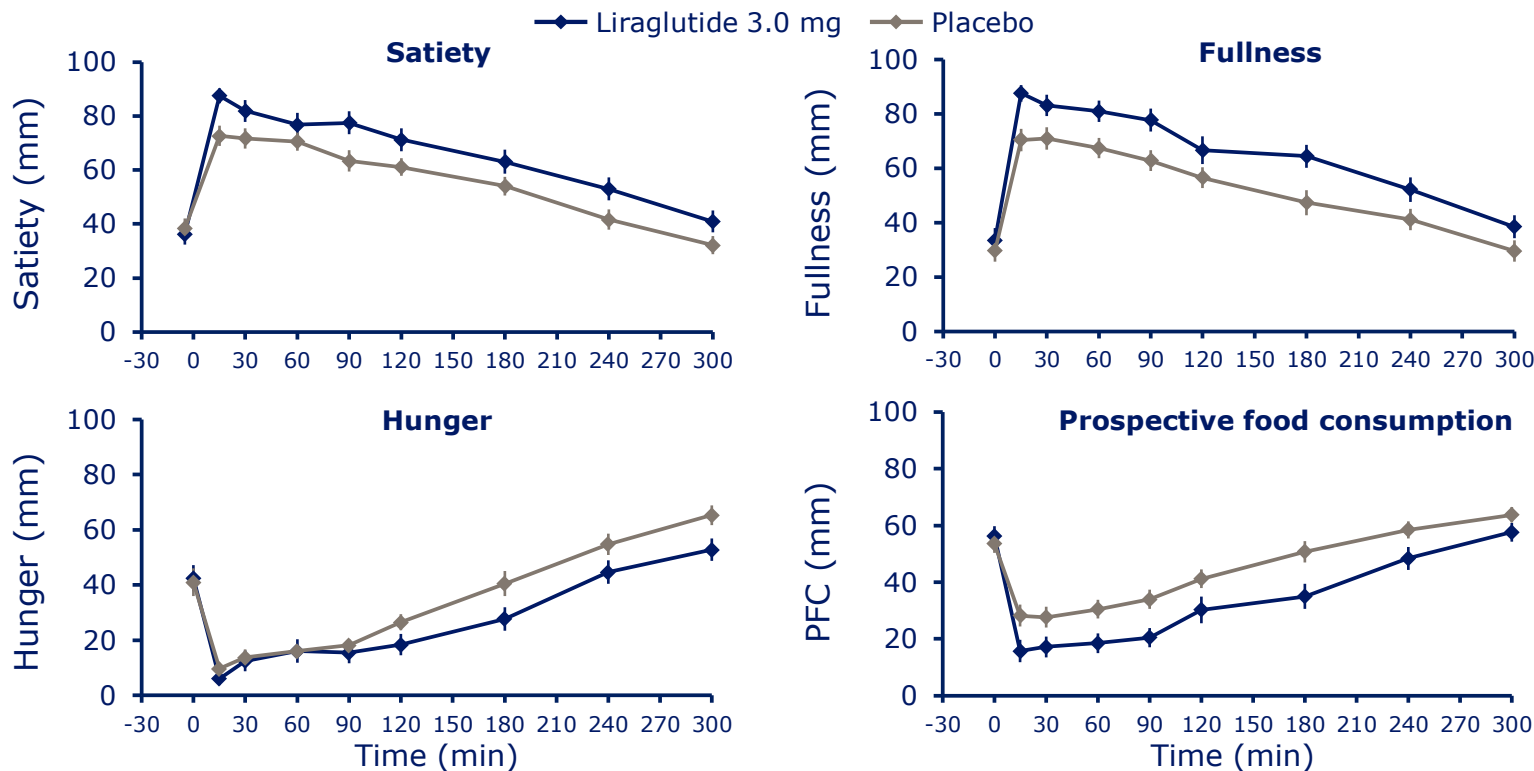
ARC

Liraglutide<sup>750</sup>  
6 hours



# Liraglutide 3.0 mg influences all dimensions of appetite

Individuals with obesity and without diabetes: After 5 weeks of treatment

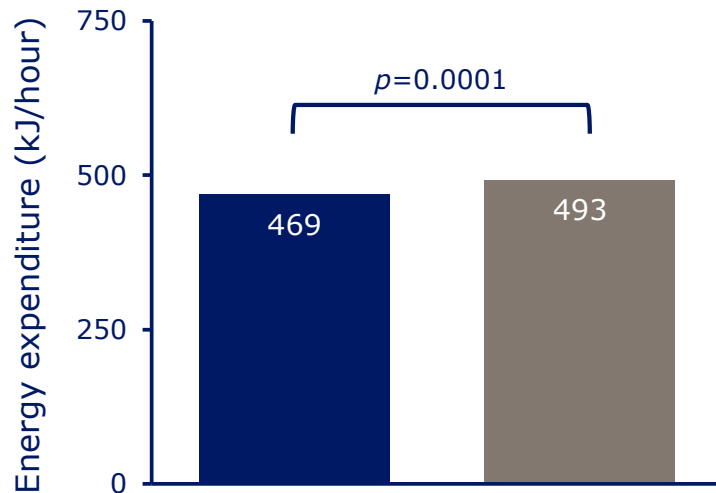
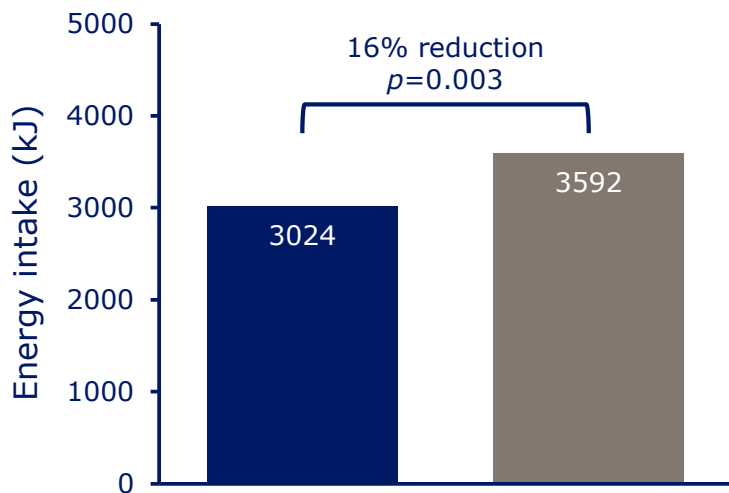


Appetite ratings were assessed by visual analog scale. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  standard error. PFC, prospective food consumption

# Liraglutide 3.0 mg reduces energy intake but does not increase energy expenditure

Individuals with obesity and without diabetes: After 5 weeks of treatment

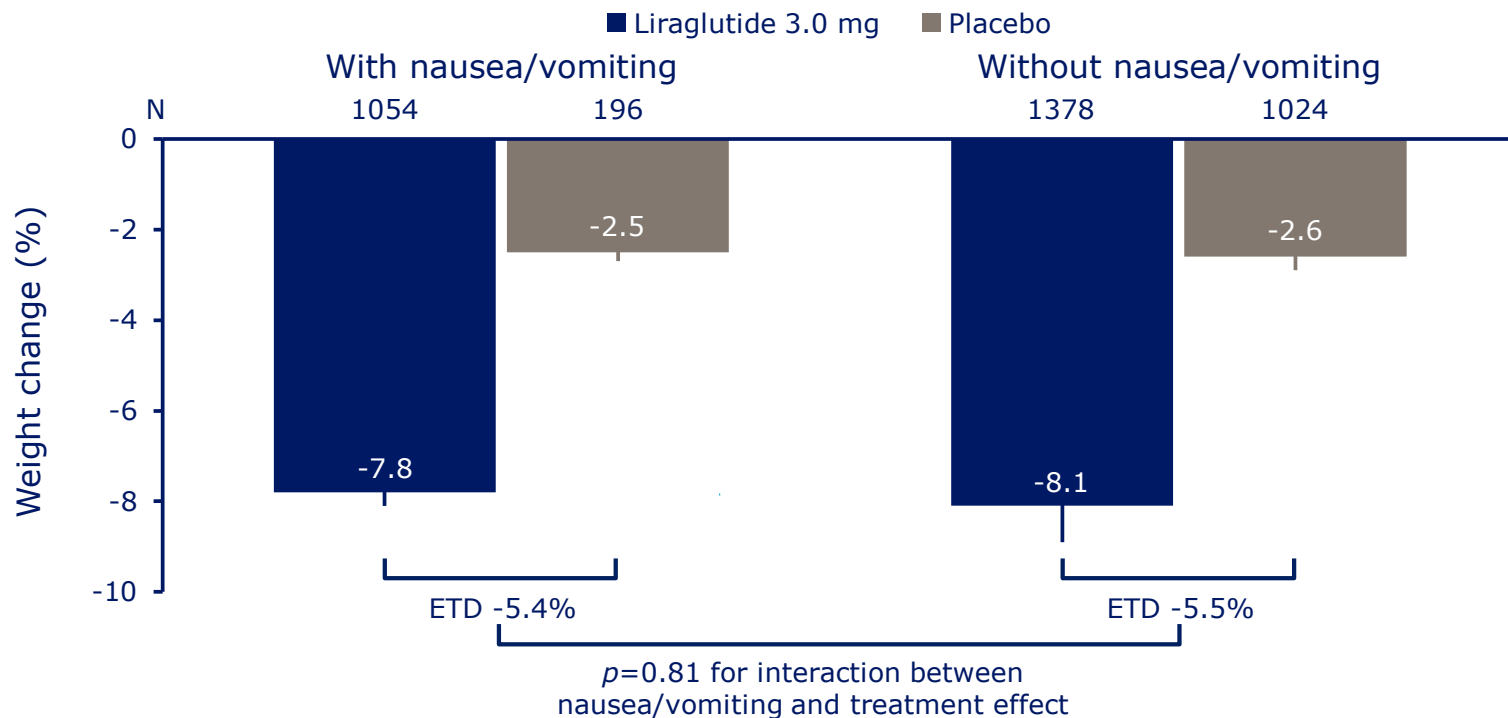
■ Liraglutide 3.0 mg ■ Placebo



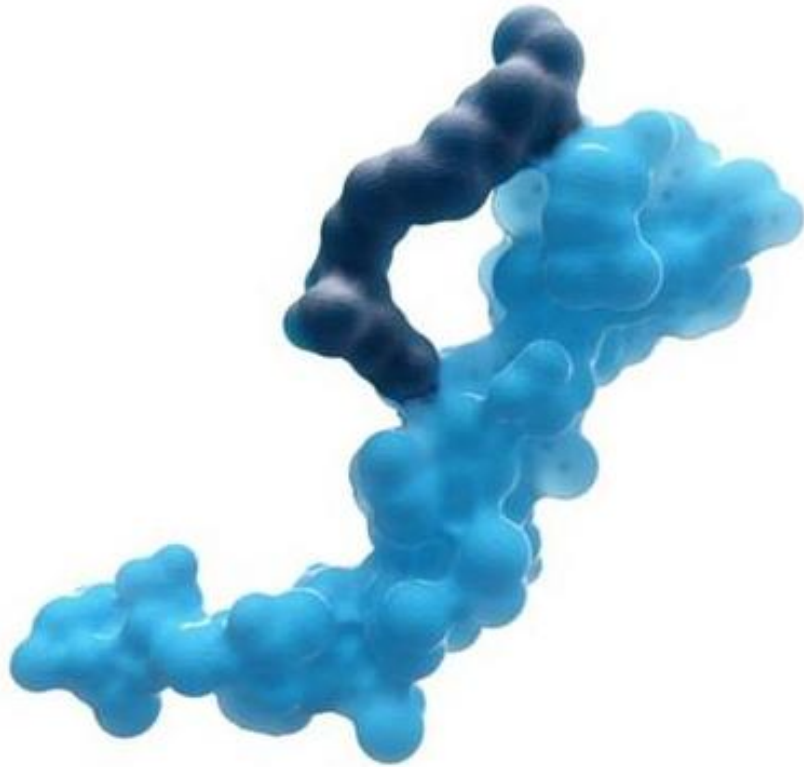
Data are estimated means. In the *post hoc* analysis for total energy expenditure, body weight after 5 weeks of treatment was added to the original linear mixed-effect model

# Weight loss with liraglutide 3.0 mg is not mediated by nausea/vomiting

SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 56 weeks



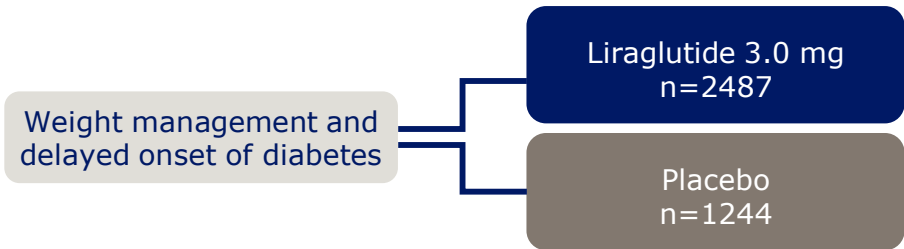
SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes. Least square means ( $\pm$  standard error); LOCF at end-of-treatment (56 weeks); ETD, estimated treatment difference; LOCF, last observation carried forward; N, number of subjects contributing to analysis



