

evoke and evoke+: *Two phase 3 randomised placebo-controlled trials of* *semaglutide in participants with early-stage* *Alzheimer's disease (NCT04777396 and NCT04777409)*

Jeffrey Cummings, Peter Johannsen and Filip K. Knop presenting on behalf of the evoke and evoke+ study group

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Filip K. Knop⁹, Peter Johannsen⁹, Teresa León⁹, Rikke Mortensen Abschneider⁹, and Philip Scheltens^{10,11}

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Semaglutide is not approved for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Cummings JL, et al. evoke and evoke+: Two phase 3 randomised placebo-controlled trials of semaglutide in participants with early-stage Alzheimer's disease (NCT04777396 and NCT04777409). Oral presentation at 18th CTAD December 1-4, 2025. San Diego, CA, USA.



evoke and evoke+ introduction

Jeffrey Cummings

Professor

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

evoke
evaluation of oral semaglutide
in early Alzheimer's disease

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Disclosures

- **Jeffrey L. Cummings** has provided consultation to Acadia, Actinogen, Acumen, AlphaCognition, ALZpath, Aprinoia, AriBio, Artery, Biogen, Biohaven, BioVie, BioXcel, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Cassava, Cerecin, Diadem, Eisai, GAP Foundation, GemVax, Janssen, Jocasta, Karuna, Lighthouse, Lilly, Lundbeck, LSP/eqt, Merck, NervGen, New Amsterdam, Novo Nordisk, Oligomerix, Optoceutics, Ono, Otsuka, Oxford Brain Diagnostics, Prothena, ReMYND, Roche, Sage Therapeutics, Signant Health, Simcere, sinaptica, Suven, TrueBinding, Vaxxinity, and Wren pharmaceutical, assessment, and investment companies.
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Agenda

Time (PT)	Agenda	Presenter
17:05–17:10	Introduction	Jeffrey Cummings
17:10–17:15	evoke and evoke+ trial designs	Peter Johannsen
17:15–17:20	evoke and evoke+ baseline characteristics	Peter Johannsen
17:20–17:28	evoke and evoke+ efficacy results	Jeffrey Cummings
17:28–17:32	Pooled evoke and evoke+ safety results	Filip K. Knop
17:32–17:35	Conclusions	Jeffrey Cummings
17:35–17:45	Q&A	All



evoke and evoke+ trial design

Peter Johannsen
International Medical Vice President
Novo Nordisk

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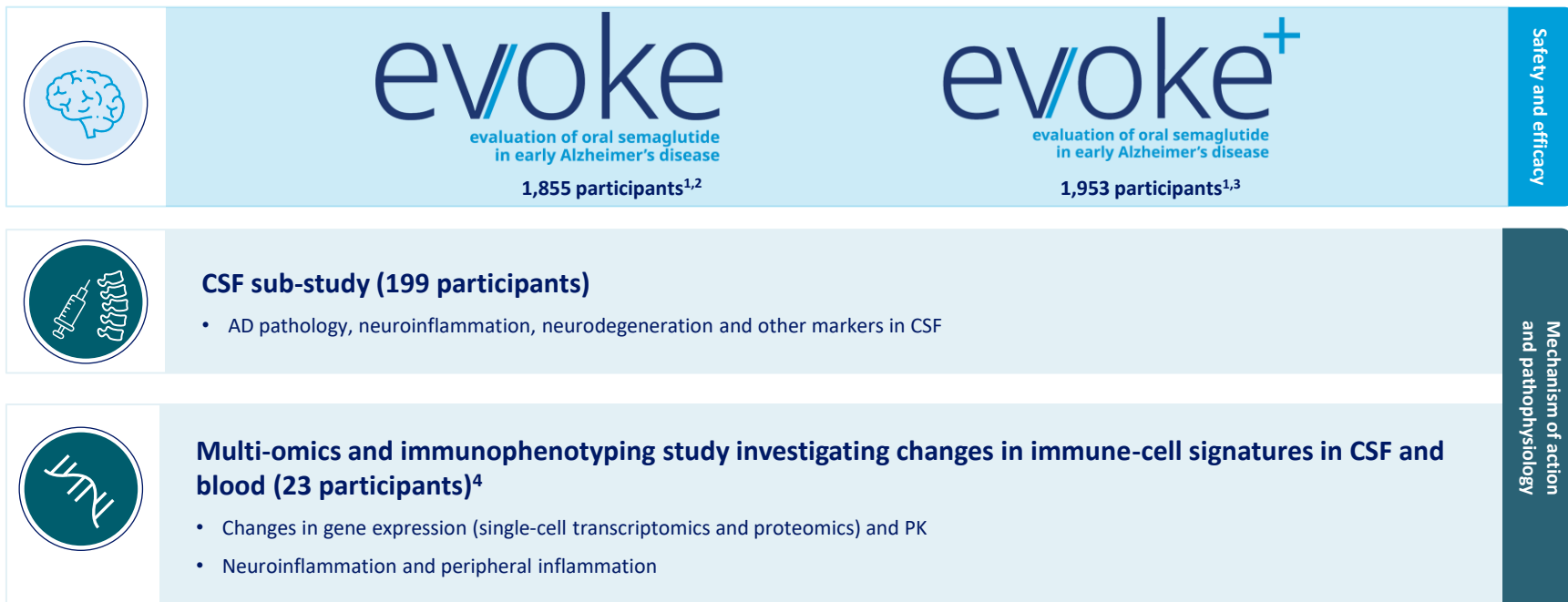
Disclosures

- **Peter Johannsen** is a full-time employee and a minor shareholder of Novo Nordisk A/S

THANK YOU

to all **participants, care partners, families, investigators, and site staff** for their invaluable contribution to advancing the field of Alzheimer's disease research and clinical care, bringing hope to many

