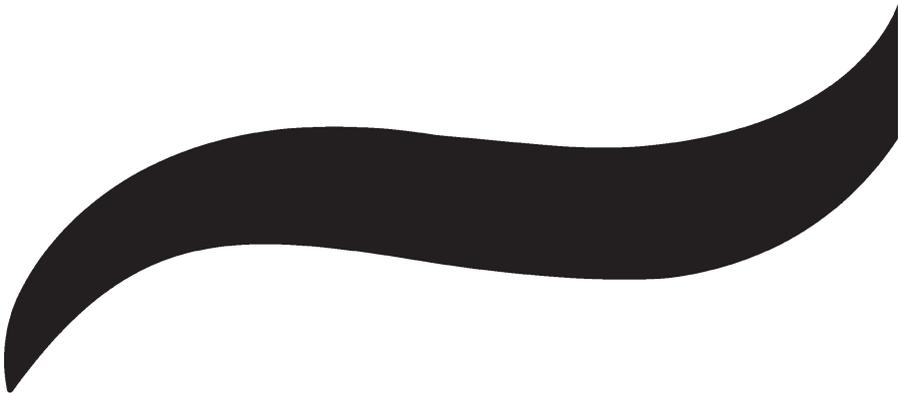




Glucagon-Like-Peptide-1 (GLP-1)

Agonists for Diabetes Mellitus and Anaesthesia

Information for patients
Pre-Assessment



BACKGROUND

What are GLP-1 drugs?

- ❖ These drugs help control hormones released in your gut when you eat
- ❖ They make your stomach empty at a slower rate
- ❖ Ozempic, Wegovy or Mounjaro are examples of these drugs
- ❖ Your doctor may have given you these for diabetes or for weight loss.

GLP-1 Drugs and Anaesthesia

- ❖ These drugs can cause some rare problems during surgery
- ❖ Your doctor will decide if you need to stop taking these drugs
- ❖ If you do not stop taking these before surgery:
 - ◆ General anaesthetic makes the muscles in the body relaxed. This means that the muscles protecting your lungs do not work as well. It also stops the reflexes that protect our lungs from working. Such as coughing.
 - ◆ You might have a full stomach during surgery. This means you could vomit and breathe food into your lungs. This can cause infection or swelling of the lungs. This can cause problems breathing. This is called 'pulmonary aspiration'. It is a rare but serious problem.

Reducing risk of harm when taking GLP-1 drugs

- ❖ Your anaesthetist can do certain things to reduce the risk.
- ❖ This might include:
 - ◆ Pressure on the front of the neck when drifting off to sleep
 - ◆ Medicines that speed up stomach emptying
 - ◆ Using a breathing tube that protects the lungs
 - ◆ Not lying completely flat when having an anaesthetic
 - ◆ A tube through the nose or mouth to drain the stomach. They might do this before or after they wake you up
 - ◆ Ultrasound scan of the stomach before
 - ◆ Your anaesthetist may suggest you have the surgery under a spinal or local anaesthetic. We will give you further leaflets about these choices.

What to do before surgery?

- ❖ Tell the pre-assessment team before your surgery if you take these drugs. You must also tell the anaesthetist on the day of your surgery.
- ❖ Keep taking your medicine before and after your surgery. Do this unless your surgeon or anaesthetist tells not to you.
- ❖ Follow the fasting instructions given to you before your surgery
- ❖ You might want a liquid only diet for 24 hours before your surgery. This can reduce the risks.

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