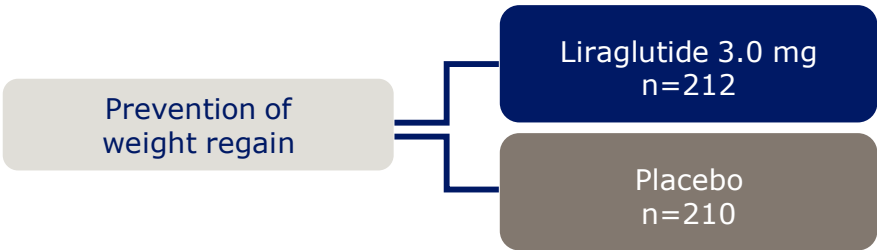
**Liraglutide 3.0 mg  
in weight  
management**

# SCALE Phase 3a clinical trial programme

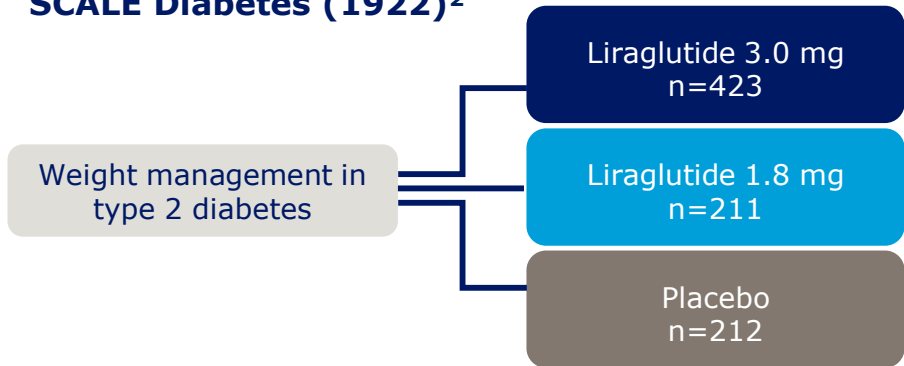
## SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes (1839)<sup>1</sup>



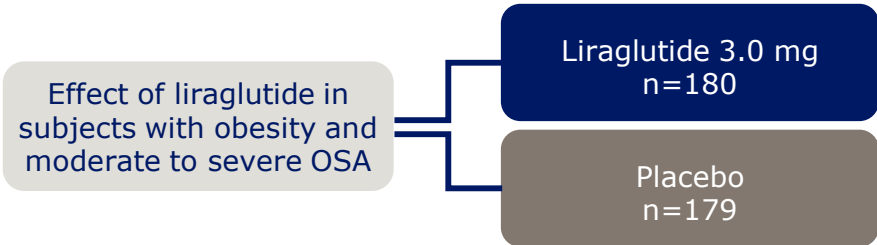
## SCALE Maintenance (1923)<sup>3</sup>



## SCALE Diabetes (1922)<sup>2</sup>



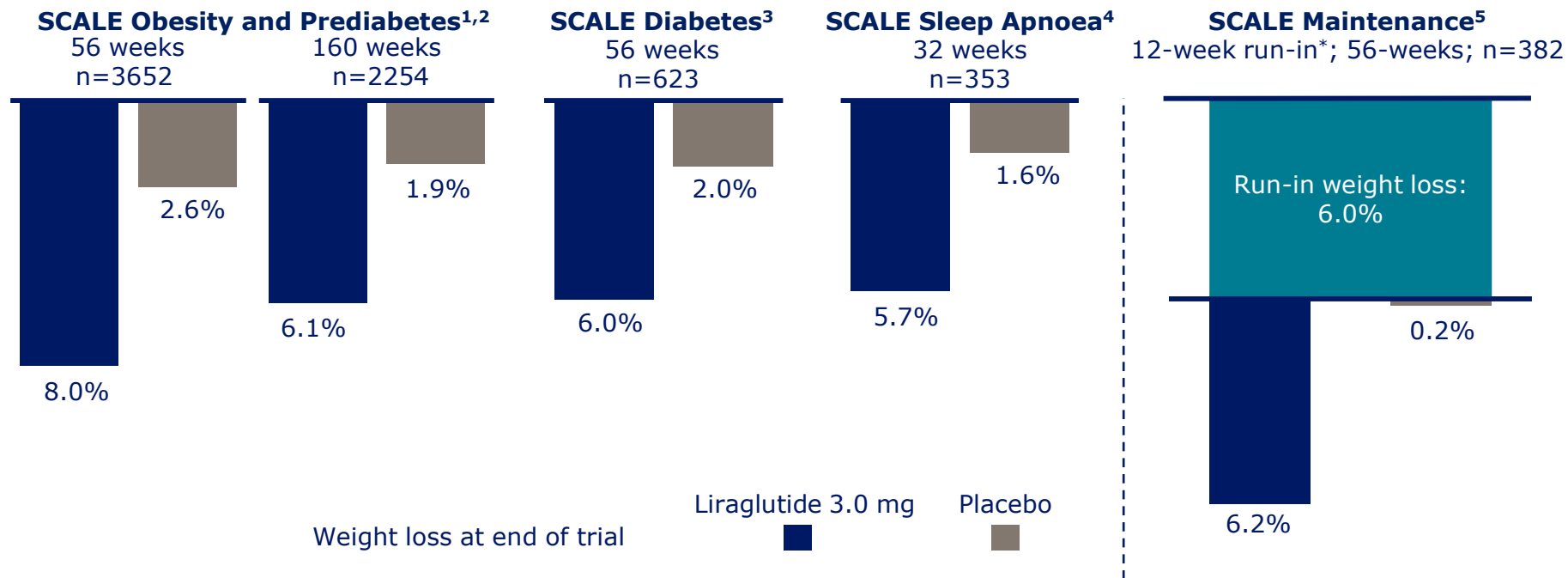
## SCALE Sleep Apnoea (3970)<sup>4</sup>



\*SCALE, Sleep apnoea 3970 trial BMI ≥30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> plus co-morbidities;  
BMI, body mass index; OSA, obstructive sleep apnoea; SCALE, Satiety and Clinical Adiposity – Liraglutide Evidence in individuals with and without diabetes

1. Pi-Sunyer *et al. N Engl J Med* 2015;373:11–22; 2. Davies *et al. JAMA* 2015;314:687–99; 3. Wadden *et al. Int J Obes (Lond)* 2013;37:1443–51;  
4. Blackman *et al. Int J Obes (Lond)*. 2016;40:1310–9

# Weight loss across SCALE trials



Data are observed means; last observation carried forward at end of trial; N, number of individuals contributing to the analysis  
\*Low calorie diet (total energy intake 1200–1400 kcal/day)

# SCALE Efficacy Summary

Key efficacy outcomes with liraglutide 3.0 mg



SCALE Obesity and  
Prediabetes<sup>1,2</sup>

**-8.0%**

change in body weight  
after 1 year



SCALE  
Diabetes<sup>3</sup>

**-6.0%**

change in body weight  
after 56 weeks



SCALE  
Maintenance<sup>4</sup>

**81%**

maintained  $\geq 5\%$  weight  
loss after 1 year



SCALE Sleep  
Apnoea<sup>5</sup>

**-12.2**

events p/h  
vs. 6.1 with placebo

**80%**

reduction in the risk of  
T2D over 3 years

**-1.3%**

change in HbA<sub>1c</sub>  
from baseline

**6.2%**

additional weight loss  
with liraglutide 3.0 mg\*

**-5.7%**

change in body weight  
after 32 weeks

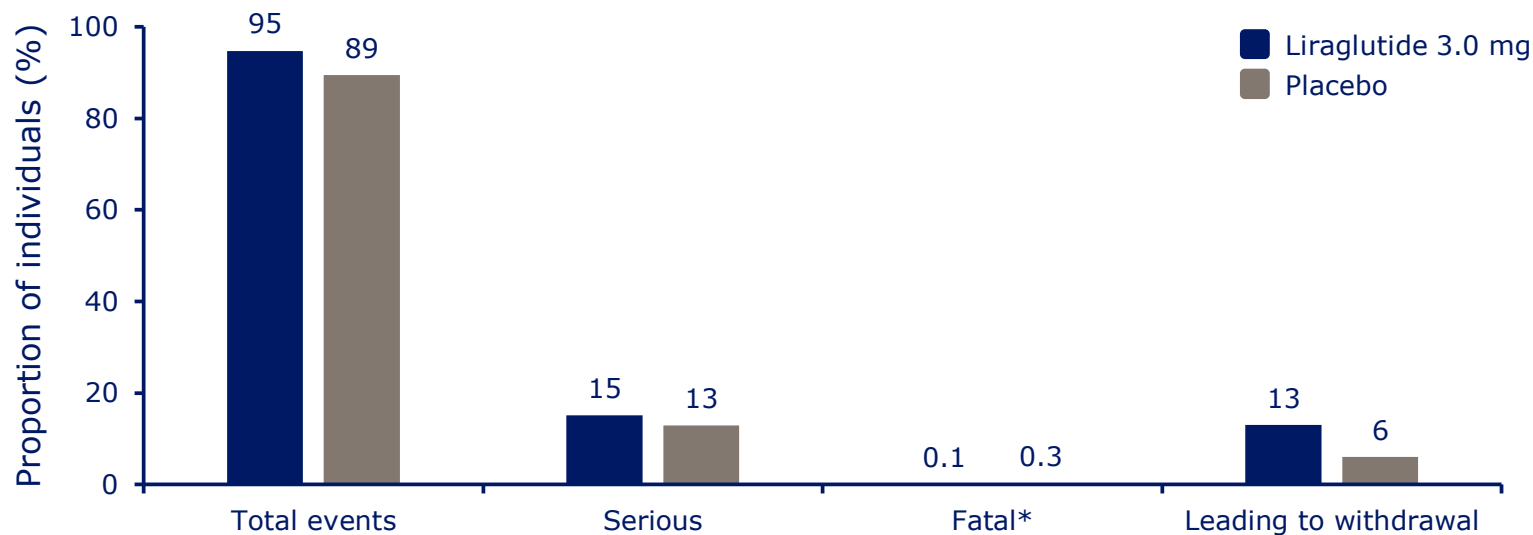
\*Following lifestyle intervention induced weight loss of  $\geq 5\%$  over a 12 week run in period

1. Pi-Sunyer *et al. N Engl J Med* 2015;373:11–22; 2. le Roux *et al. Lancet* 2017;389:1399–409; 3. Davies *et al. JAMA* 2015;314:687–99;

4. Wadden *et al. Int J Obes (Lond)* 2013;37:1443–51; 5. Blackman *et al. Int J Obes (Lond)* 2016;40:1310–19

# Summary of treatment-emergent AEs

SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–162 weeks

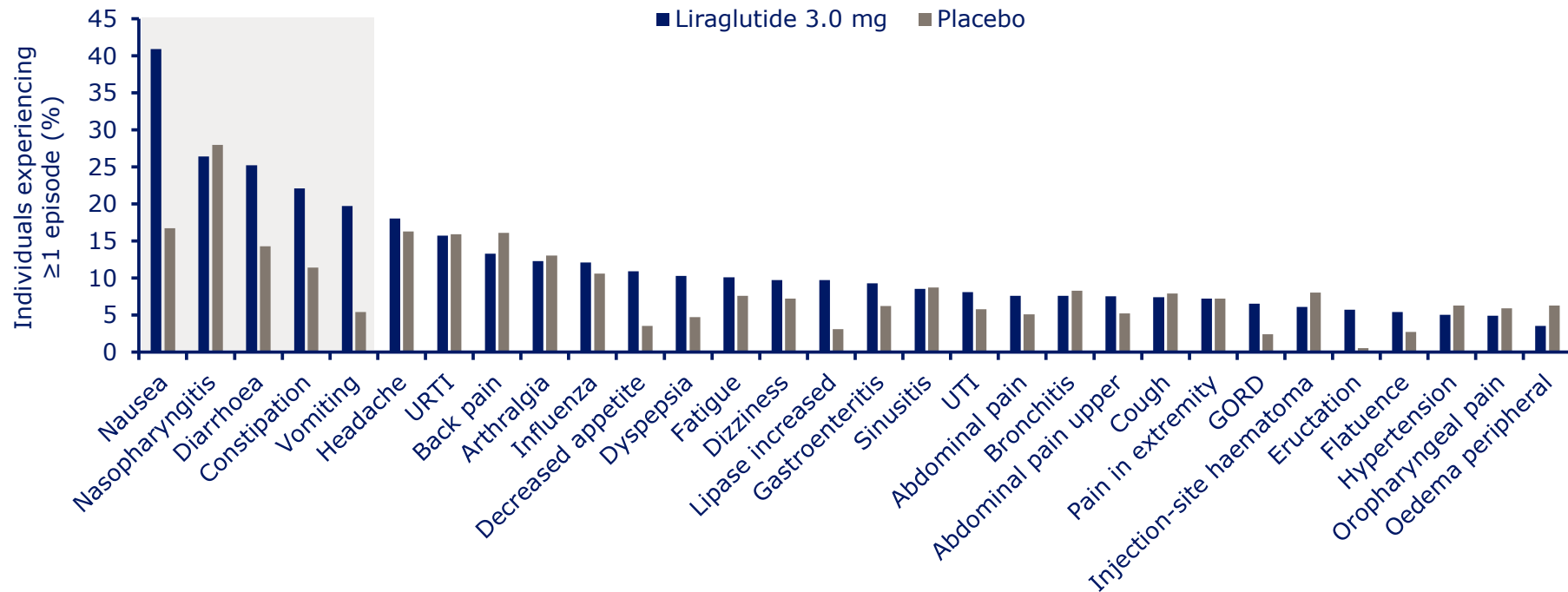


\*n=2 liraglutide group (due to cardiac arrest and metastatic cholangiocarcinoma); n=2 placebo group (pulmonary failure and cancer, primary tumour unknown). Safety analysis set, 0–162 weeks. AE, adverse event.