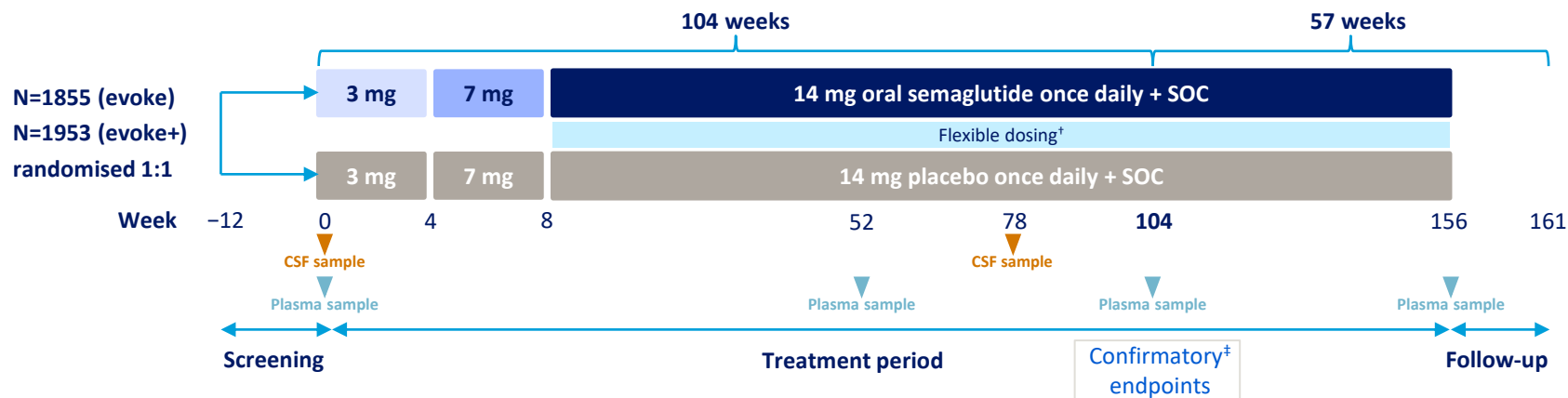
Semaglutide Alzheimer's disease clinical development program



Semaglutide has not been approved for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease by any regulatory authority.

There are no GLP-1RAs approved for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Efficacy and safety of semaglutide in early AD were assessed in evoke and evoke+



In evoke+, the study population allowed for participants with concomitant significant small-vessel pathology

1. Treatment policy estimand
2. Hybrid-HTC estimand

[†]Participants should remain on the 14 mg dose level until the end of treatment visit; however, dose reductions, extensions of dose escalation intervals and treatment pauses are allowed e.g. if treatment with the study intervention is associated with unacceptable AEs. [†]At week 156 as well.

AD, Alzheimer's disease; ADL, activity of daily living; ADCS-ADL-MCI, Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study Activities of Daily Living Scale for mild cognitive impairment; CDR, Clinical Dementia Rating; CDR-SB, Clinical Dementia Rating – Sum of Boxes; CNS, central nervous system; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; HTC, hybrid-hypothetical-treatment policy estimand; MCI, mild cognitive impairment; MMSE, Mini-Mental State Examination; RBANS-MI, Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status Memory Index; SOC, standard of care.

Cummings JL et al. *Alzheimer Res Ther* 2025;17:14.

Key inclusion and exclusion criteria for evoke and evoke+

Key inclusion criteria¹⁻³

- Age 55-85 years
- Amyloid positivity (PET or CSF)
- CDR-G = 0.5 (≥ 0.5 of 3 ADLs categories), or CDR global score = 1.0
- MMSE ≥ 22
- RBANS delayed memory index score ≤ 85
- Continuation of stable approved AD treatments was allowed

Key exclusion criteria¹⁻³

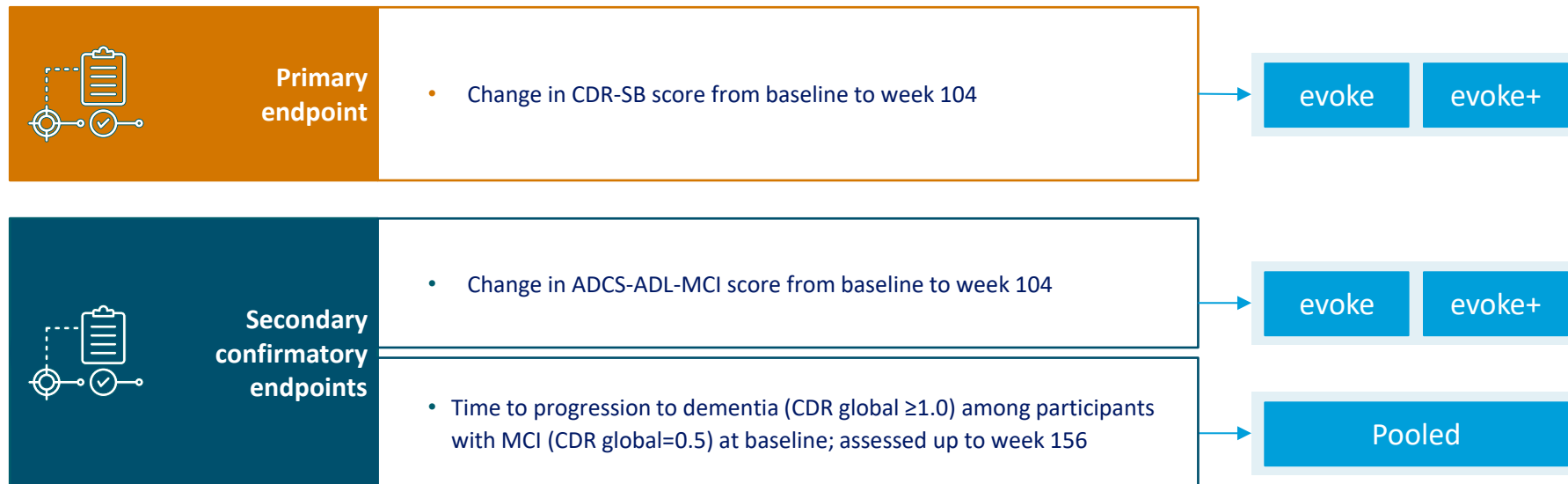
- Evidence of a relevant neurological disorder
- Evidence of a clinically relevant or unstable psychiatric disorder
- Brain MRI (or CT) scan suggestive of clinically-significant structural CNS disease or strategic infarcts

In evoke⁺, participants were allowed to have significant small vessel pathology, defined as ARWMC > 2 and/or > 1 lacunar infarct

In both trials, approved AD medication could be initiated throughout, including anti-amyloid MABs

evoke and evoke+ primary and confirmatory secondary endpoints

Tested in:



evoke and evoke+ secondary endpoints

104 weeks	ADAS-Cog-13 score	MoCA score	MMSE score	ADCOMS score
	10-item NPI score	EQ-5D-5L proxy score	High sensitivity CRP	
Up to 156 weeks	Time to progression in disease stage (global CDR score)		Number of TEAEs (safety endpoint)	

Blood and CSF biomarkers in evoke and evoke+



Blood-based
(to week 104)



CSF-based
(only in CSF
sub-study;
to week 78)

Amyloid-related pathology [†]	Tau pathology	Neuroinflammation	Neurodegeneration	BBB integrity
p-tau181 p-tau217	eMTBR-tau243	GFAP	NfL	Albumin ratio (CSF/serum) PDGFR β
A β 42/40 ratio p-tau181 p-tau217	p-tau205	YKL-40 sTREM2 GFAP IL-6 MCP-1/CCL2 SMOC1	Osteopontin IL-1 β IL-18 IL-8 IP-10/CXCL10 IL-1RA C3 and C4B	

Green text =
from proteomics
in CSF

- Change in plasma high-sensitivity C-reactive protein levels
- Genetic sample used to measure *APOE4* variant status in both evoke and evoke+

