

Expanded Indication for Diabetes Drug

On June 17, 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved an expanded indication for the injectable diabetes drug Victoza® (liraglutide). Victoza is from the class of medications known as glucagon-like-peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists. It was previously approved for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus in adults. The new expanded indication allows the use of Victoza for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus in pediatric patients 10 years of age or older.

The number of pediatric patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus is on the rise with treatment primarily being diet and exercise. If drug therapy was required, the only two options available for pediatric patients were metformin and insulin. It has been almost 20 years since a new therapy has been approved for the treatment of pediatric patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Liraglutide is administered as a subcutaneous injection once daily. Pediatric patients 10 years of age and older should start treatment at 0.6 mg once daily for at least one week. If further blood glucose control is needed, the dose may be increased to 1.2 mg daily. If greater control is required after at least one week on the 1.2 mg dose, the dose may be increased to 1.8 mg daily.

Liraglutide does carry a boxed warning for thyroid C-cell tumor risk. In clinical studies, dose-dependent and treatment duration-dependent thyroid C-cell tumors were observed in animals who received liraglutide. The risk to humans is currently unknown, but liraglutide is contraindicated in patients with a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC). It is also contraindicated in patients with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Syndrome Type 2. Before initiating therapy, all patients should be counseled on the potential risk of thyroid tumors.

For more information on this expanded indication, view this [News Article](#) or visit the manufacturer's [website](#).

References

1. FDA OKs Liraglutide (Victoza) for Use in Youth With Type 2 Diabetes. Medscape Medical News. <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/914529>. Updated June 18, 2019. Accessed June 27, 2019.
2. Victoza [package insert]. Bagsvaerd, Denmark Novo Nordisk A/S; June 2019. Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2019/022341s031lbl.pdf. Accessed June 27, 2019.