# Adverse events in $\geq 5\%$ of participants

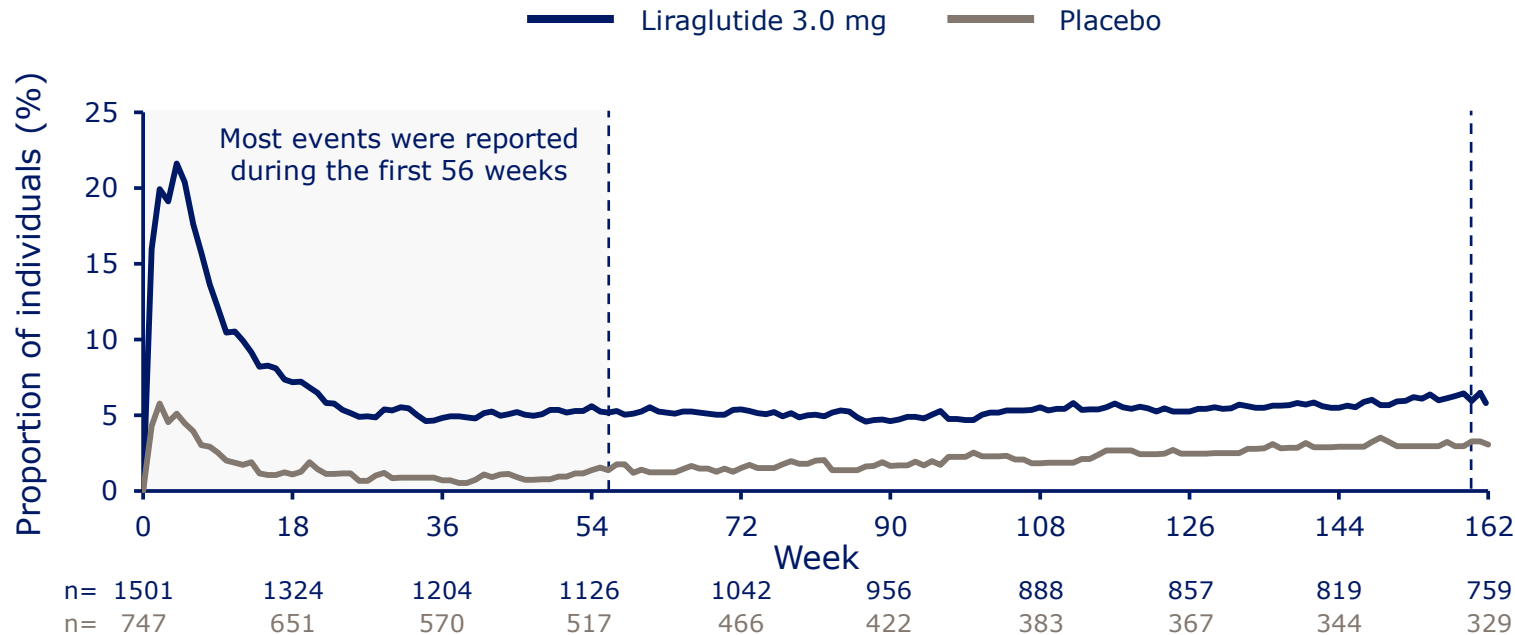
SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–162 weeks



\*GI, gastrointestinal; GORD, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease; SCALE, Satiety and Clinical Adiposity – Liraglutide Evidence in individuals with and without diabetes. URTI, upper respiratory tract infection; UTI, urinary tract infection. Safety analysis set. MedDRA search.

# Nausea over time

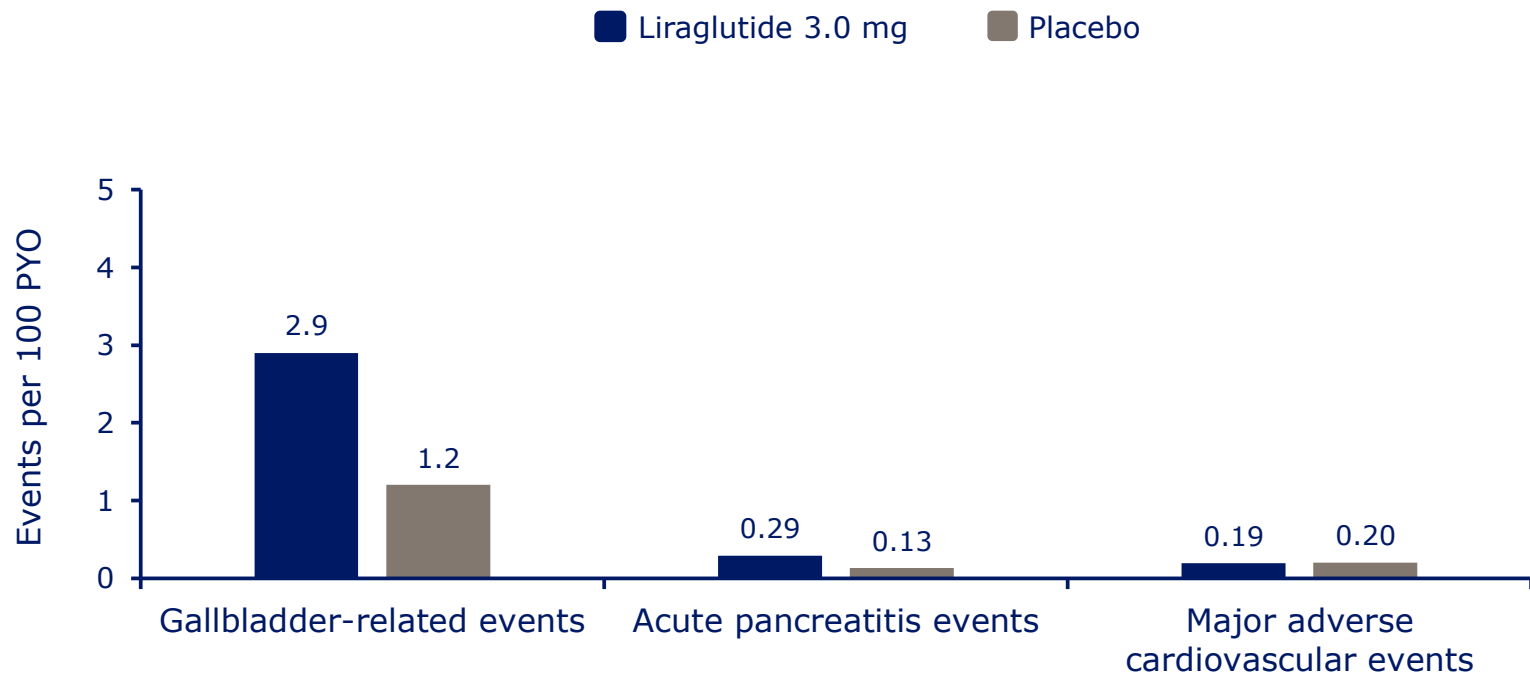
SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–162 weeks



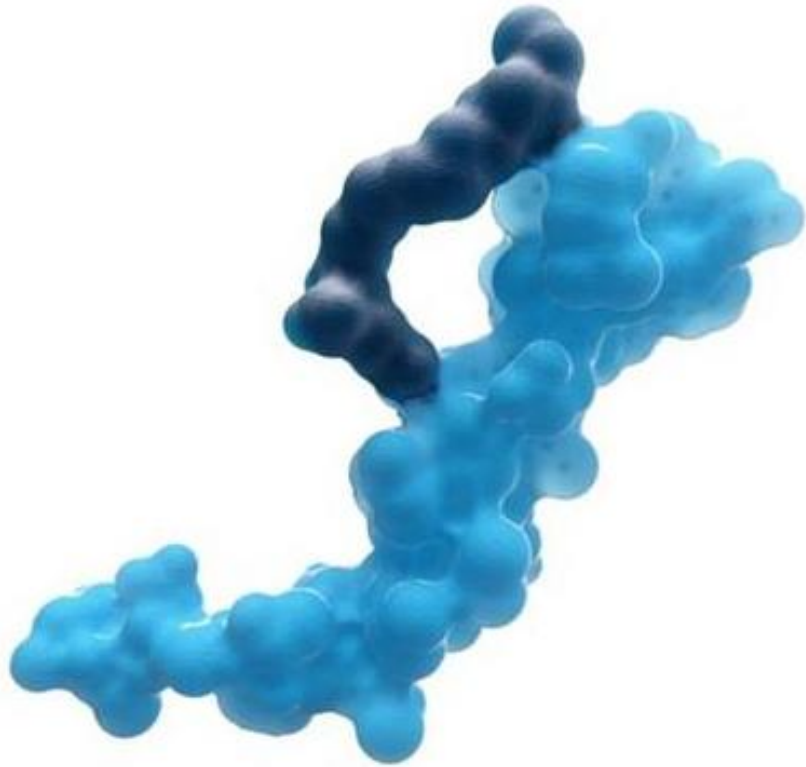
Observed mean data for the safety analysis set (liraglutide 3.0 mg n=1501; placebo n=747), 0–162 weeks.  
Individuals were randomised 2:1 to liraglutide 3.0 mg and placebo

# Adverse events of special interest

SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes



PYO, person-years of observation. Gallbladder-related and major adverse cardiovascular events are presented over 162 weeks. Acute pancreatitis events are presented over 172 weeks from the start of treatment until the final contact with the participant.