[†]Phosphorylated and secreted tau (p-tau181, p-tau217) are biomarkers more closely related to amyloid proteinopathy according to the new revised AA criteria.¹

AA, Alzheimer's Association; A β , amyloid beta; BBB, blood-brain barrier; C3, complement component 3; C4B, complement component 4B; CCL2, C-C motif chemokine ligand 2; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; CXCL10, C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 10; eMTBR, endogenously cleaved, microtubule-binding region; GFAP, glial fibrillary acidic protein; IL, interleukin; IL-1RA, IL-1 receptor antagonist; IP-10, interferon- γ inducible protein 10; MCP-1, monocyte chemoattractant protein-1; NfL, neurofilament light chain; p-tau181/205/217, tau phosphorylated at threonine 181/205/217; SMOC1, secreted modular calcium-binding protein 1; PDGFR β , platelet-derived growth factor receptor β ; sTREM2, soluble triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2; t-tau, total tau; YKL-40, chitinase-3-like protein 1.

1. CR Jack Jr et al. *Alzheimers Dement* 2024;20:5143–5169.



evoke and evoke+ baseline characteristics

Peter Johannsen
International Medical Vice President
Novo Nordisk

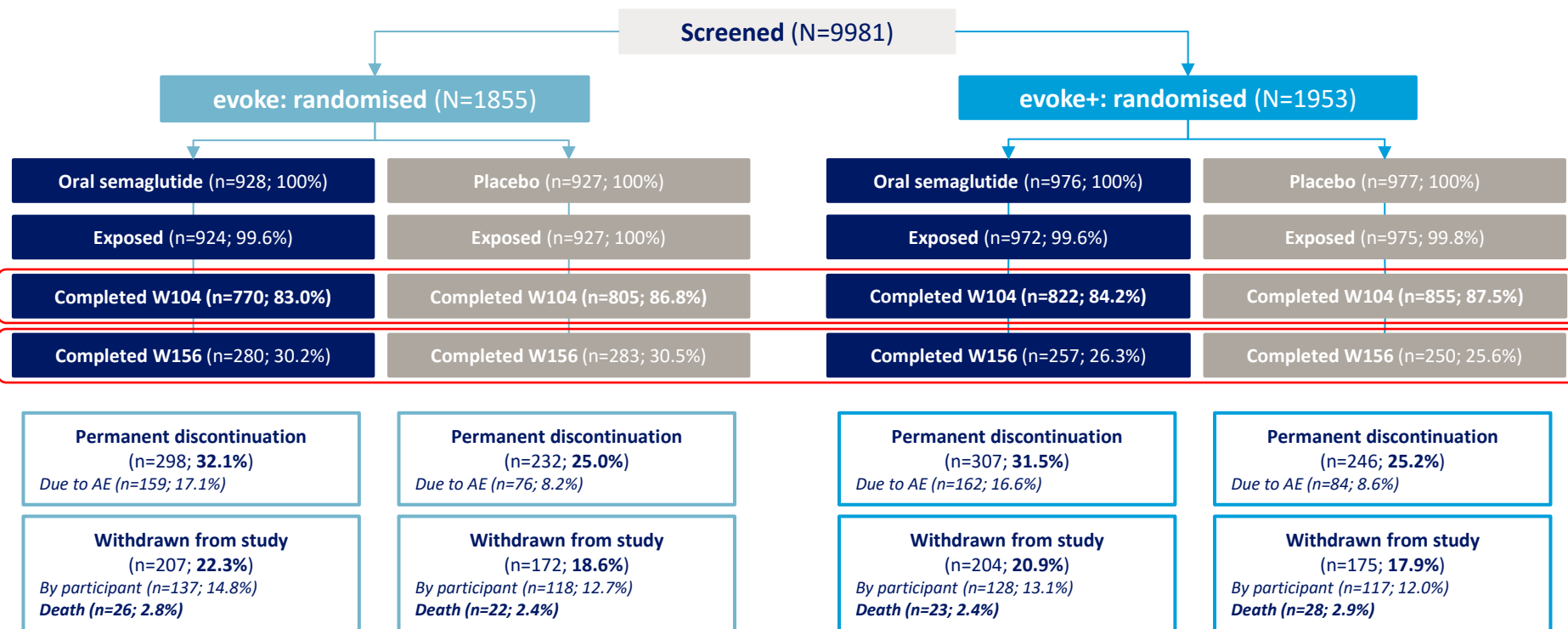
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Participant disposition



Demographics and baseline characteristics

		evoke		evoke+		pooled
		Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Total
Number of participants		928	927	976	977	3808
Age, years	Mean (SD)	71.9 (7.0)	71.7 (7.1)	72.6 (7.0)	72.5 (7.2)	72.2 (7.1)
Sex	Female	489 (52.7)	496 (53.5)	515 (52.8)	498 (51.0)	1998 (52.5)
Ethnicity[†]	Hispanic Or Latino	114 (12.3)	130 (14.0)	117 (12.0)	85 (8.7)	446 (11.7)
Race[†]	American Indian or Alaska Native	3 (0.3)	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	0	5 (0.1)
	Asian	117 (12.6)	102 (11.0)	202 (20.7)	205 (21.0)	626 (16.4)
	Black or African American	13 (1.4)	10 (1.1)	9 (0.9)	10 (1.0)	42 (1.1)
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	3 (0.3)	0	5 (0.1)
	White	735 (79.2)	765 (82.5)	725 (74.3)	726 (74.3)	2951 (77.5)
	Other	24 (2.6)	25 (2.7)	4 (0.4)	2 (0.2)	55 (1.4)

Demographics and baseline characteristics (cont.)

		evoke		evoke+		pooled
		Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Total
Number of participants		928	927	976	977	3808
BMI (kg/m²)	<18.5	28 (3.0)	18 (1.9)	22 (2.3)	28 (2.9)	96 (2.5)
	18.5 to <25	421 (45.4)	432 (46.6)	463 (47.4)	465 (47.6)	1781 (46.8)
	25 to <30	337 (36.3)	333 (35.9)	334 (34.2)	329 (33.7)	1333 (35.0)
	≥30	142 (15.3)	139 (15.0)	156 (16.0)	154 (15.8)	591 (15.5)
	Missing	0	5 (0.5)	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	7 (0.2)
T2D		99 (10.7)	116 (12.5)	155 (15.9)	148 (15.1)	518 (13.6)
Concurrent significant small-vessel pathology		--	--	26 (2.7)	28 (2.9)	54 (1.4)
APOE genotype	<i>APOE4</i> Carrier (Heterozygote)	451 (48.6)	448 (48.3)	443 (45.4)	437 (44.7)	1779 (46.7)
	<i>APOE4</i> Carrier (Homozygote)	117 (12.6)	120 (12.9)	111 (11.4)	122 (12.5)	470 (12.3)