# **Clinical perspectives**

# Key aspects of weight management

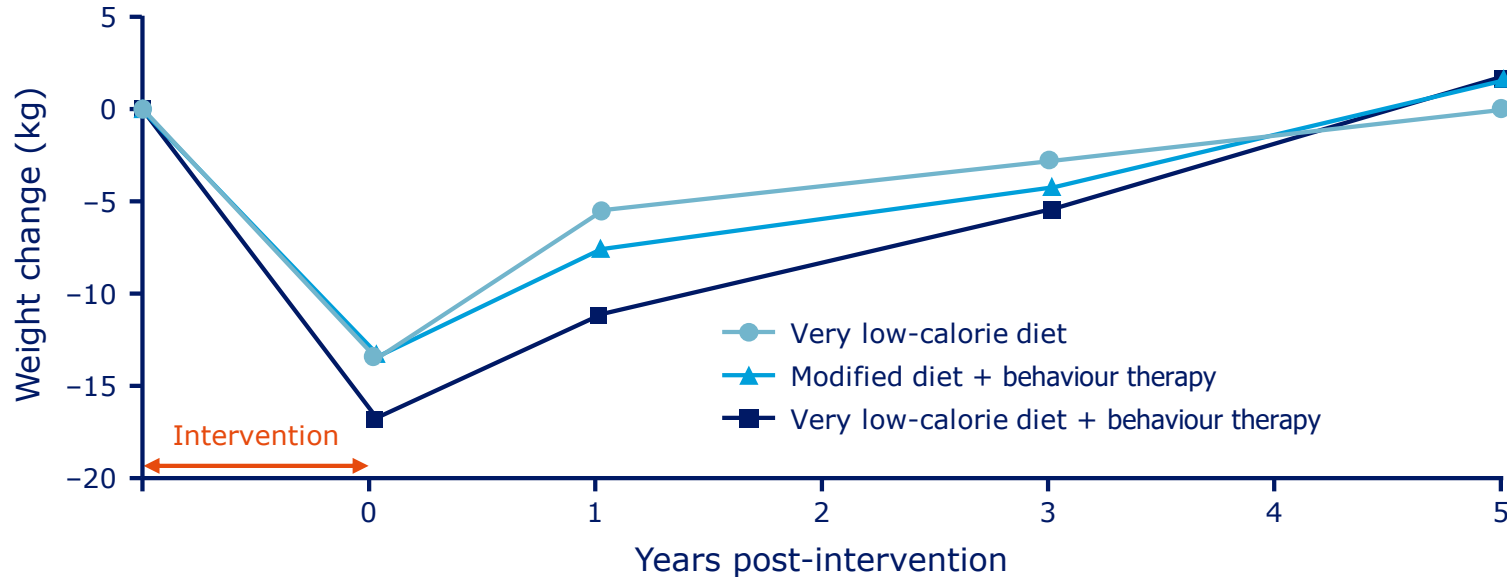
Achieving and maintaining a clinically relevant weight loss

Improving cardiometabolic risk factors and health

Reducing risk of diabetes

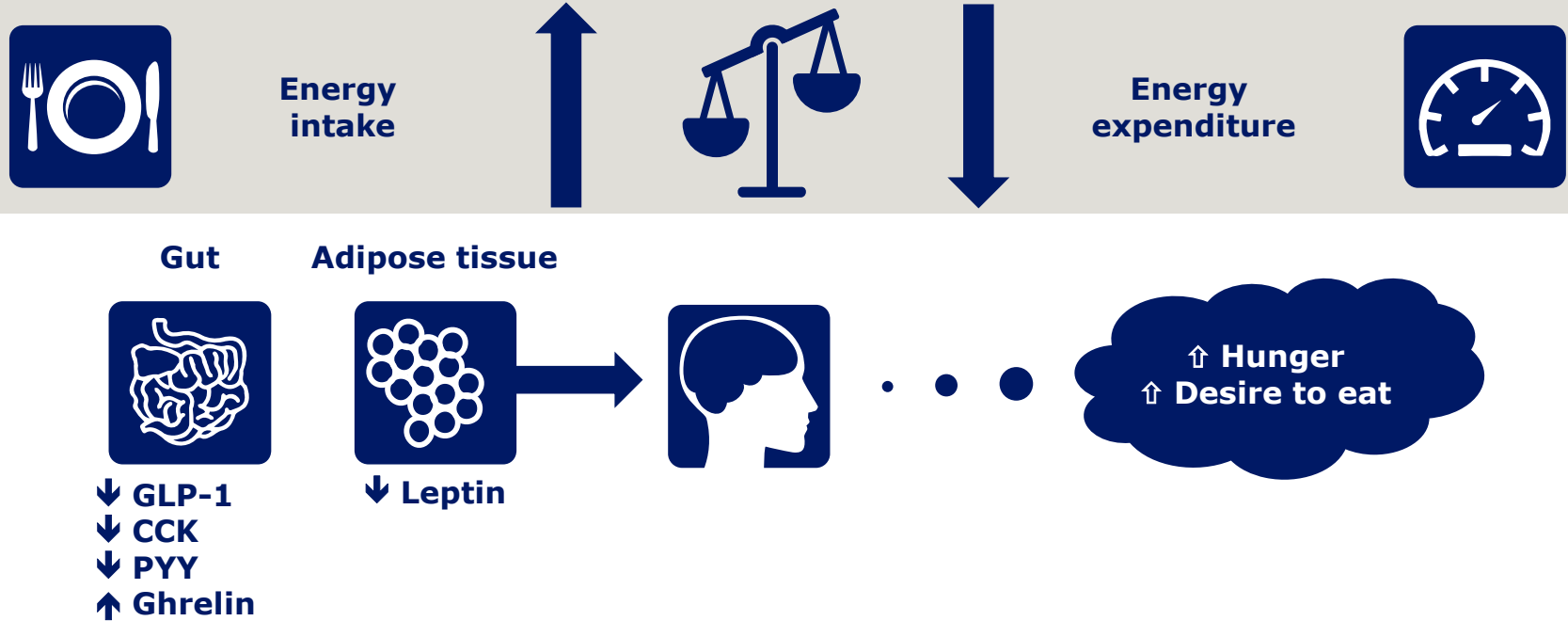
Clinically relevant weight loss in patients with obesity and T2D

# Weight management interventions are often followed by weight rebound



Data are from diet and behavioural interventions

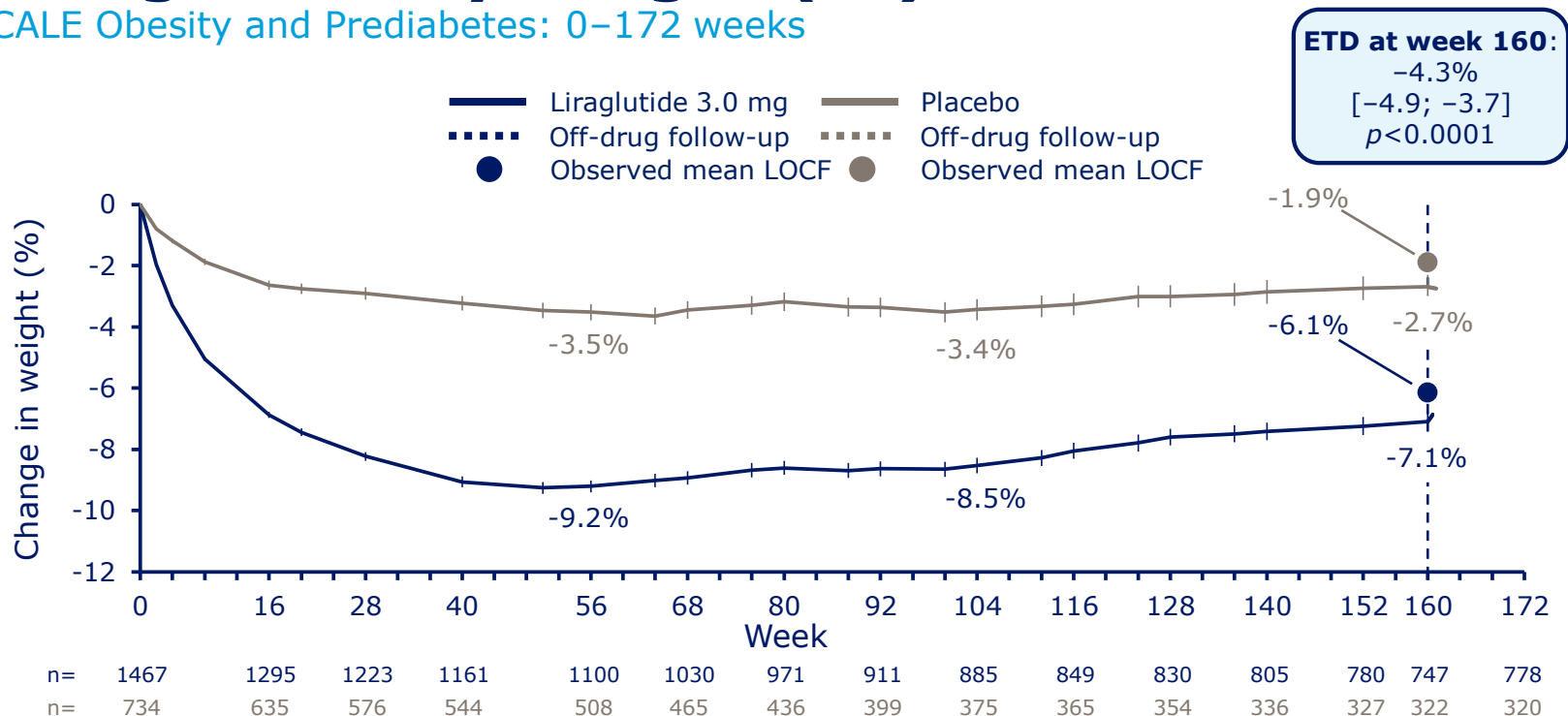
# Physiological responses to weight loss favour weight regain<sup>1,2</sup>



CCK, cholecystokinin; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; PYY, peptide YY

# Change in body weight (%)

SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–172 weeks



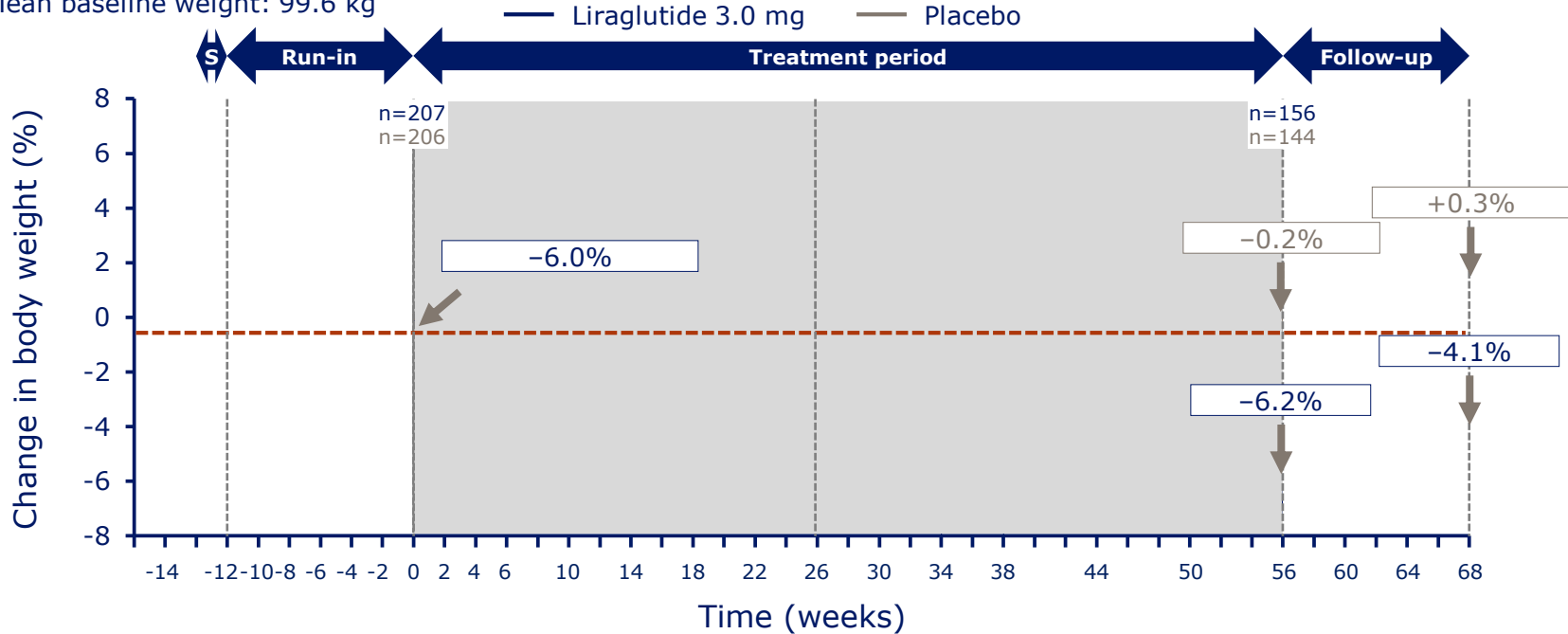
Full analysis set, fasting visit data only. Line graphs are observed means ( $\pm$ SE)  
LOCF, last observation carried forward; SE, standard error