Concomitant AD medication ongoing at randomisation

	evoke		evoke+		pooled
	Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Total
Number of participants	928	927	976	977	3808
All medications	559 (60.2)	527 (56.9)	546 (55.9)	525 (53.7)	2157 (56.6)
Symptomatic treatments					
Donepezil	362 (39.0)	330 (35.6)	346 (35.5)	345 (35.3)	1383 (36.3)
Rivastigmine	101 (10.9)	101 (10.9)	103 (10.6)	90 (9.2)	395 (10.4)
Galantamine	31 (3.3)	38 (4.1)	31 (3.2)	35 (3.6)	135 (3.5)
Huperzine A	1 (0.1)	0	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)	3 (0.1)
Memantine	142 (15.3)	118 (12.7)	144 (14.8)	125 (12.8)	529 (13.9)
Monoclonal antibodies					
Aducanumab	0	0	1 (0.1)	0	1 (0.0)

Concomitant AD medication initiated at or after at randomisation

	evoke		evoke+		pooled
	Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Total
Number of participants	928	927	976	977	3808
All medications	246 (26.5)	290 (31.3)	266 (27.2)	308 (31.5)	1110 (29.1)
Symptomatic treatments					
Donepezil	109 (11.8)	134 (14.5)	135 (13.8)	153 (15.7)	531 (13.9)
Rivastigmine	76 (8.2)	71 (7.7)	57 (5.8)	75 (7.7)	279 (7.3)
Galantamine	13 (1.4)	15 (1.6)	15 (1.5)	11 (1.1)	54 (1.4)
Huperzine A	0	0	0	2 (0.2)	2 (0.1)
Memantine	104 (11.2)	125 (13.5)	99 (10.1)	127 (13.0)	455 (11.9)
Monoclonal antibodies					
Lecanemab	9 (1.0)	21 (2.3)	20 (2.0)	17 (1.7)	67 (1.8)
Donanemab	3 (0.3)	1 (0.1)	4 (0.4)	3 (0.3)	11 (0.3)

Demographics and baseline characteristics (cont.)

		evoke		evoke+		pooled
		Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Oral semaglutide	Placebo	Total
Number of participants		928	927	976	977	3808
CDR-Sum of Boxes[†]	Mean (SD)	3.8 (1.6)	3.7 (1.5)	3.7 (1.5)	3.7 (1.7)	3.7 (1.6)
	Min ; Max	0.5 ; 11.0	1.0 ; 11.0	0.5 ; 10.0	0.5 ; 12.0	0.5 ; 12.0
CDR global score, n (%)	0.5	670 (72.2)	680 (73.4)	699 (71.6)	697 (71.3)	2746 (72.1)
	1	252 (27.2)	240 (25.9)	273 (28.0)	269 (27.5)	1034 (27.2)
ADCS-ADL-MCI[†]	Mean (SD)	39.2 (7.3)	39.7 (7.4)	38.7 (7.5)	39.2 (7.5)	39.2 (7.4)
	Min ; Max	12.0 ; 53.0	10.0 ; 53.0	12.0 ; 53.0	10.0 ; 52.0	10.0 ; 53.0
MMSE[†]	Mean (SD)	24.1 (2.9)	24.0 (3.1)	24.0 (3.1)	24.1 (3.1)	24.0 (3.0)
	Min ; Max	15.0 ; 30.0	15.0 ; 30.0	13.0 ; 30.0	13.0 ; 30.0	13.0 ; 30.0



evoke and evoke+ efficacy results

Jeffrey Cummings

Professor

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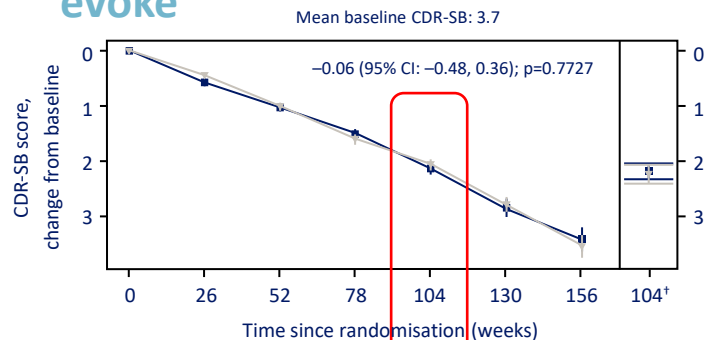
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Oral semaglutide did not slow cognitive and functional decline in participants with early AD versus placebo in either trial

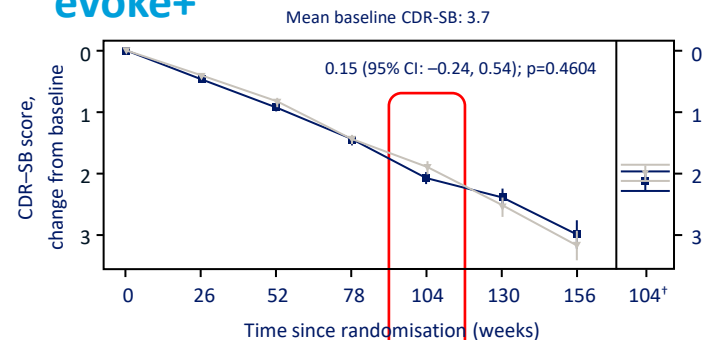
Change in CDR-SB score from baseline to week 104

evoke



Oral semaglutide	927	847	777	750	709	452	251	928
Placebo	927	868	822	777	755	477	261	927

evoke+



Oral semaglutide	967	885	814	781	748	423	226	976
Placebo	977	919	873	823	776	439	223	977

	Estimate [†]	95% CI	P-value
Oral semaglutide	2.2		
Placebo	2.2		
Oral semaglutide – Placebo	−0.06	−0.48 ; 0.36	0.7727

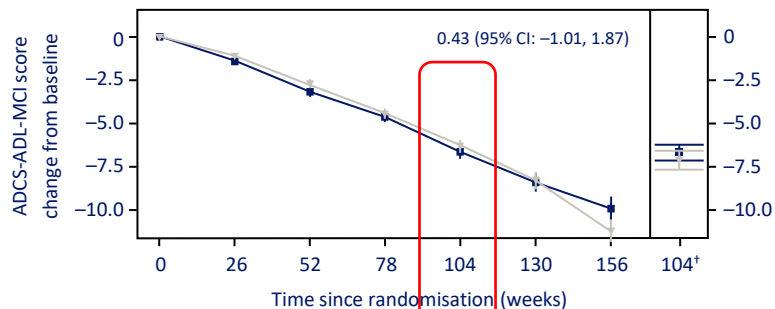
	Estimate [†]	95% CI	P-value
Oral semaglutide	2.1		
Placebo	2.0		
Oral semaglutide – Placebo	0.15	−0.24 ; 0.54	0.4604

Oral semaglutide did not slow functional decline in participants with early AD versus placebo in either trial

Change in ADCS-ADL-MCI score from baseline to week 104

evoke

Mean baseline ADCS-ADL-MCI: 39.4

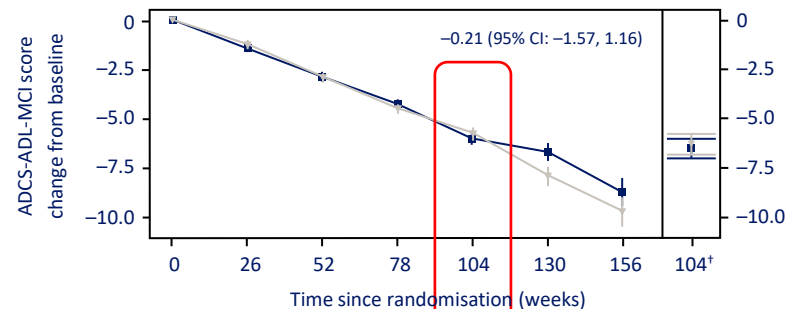


Oral semaglutide	927	845	789	749	717	460	256	928
Placebo	927	868	826	789	762	492	262	927

	Estimate [†]	95% CI
Oral semaglutide	-6.6	
Placebo	-7.1	
Oral semaglutide – Placebo	0.43	-1.01; 1.87

evoke+

Mean baseline ADCS-ADL-MCI: 38.9

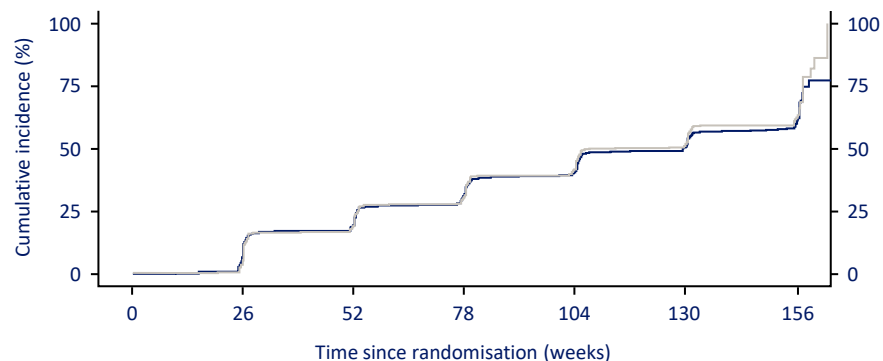


Oral semaglutide	976	891	816	791	758	433	233	976
Placebo	977	919	875	833	788	448	231	977

	Estimate [†]	95% CI
Oral semaglutide	-6.5	
Placebo	-6.3	
Oral semaglutide – Placebo	-0.21	-1.57; 1.16

Oral semaglutide did not delay time to progression to dementia in participants with MCI across both trials

Time to progression to CDR global ≥ 1.0 among patients with CDR global = 0.5 at baseline (pooled evoke and evoke+)

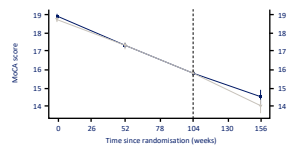


Oral semaglutide	1369	1237	1001	831	697	381	134
Placebo	1377	1287	1050	873	716	374	115

	N	Events	HR	95% CI
Oral semaglutide	1369	717		
Placebo	1377	757		
Oral semaglutide – Placebo			0.96	0.86 ; 1.06

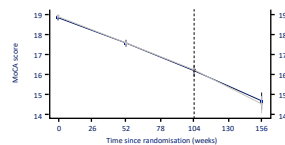
Oral semaglutide did not show beneficial effects on cognition and function in participants with early AD