# Change in body weight (%)

## SCALE Maintenance

Mean baseline weight: 99.6 kg

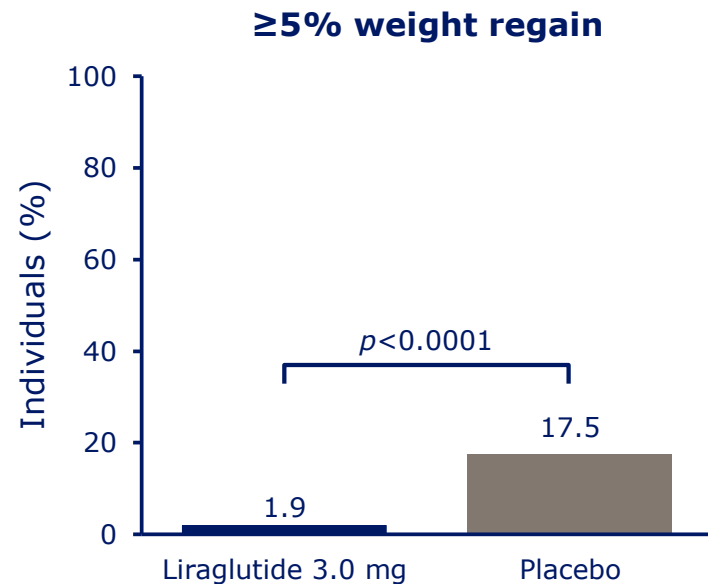
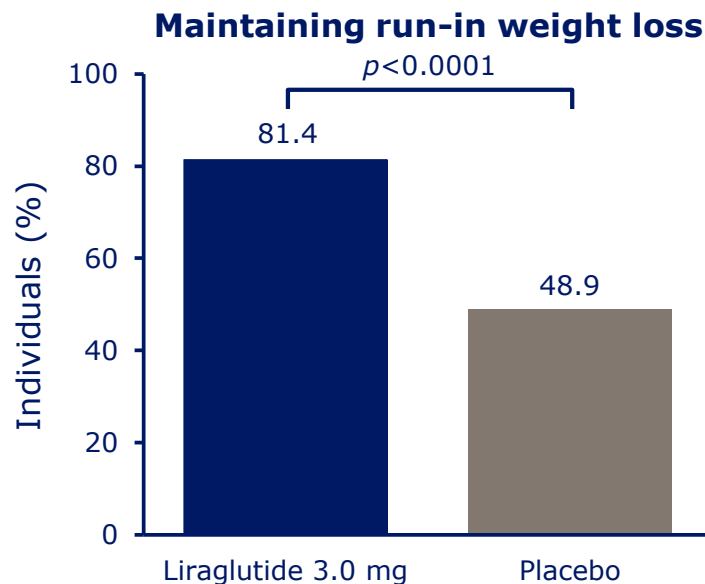


Mean ( $\pm$ SD); Full analysis set. S, screening period; SD, standard deviation

# Individuals maintaining or regaining weight loss

SCALE Maintenance: At week 56

Mean baseline weight: 99.6 kg



Full analysis set; LOCF at week 56. LOCF, last observation carried forward

# Key aspects of weight management

Achieving and maintaining a clinically relevant weight loss

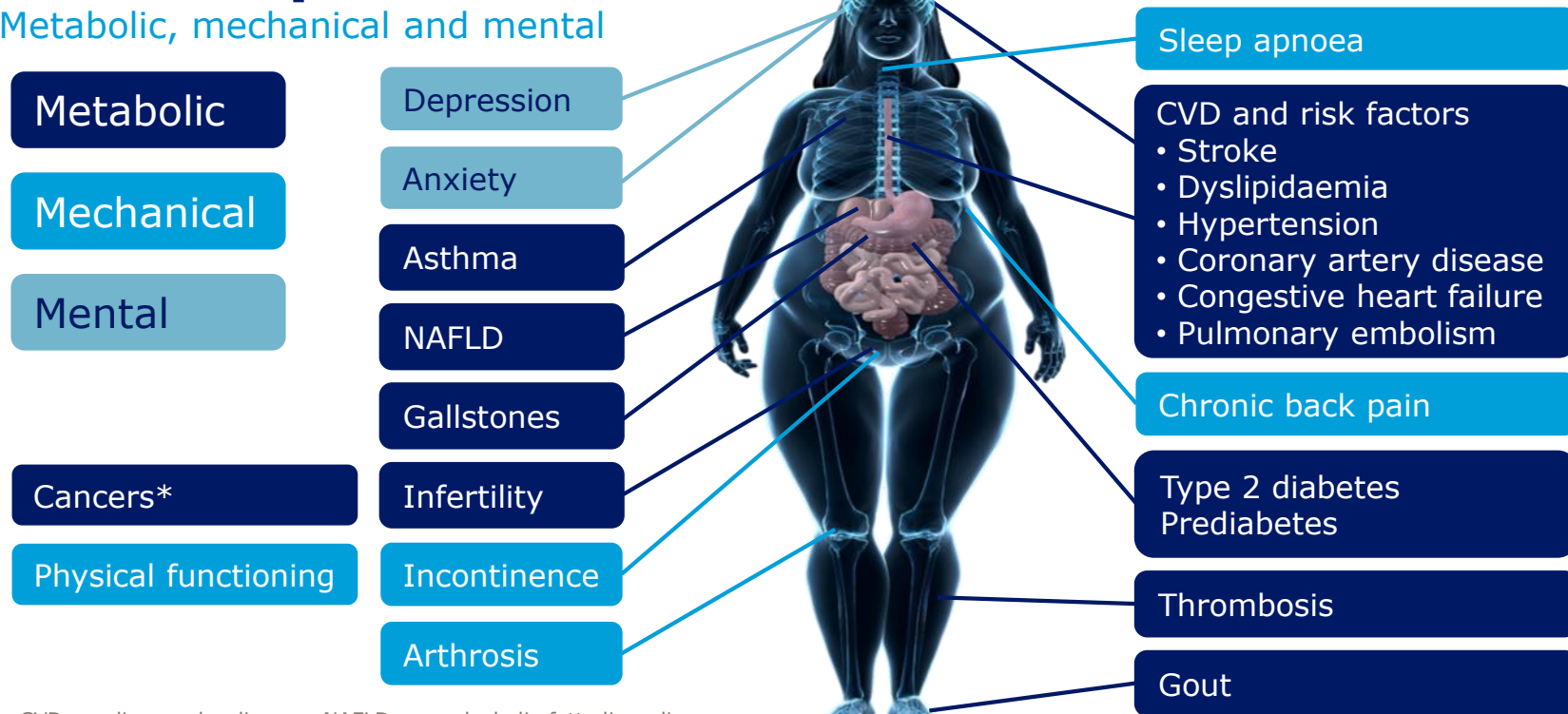
Improving cardiometabolic risk factors and health

Reducing risk of diabetes

Clinically relevant weight loss in patients with obesity and T2D

# Obesity is associated with multiple comorbidities and complications

Metabolic, mechanical and mental



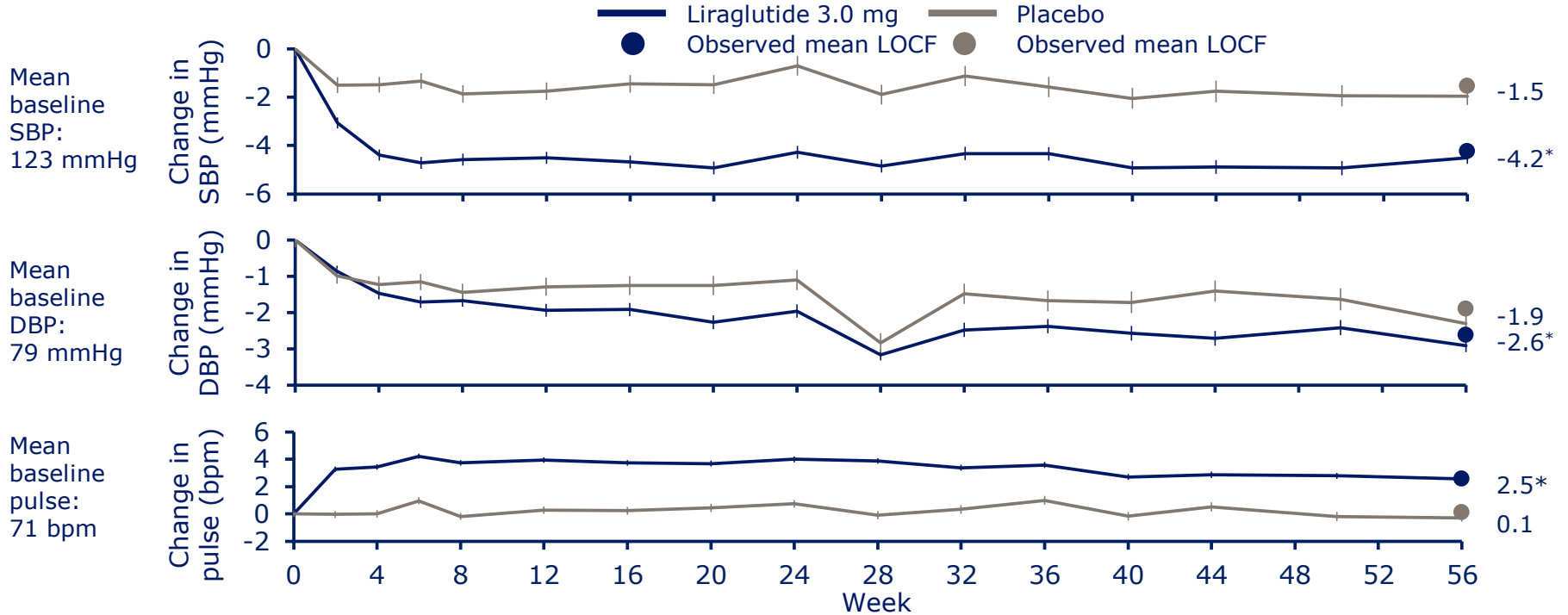
CVD, cardiovascular disease; NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

\*Including breast, colorectal, endometrial, esophageal, kidney, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate

Adapted from Sharma AM. *Obes Rev.* 2010;11:808-9; Guh *et al. BMC Public Health* 2009;9:88; Luppino *et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2010;67:220-9; Simon *et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2006;63:824-30; Church *et al. Gastroenterology* 2006;130:2023-30; Li *et al. Prev Med* 2010;51:18-23; Hosler. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2009;6:A48

# Changes in blood pressure and pulse

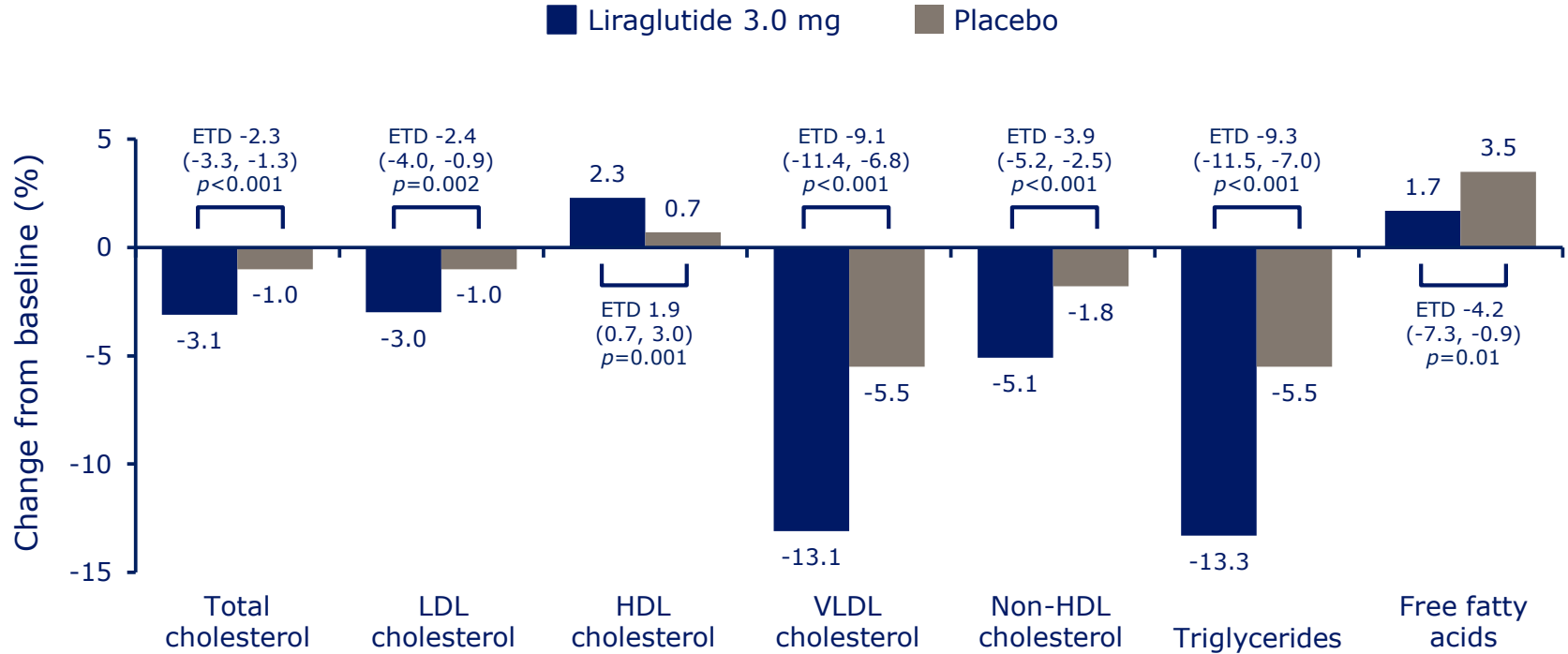
SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–56 weeks