evoke



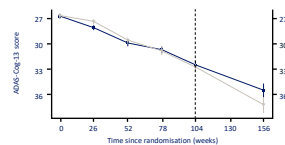
Oral semaglutide 310
Placebo 321

evoke+



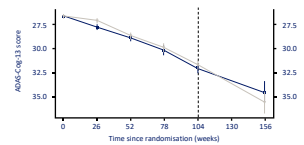
Oral semaglutide 373
Placebo 371

evoke



Oral semaglutide 301
Placebo 309

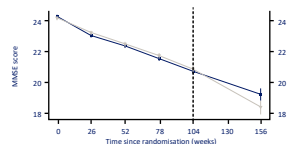
evoke+



Oral semaglutide 356
Placebo 355

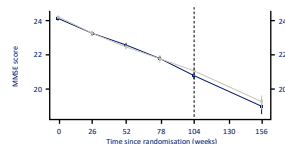
MoCA

evoke



Oral semaglutide 327
Placebo 327

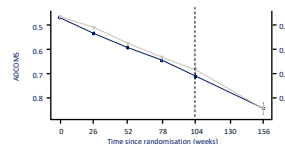
evoke+



Oral semaglutide 376
Placebo 377

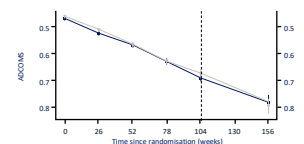
ADAS-Cog-13

evoke



Oral semaglutide 308
Placebo 315

evoke+

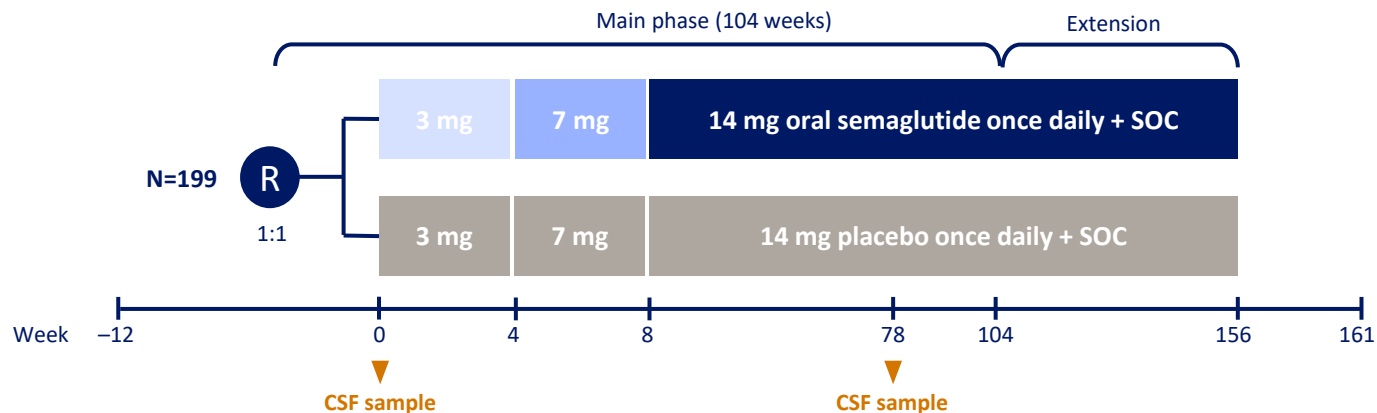


Oral semaglutide 361
Placebo 360

MMSE

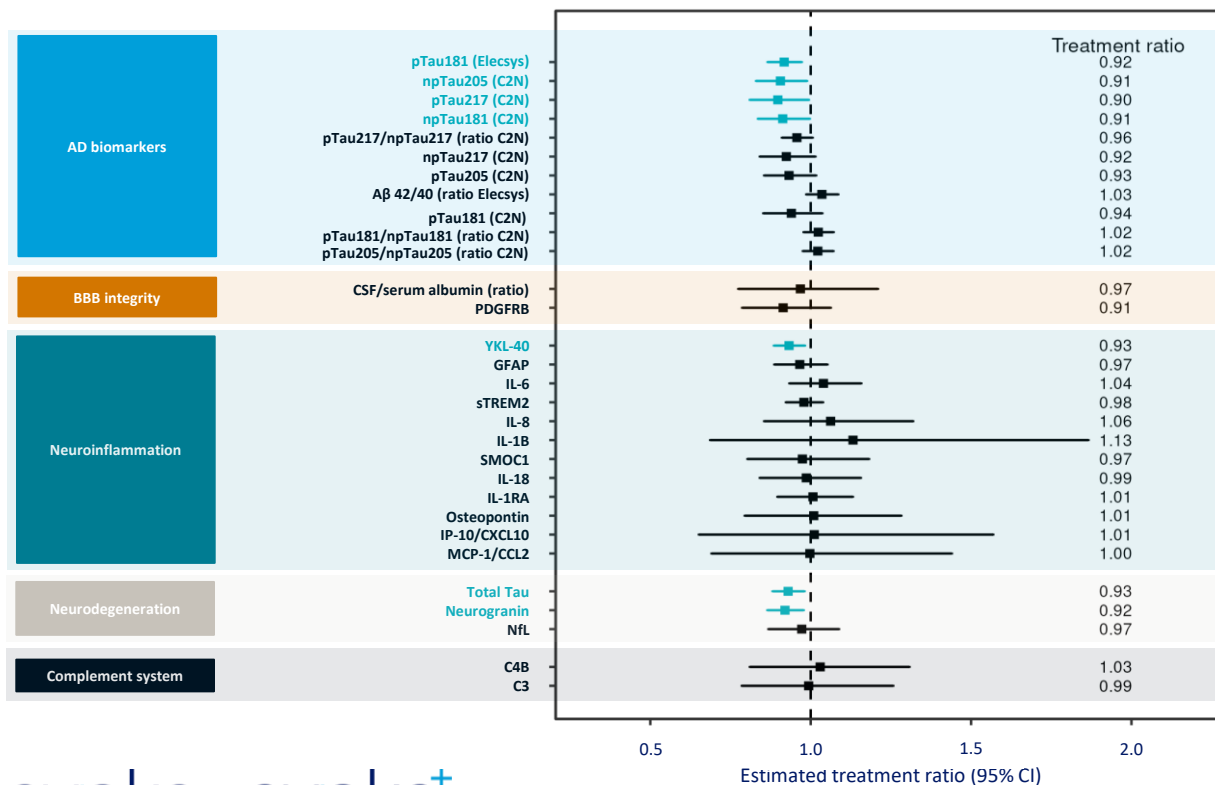
ADCOMS

Trial design of the CSF sub-study



n	Oral semaglutide	Placebo
At randomisation (week 0)	98	101
At end of the CSF sub study (week 78)	63	61

CSF biomarkers – ratio to baseline at week 78



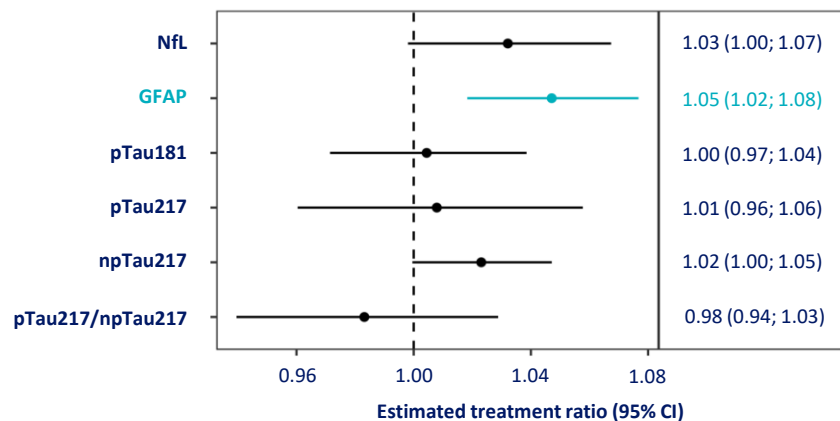
Significant reductions of up to 10%[†] with semaglutide treatment versus placebo in:

AD biomarkers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pTau181 pTau217 npTau181 npTau205
Neuroinflammation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YKL-40
Neurodegeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total tau Neurogranin

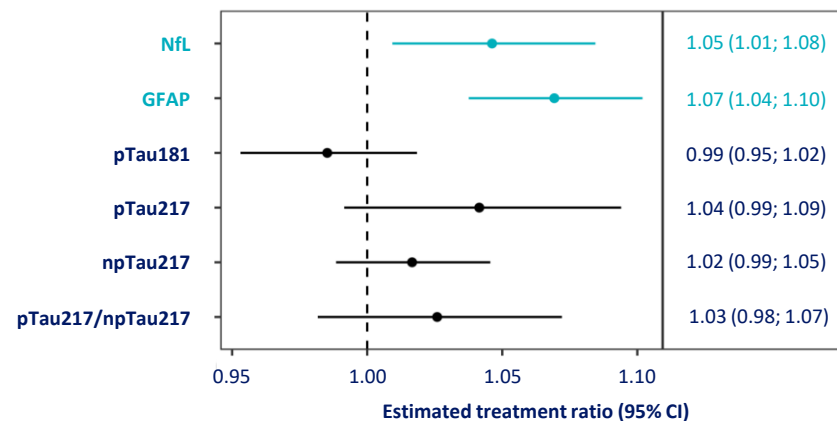
- Unadjusted p-value < 0.05
- Unadjusted p-value ≥ 0.05

Exploratory blood-based biomarkers - ratio to baseline at week 104

evoke



evoke+



n	Oral semaglutide	Placebo
At randomisation (week 0)	1677	1695
At end of main study phase (week 104)	1427	1500

- A significant increase of ~5% in NfL in evoke+
- A significant increase of ~4% in GFAP in both trials
- No significant changes for pTau217 and pTau181