FAS, LOCF (blood pressure); SAS, LOCF (pulse). Data are observed means ( $\pm$ SE) of all participants attending each visit. Statistical analyses are ANCOVA. \* $p < 0.001$ . ANCOVA, analysis of covariance; bpm, beats per minute; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FAS, full analysis set; LOCF, last observation carried forward; SAS, safety analysis set; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SE, standard error

# Change in fasting lipids

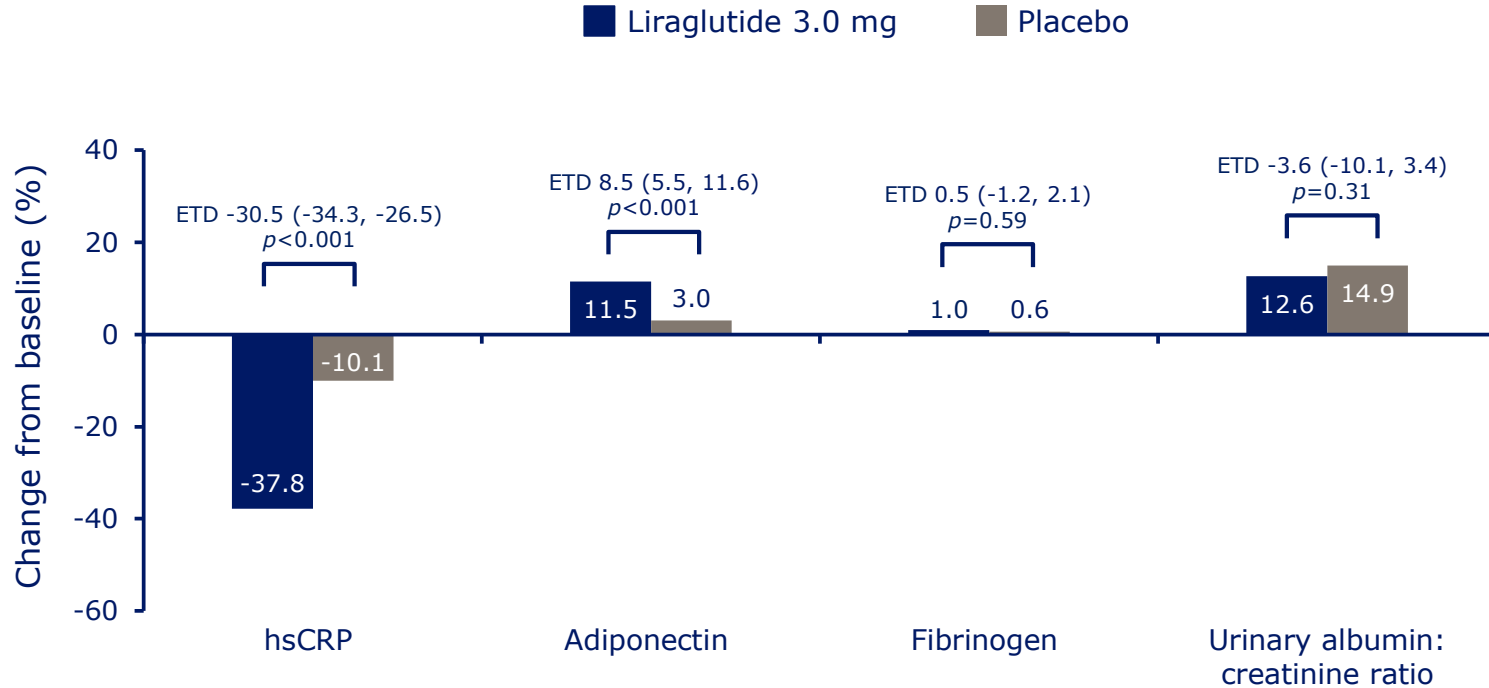
SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–56 weeks



FAS, LOCF. Data are based on observed geometric means. Statistical analysis is ANCOVA. ETD, estimated treatment difference (95% CI); FAS, full analysis set; LOCF, last observation carried forward

# Change in cardiovascular biomarkers

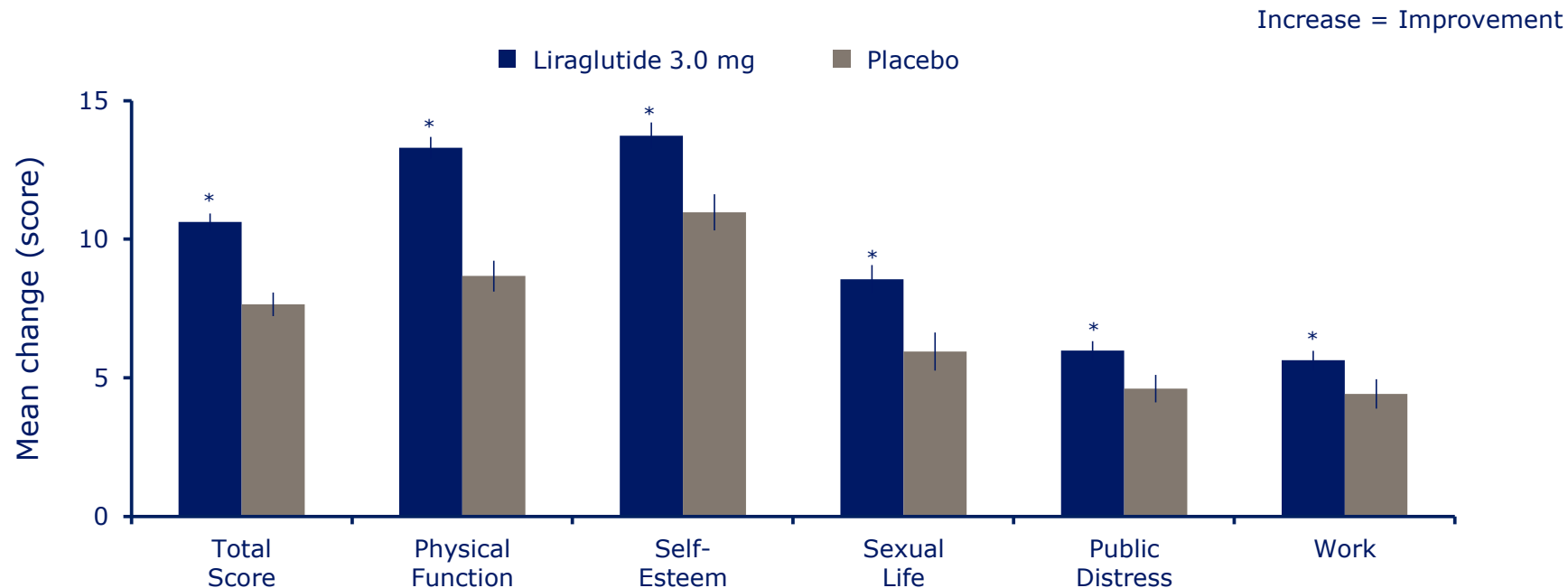
SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–56 weeks



FAS, LOCF. Data are based on observed geometric means. Statistical analysis is ANCOVA. Data for PAI-1 not available. Data are shown as % change from baseline. Units of measure were hsCRP (mg/L); Adiponectin (mg/L); Fibrinogen (g/L); Urinary albumin: creatinine ratio (mg/mol). FAS, full analysis set; ETD, estimated treatment difference (95% CI); LOCF, last observation carried forward

# Summary of IWQOL-Lite

SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–56 weeks



FAS LOCF. Bar graph is observed mean change from baseline. Statistical analysis is ANCOVA. \* $p < 0.01$

FAS, full analysis set; IWQOL-Lite, Impact of weight on quality of life-lite questionnaire; LOCF, last observation carried forward



# Key aspects of weight management

Achieving and maintaining a clinically relevant weight loss

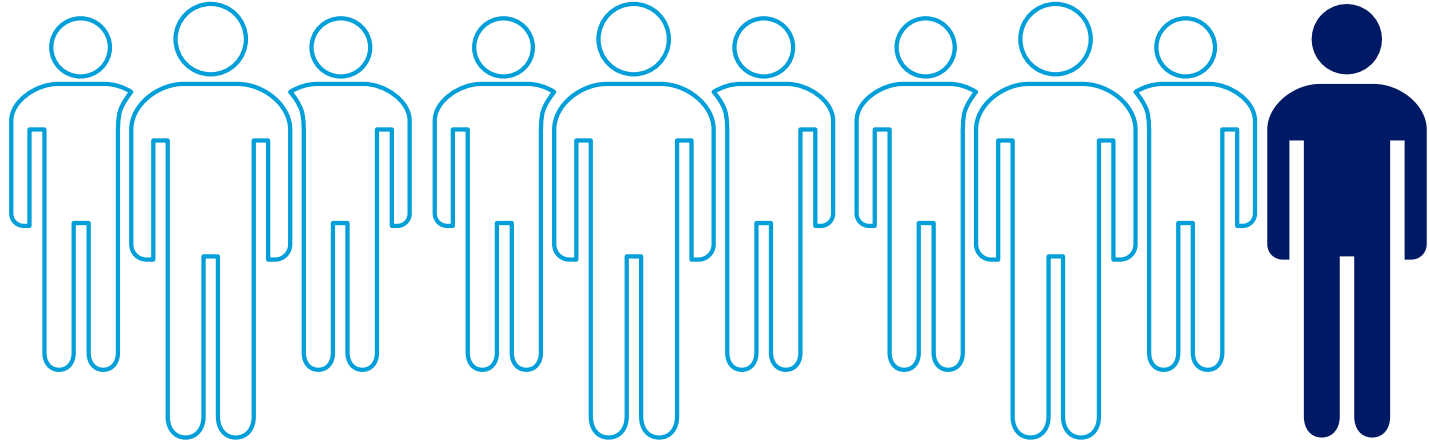
Improving cardiometabolic risk factors and health

Reducing risk of diabetes

Clinically relevant weight loss in patients with obesity and T2D

# Awareness of prediabetes remains low

**9 out of 10** individuals  
with prediabetes do not know that they have it



Data presented is US population

Prediabetes defined as FPG 5.6–6.9 mmol/L [100–125 mg/dL] or HbA<sub>1c</sub> 5.7–6.4%

CDC, Center for Disease Control; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; NHANES, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

# Benefits of weight loss on diabetes risk

## Diabetes prevention

% reduced risk of progression from prediabetes to T2D

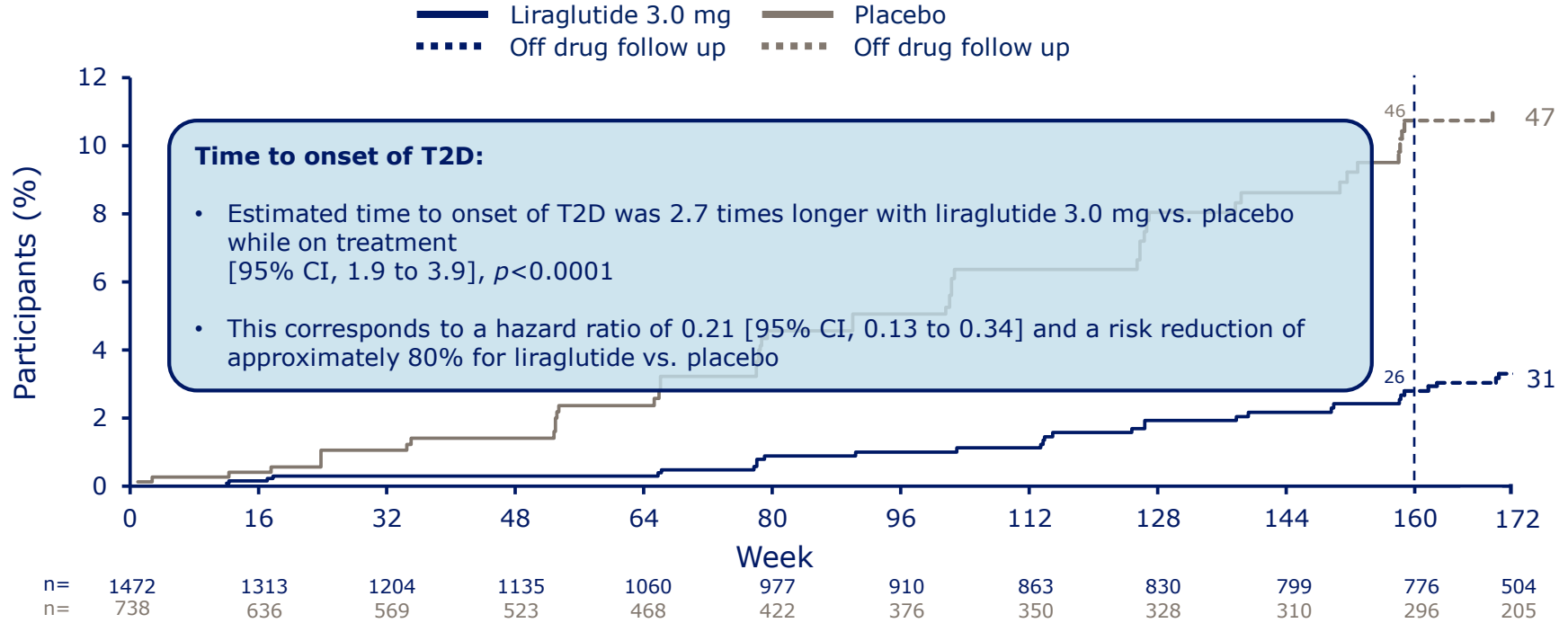


BP, blood pressure; DiRECT, Diabetes Remission Clinical Trial; DPP, Diabetes Prevention Programme; DPPOS, Diabetes Prevention Programme Outcomes Study; DPS, Diabetes Prevention Study; AHEAD, Action for Health Diabetes; ILI, intensive lifestyle intervention; T2D, type 2 diabetes