■ Unadjusted p-value <0.05
 ■ Unadjusted p-value ≥0.05

- Approx 2/3 participants had eMTBR-tau243 below lower limit of quantification
- **Significant decrease in hsCRP**, estimated treatment ratio in
 - evoke: 0.76 [0.64 ; 0.90]_{95% CI} and evoke+: 0.71 [0.62 ; 0.82]_{95% CI}



Pooled evoke and evoke+ safety results

Filip K. Knop
Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer
Novo Nordisk

evoke
evaluation of oral semaglutide
in early Alzheimer's disease

evoke⁺
evaluation of oral semaglutide
in early Alzheimer's disease

Semaglutide is not approved for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

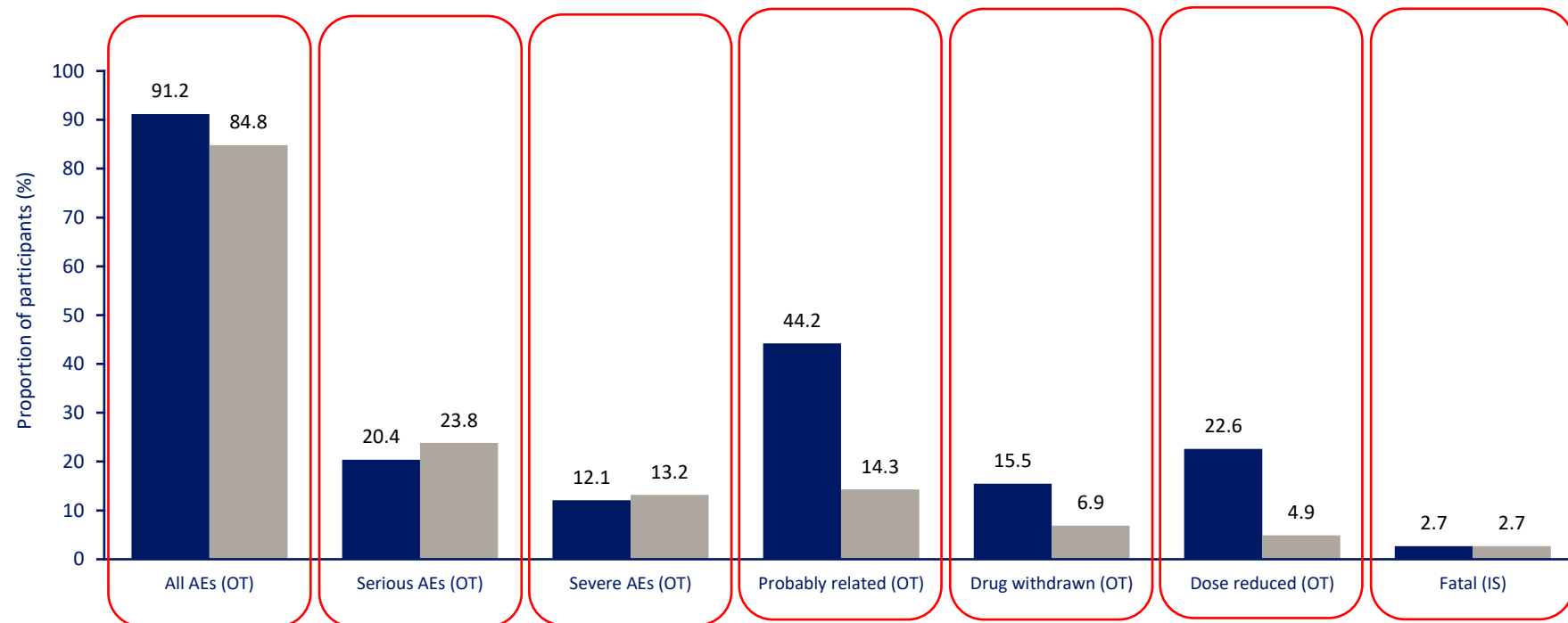
Cummings JL, et al. evoke and evoke+: Two phase 3 randomised placebo-controlled trials of semaglutide in participants with early-stage Alzheimer's disease (NCT04777396 and NCT04777409). Oral presentation at 18th CTAD December 1-4, 2025. San Diego, CA, USA.

Disclosures

- **Filip K. Knop** is a full-time employee and a minor shareholder of Novo Nordisk A/S