1. Li et al. Lancet 2008;371:1783–9; 2. Tuomilehto et al. N Engl J Med 2001;344:1343–50; 3. Lindström et al. Lancet 2006;368:1673–9; 4. Knowler et al. N Engl J Med 2002;346:393–403; 5. Knowler et al. Lancet 2009;374:1677–86

# Participants diagnosed with T2D over time

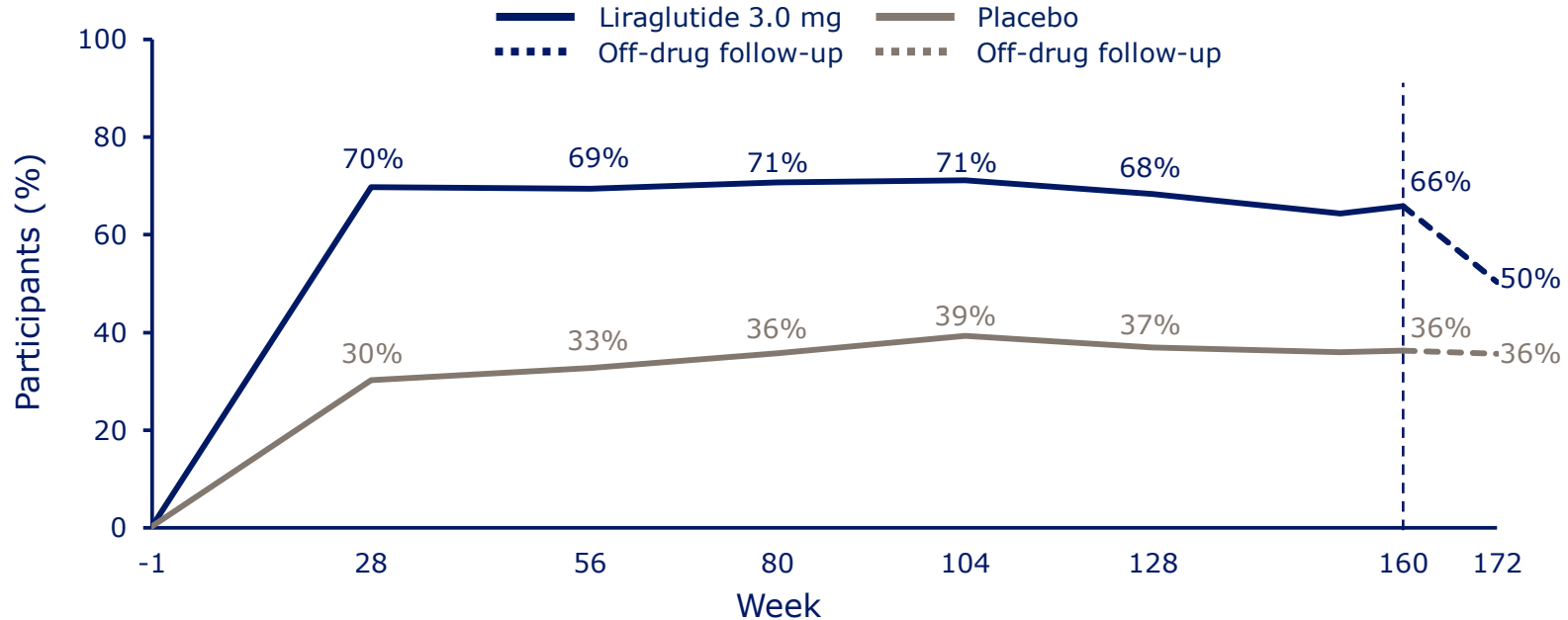
SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes - Kaplan-Meier plot: 0-172 weeks



Full analysis set. Numbers in the figure correspond to the accumulated number of diagnosed participants T2D, type 2 diabetes

# Regression to normoglycaemia over time

SCALE Obesity and Prediabetes: 0–172 weeks



Full analysis set, last observation carried forward. Statistical analysis is logistic regression (OR with 95% CI). Normoglycaemia is defined as fasting plasma glucose <100 mg/dL (<5.6 mmol/L) and/or 2-hour post-challenge glucose <140 mg/dL (<7.8 mmol/L) and/or HbA<sub>1c</sub> <5.7%. Data measured at OGTT visits. CI, confidence interval; NNT, number needed to treat; OR, estimated odds ratio

# Key aspects of weight management

Achieving and maintaining a clinically relevant weight loss

Improving cardiometabolic risk factors and health

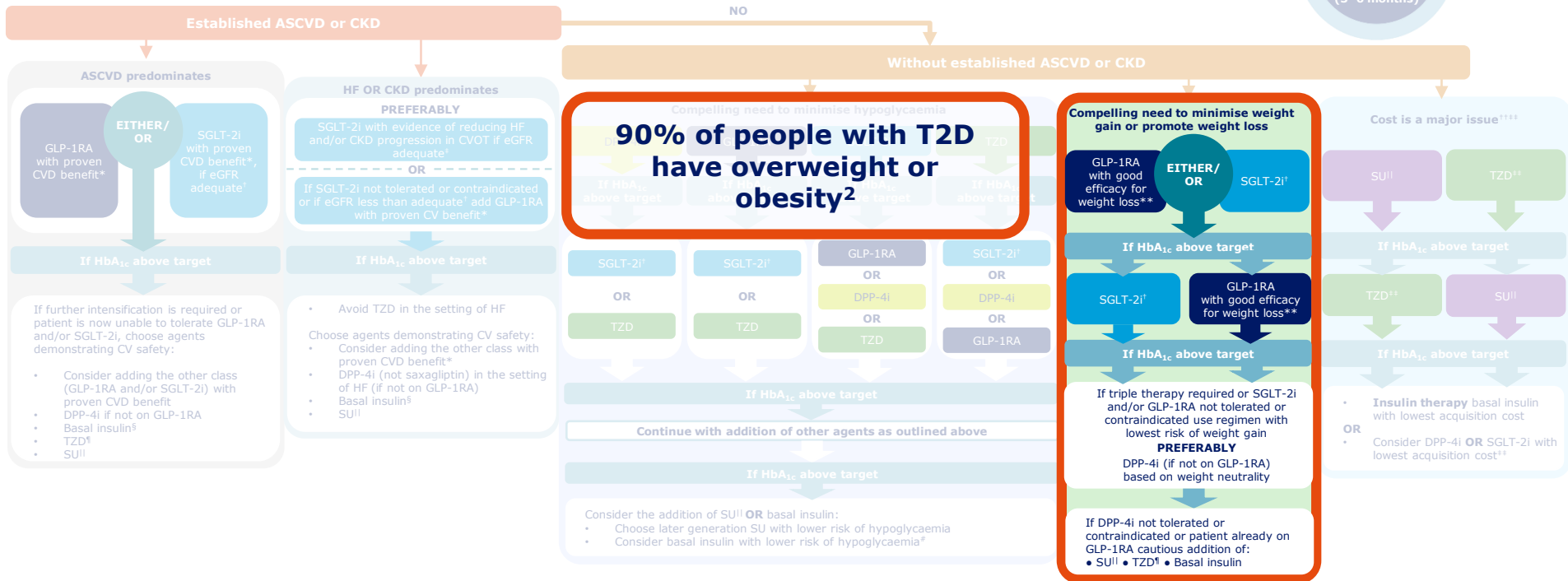
Reducing risk of diabetes

Clinically relevant weight loss in patients with obesity and T2D

# ADA/EASD 2018 consensus for glucose-lowering medication in T2D<sup>1</sup>

FIRST-LINE THERAPY IS METFORMIN AND COMPREHENSIVE LIFESTYLE (INCLUDING WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY)  
IF HbA<sub>1c</sub> ABOVE TARGET PROCEED AS BELOW<sup>1</sup>

To avoid clinical inertia reassess and modify treatment regularly (3–6 months)



1. Davies et al. *Diabetologia* 2018;61(12):2461–98;

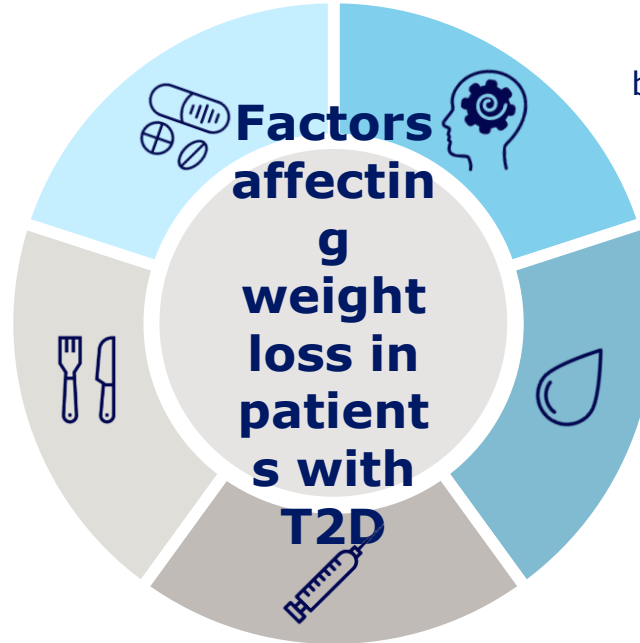
2. World Health Organization report on Obesity and Overweight. Available at: <http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/media/en/gsf Obesity.pdf> (Last accessed: Aug 2019)

# Challenge of weight loss in patients with T2D

Many conventional glucose-lowering agents and even concomitant medications favour weight gain<sup>4,5</sup>

Metabolic, psychological, and behavioural factors affect ability of people with T2D to lose weight<sup>1,2</sup>

Compensatory eating for fear of hypoglycaemia<sup>7</sup>



Improved glycaemic control decreases glycosuria, which may impair weight loss<sup>3</sup>

Insulin inhibits lipolysis and promotes lipogenesis<sup>6</sup>

T2D, type 2 diabetes

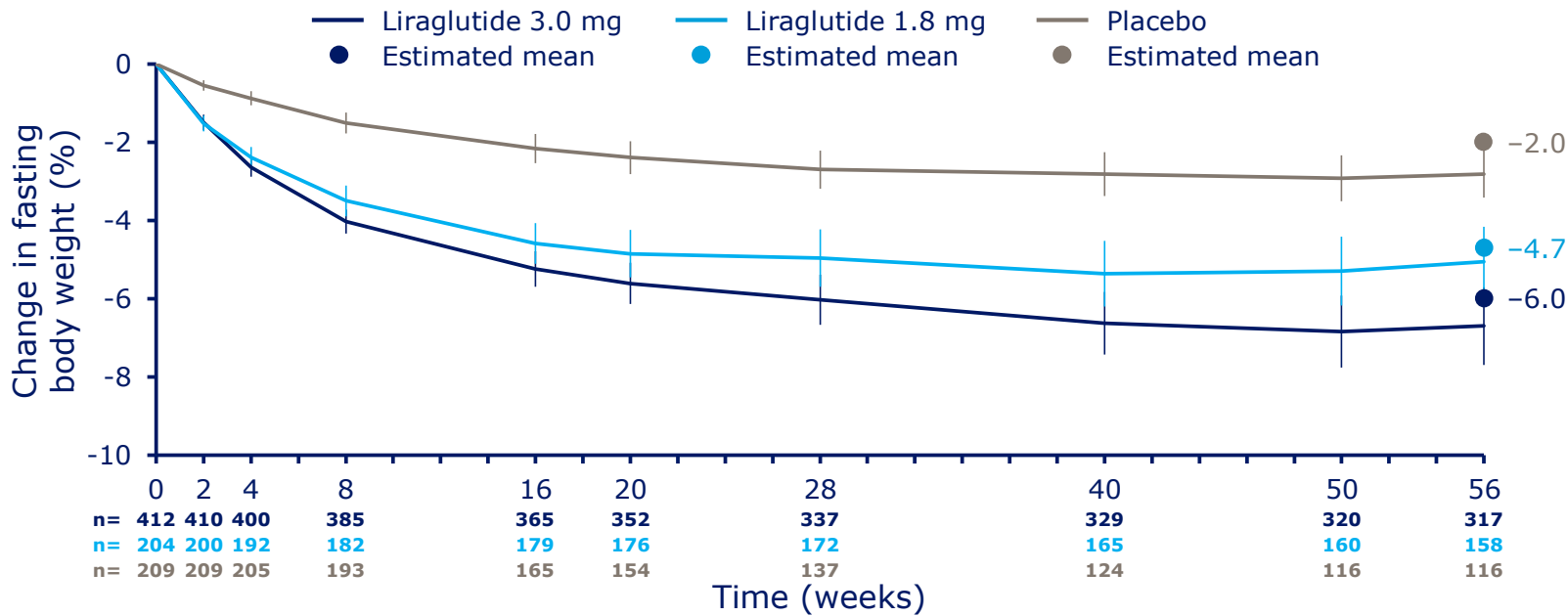
1. Cabrera J et al. *Curr Med Res Opin* 2012;28:1027–37; 2. Scheen AJ et al. *Diabetes Metab* 2007;33:169–75; 3. Rosenbaum M et al. *J Clin Invest* 2008;118:2583–91; 4. UKPDS. *Lancet* 1998;352:837–53; 5. ACCORD. *Diabetes Care* 2013;36:2162–8; 6. Eriksson H et al. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1995;1266:101–7; 7. Yki-Jarvinen H et al. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1997;82:4037–43



# Change in body weight (%)

SCALE Diabetes: 0-56 weeks

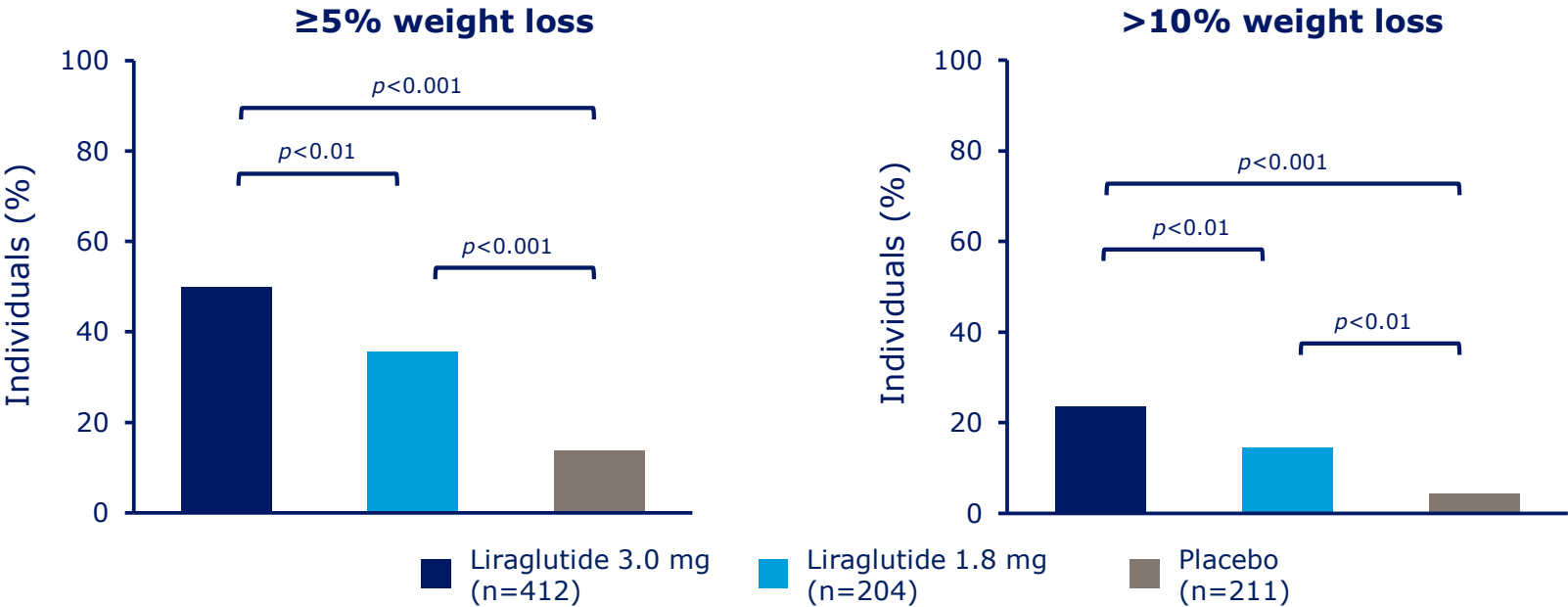
Mean baseline body weight: 105.9 kg



FAS. Line graphs are observed means ( $\pm 95\%$  Wald CI). Statistical analysis is ANCOVA. Estimated means are calculated with missing observations at week 56 imputed using a regression method. ANCOVA, analysis of covariance; CI, confidence interval; FAS, full analysis set

# Categorical weight loss (%)

SCALE Diabetes: 0-56 weeks

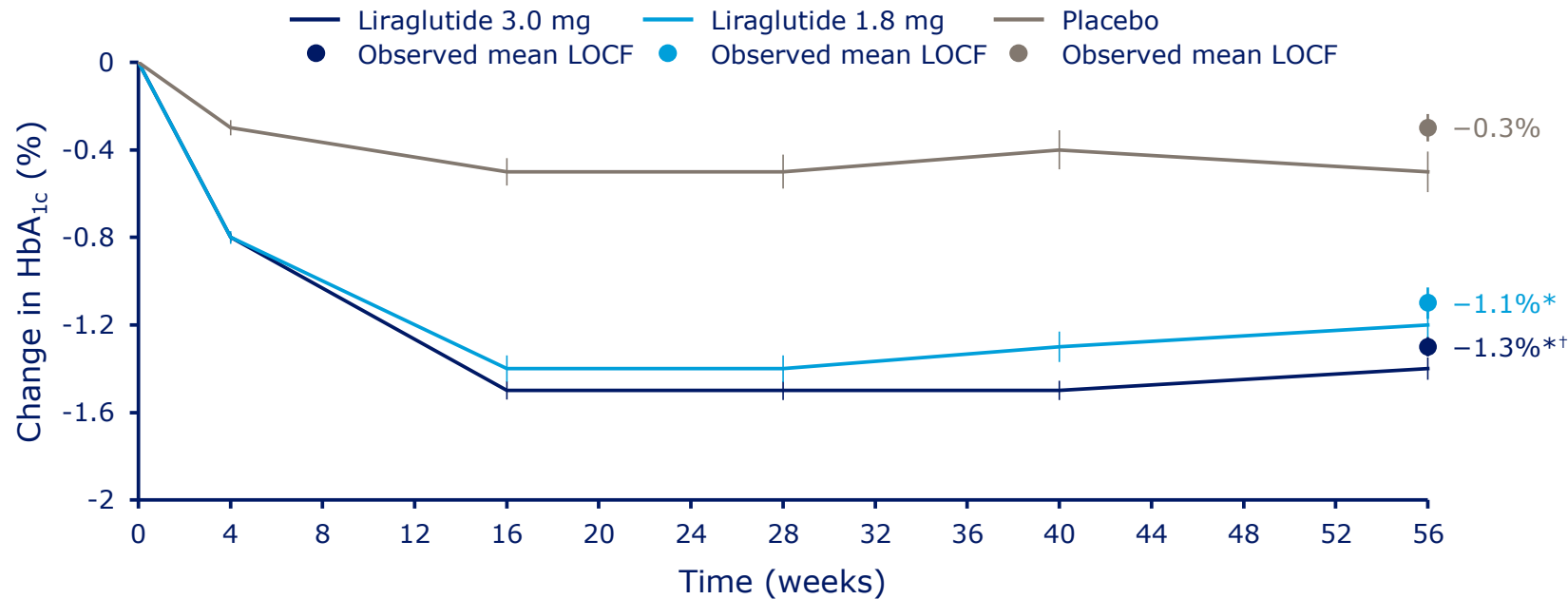


FAS, fasting visit data only, LOCF. Graphs are observed proportions LOCF. Statistical analysis is logistic regression  
FAS, full analysis set; LOCF, last observation carried forward

# Change in HbA<sub>1c</sub> (%)

SCALE Diabetes: 0-56 weeks

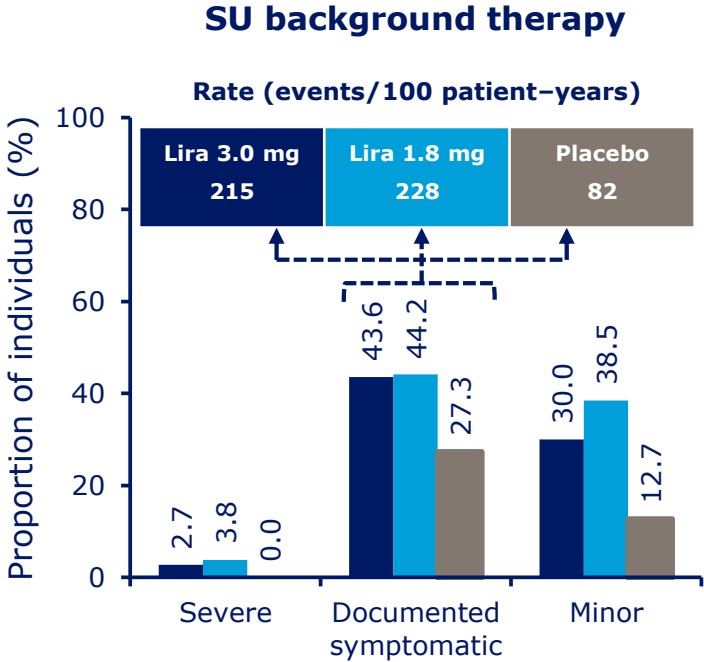
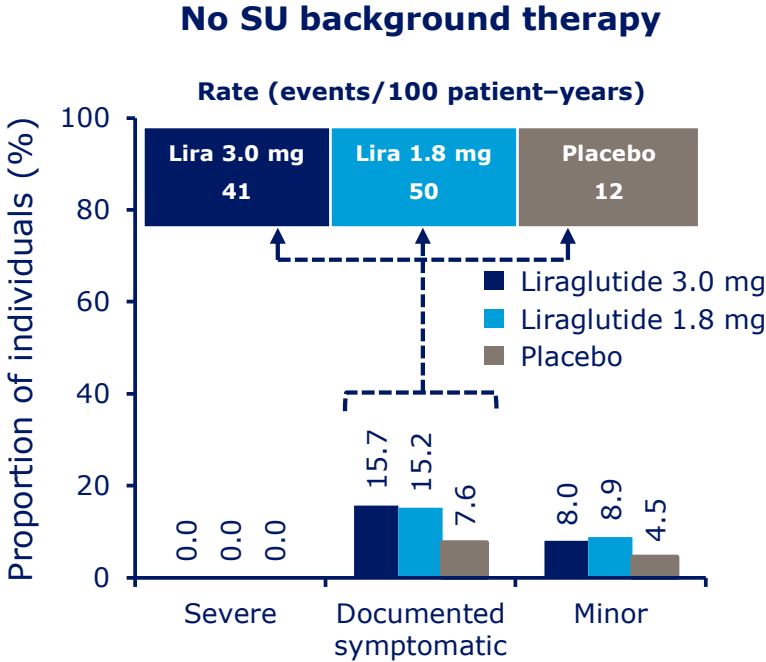
Mean baseline HbA<sub>1c</sub>: 8.0%



FAS LOCF. Line graphs are observed means ( $\pm$ SE). Circles are observed means LOCF.  
FAS, full analysis set; LOCF, last observation carried forward; SE, standard error

# Hypoglycaemic episodes by baseline SU status

SCALE Diabetes: 0-56 weeks



Safety analysis set. Rate is the event rate per 100 patient-years of exposure. Minor denotes minor hypoglycaemia where plasma glucose <3.1 mmol/L [56 mg/dL]. Documented symptomatic denotes plasma glucose ≤3.9 mmol/L [70 mg/dL] and symptoms typical of hypoglycaemia; hyperglycaemic episodes were defined according to ADA definitions (ADA. *Diabetes Care* 2010;33(Suppl.1):S62-69). ADA, American Diabetes Association; Lira, liraglutide; SU, sulphonylurea

# Summary

- Central appetite regulation is complex and influenced by both homeostatic (metabolic) and hedonic (pleasure, emotional) factors
- GLP-1 increases satiety and reduces hunger by activating areas in the brain involved in appetite regulation
- Liraglutide 3.0 mg, a human GLP-1 analog, lowers body weight by lowering food intake
- Liraglutide 3.0 mg in combination with diet and exercise can help patients achieve a clinically relevant weight loss