Adverse events overview

Pooled evoke and evoke+



Safety summary

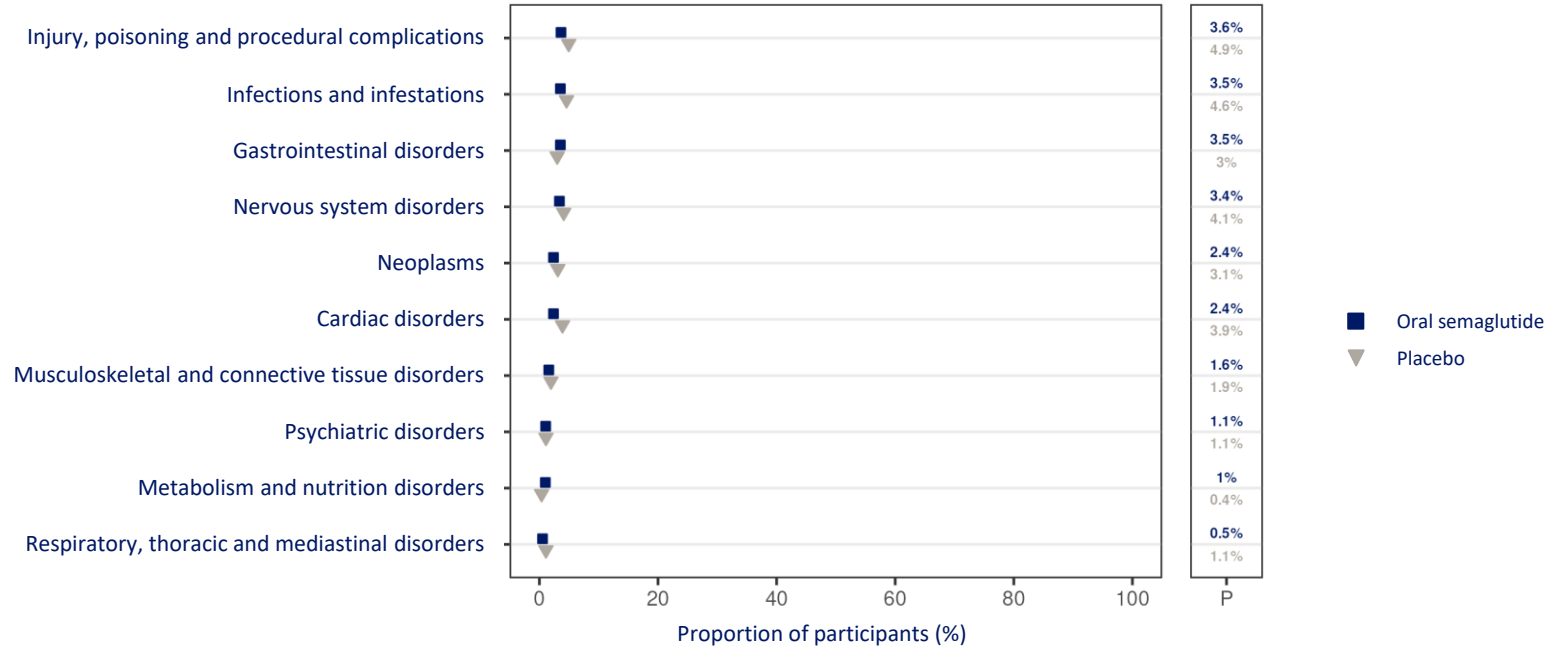
Safety analysis set

	Oral semaglutide 14 mg (n=1896)	Placebo (n=1902)
AEs affecting ≥10% of participants		
Body weight decreased	692 (36.5)	141 (7.4)
Decreased appetite	627 (33.1)	114 (6.0)
Nausea	460 (24.3)	130 (6.8)
Diarrhoea	275 (14.5)	185 (9.7)
Vomiting	234 (12.3)	69 (3.6)
COVID-19	206 (10.9)	214 (11.3)

Serious AEs by System Organ Class (reported by $\geq 1\%$)

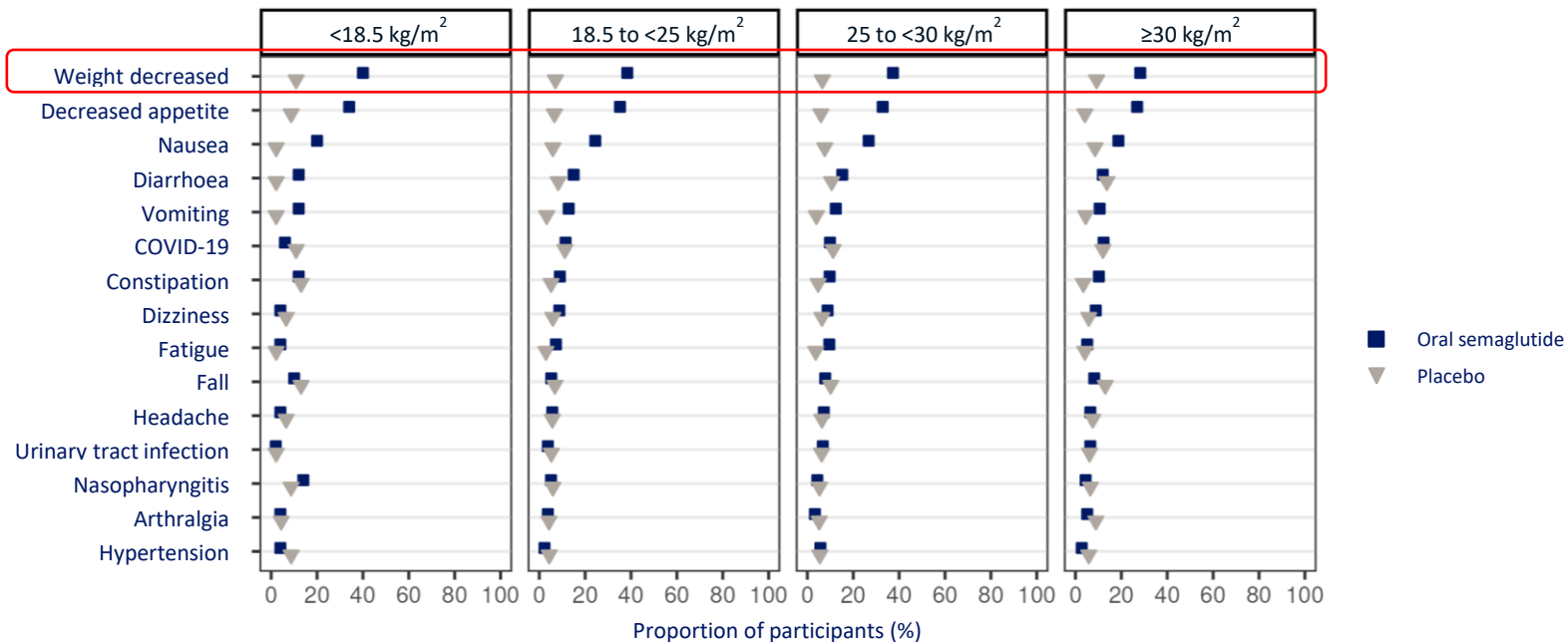
Pooled evoke and evoke+

No unexpected findings or safety concerns were identified



Weight loss AEs by baseline BMI subgroup

Pooled evoke and evoke+



Body weight change (%) by baseline BMI subgroup

Change from baseline to week 104

Across both trials, the mean body weight change from baseline at week 104:

–5.8% (–4.3 kg) for oral semaglutide

+0.6% (+0.2 kg) for placebo

	Oral semaglutide 14 mg		Placebo	
BMI category (kg/m ²)	n	Body weight change (%) from baseline	n	Body weight change (%) from baseline
<18.5	34	–1.0	36	+4.9
18.5 to <25	628	–4.5	722	+1.4
25 to <30	486	–6.5	514	–0.1
≥30	231	–8.6	237	–1.4

Safety and tolerability for oral semaglutide in early AD was consistent with the known safety profile of semaglutide

1

More AEs were reported with oral semaglutide compared with placebo, but **no treatment differences were observed for AEs with a fatal outcome, severe AEs or serious AEs**

2

Event types reported were as expected, with more GI disorders and decreased appetite and weight reported with oral semaglutide compared with placebo; all consistent with the known tolerability profile and mode of action of semaglutide

3

AEs leading to study drug **withdrawal or dose-reduction** were driven by GI disorders, weight decrease and decreased appetite

4

Evaluation of the safety focus areas as well as other safety parameters revealed **no unexpected findings, and no safety concerns were identified** in this early AD population



Conclusions

Jeffrey Cummings

Professor

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Conclusions

1

evoke and evoke+ are two large multinational, randomised, placebo-controlled trials that enrolled **3,808 participants** with biomarker-positive early AD in **40 countries**

2

Superiority of oral semaglutide 14 mg once-daily versus placebo was **not confirmed** in change in cognition and function after 104 weeks, as measured by the CDR-SB

3

Plasma hs-CRP and AD-relevant **CSF biomarkers were significantly impacted** but this did not translate into clinical efficacy

4

Safety and tolerability for oral semaglutide in participants with early AD was **consistent** with studies in other indications

Thank you!
Any questions?

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<https://sciencehub.novonordisk.com/CTAD25/johannsen1.html?cid=qrrnmv70fs9o&source=ctad-2025>



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