



CODEN [USA]: IAJPBB

ISSN : 2349-7750

**INDO AMERICAN JOURNAL OF
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**

SJIF Impact Factor: 7.187

Available online at: <http://www.iajps.com>

Review Article

**A REVIEW ON ANALYTICAL PROFILE OF SEMAGLUTIDE
IN PHARMACEUTICAL DOSAGE FORMS AND BIOLOGICAL
MATRICES****M. M. Eswarudu^{1*}, P. Siva Krishna¹, Shaik Shannu¹, B. Lakshmi Prasanna¹,
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Andhra Pradesh, India.²Department of Pharmaceutics, Vignan Pharmacy College, Vadlamudi, Guntur District –522213,
Andhra Pradesh, India.**Abstract:**

The chase to improve the quality of life has stimulated desirable changes in research to design and develop a new drug and enhance its safety and effectiveness. Thus, there is a gradual rise in demand to develop susceptible and specific analytical techniques for newly developed drugs. Thus, analysts are striving very hard to develop new and efficient analytical methods to achieve these targets. Semaglutide was approved by United states Food and Drug administration (USFDA). It comes under antidiabetic agents; it acts by improves the efficiency of incretin function by activating GLP-1 receptors. This review article represents the collection and discussion of various analytical methods available in the literature for the estimation of the Semaglutide in pharmaceutical formulations and biological samples consisting of UV, HPLC, UPLC and hyphenated techniques such as LC-MS, LC-MS/MS. Moreover, we discuss about Semaglutide chemical structure, mechanism of action, and pharmacodynamics/pharmacokinetics properties. The present review can be effectively explored to conduct future analytical investigation for the estimation of Semaglutide.

Keywords: Semaglutide, Analytical Methods, RP-HPLC, UPLC, LC-MS/MS.**Corresponding author:****M.M. Eswarudu,**Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Analysis,
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Please cite this article in press M. M. Eswarudu *et al*, *A Review On Analytical Profile Of Semaglutide In Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms And Biological Matrices*, *Indo Am. J. P. Sci*, 2023; 10 (11).

INTRODUCTION:

Semaglutide is one of the most potent glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists to treat type 2 diabetes and obesity, which is available as injectable as well as oral dosage forms. Semaglutide is one of the most potent glucagon-like peptides-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists to treat type 2 diabetes and obesity, which is available as injectable as well as oral dosage forms. Once-weekly subcutaneous injectable Semaglutide (Ozempic®) was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2017 and by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2018 for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Subsequently, a daily oral tablet of Semaglutide (Rybelsus®) was approved in 2019 by the FDA and in 2020 by EMA. In 2021, the US FDA also approved Semaglutide subcutaneous injection (Wegovy®) for chronic weight management in patients with obesity or overweight, which was the first since 2014^[1].

When taken as prescribed, it can help lower blood sugar levels up by stimulating the release of insulin and reducing the production of glucose in the liver. SEM also helps to slow down digestion, which can lead to increased feelings of fullness and potentially aid in weight loss. It's important to use SEM as directed by healthcare provider and alongside a healthy diet and exercise plan. It has a clear, colorless and unpleasant sulfur smell compound with a Pka of 5.4. Chemical formula and molecular weight of SEM is $C_{187}H_{291}N_{45}O_{59}$, 4113.58 g/mol respectively^[2].

Pharmacokinetic data of Semaglutide:

Absorption: Oral Semaglutide is co-formulated with the absorption enhancer sodium N-(8- [2-hydroxybenzoyl] amino) caprylate, which facilitates the transcellular absorption of Semaglutide across the gastric mucosa.

Distribution: The average clearance (CL) and volume of distribution (V_{ss}) of Semaglutide were estimated as 0.21 mL/min/kg and 0.10 L/kg, respectively. After SC injection, the plasma concentration of Semaglutide gradually increased, achieved the maximum concentrations in 3–12 hr. and decreased with an average $t_{1/2}$ of 7.22–8.99 h^[3-6].

Metabolism: It is more than 99% bound to albumin. Semaglutide is cleaved at the peptide backbone, followed by β -oxidation of the fatty acid chain. Naturally occurring GLP-1 is quickly metabolized by dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) and other enzymes, which is ubiquitous in human tissues^[7].

Excretion: Degradation products of Semaglutide are excreted via urine and faeces, implying at least partial involvement of the liver in the elimination of Semaglutide^[8].

Storage: Store Semaglutide pens (Wegovy) in the refrigerator (36°F to 46°F [2°C to 8°C]). Before removing the cap, it can be stored or from 46°F to 86°F [8°C to 30°C]) in the original carton for up to 28 days. Do not freeze. Do not use Semaglutide if it has been frozen^[8].

Mechanism of action: Insulin secretion (glucose Semaglutide improves the efficiency of incretin function by activating GLP-1 receptors. It acts by numerous mechanisms like augmented - dependent), inhibition of glucagon release and suppressed hepatic gluconeogenesis; thereby reducing both fasting as well as postprandial glucose^[9]. Figure 1 and Table 1 represents the MOA and list of available marketed formulations of Semaglutide^[10-13].

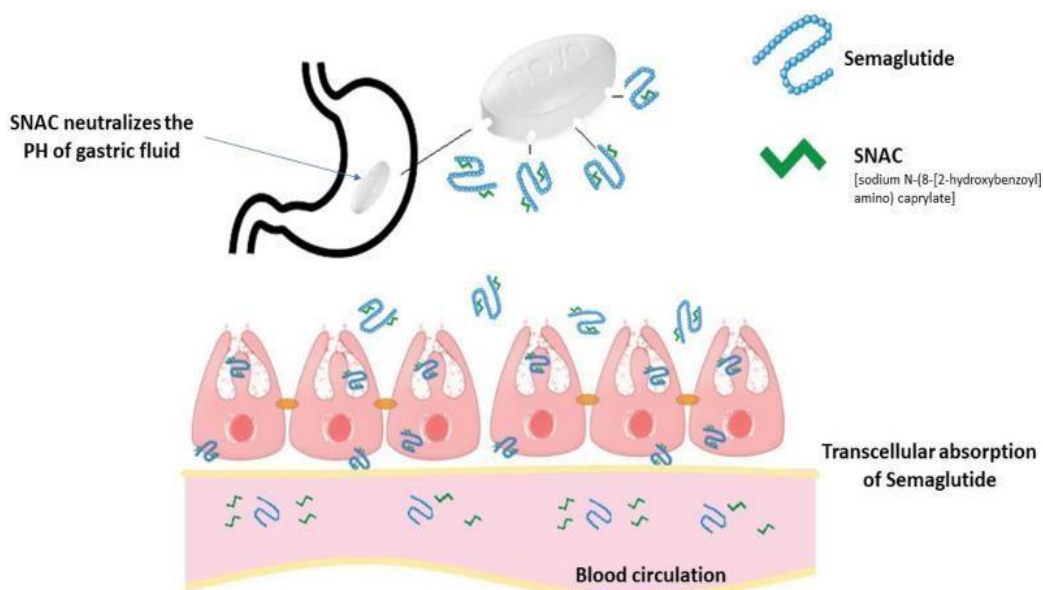


Figure 1: Mechanism of action of Semaglutide

Table 1: Available marketed formulations

| S. No. | Trade name | Formulation | Dosage strength | Manufacturer |
|--------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Ozempic | Injection | 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg | Novo Nordisk |
| 2 | Wegovy | Injection | 1.7 mg, 2.4 mg | Novo Nordisk & Thermos Fisher |
| 3 | Rybelsus | Tablets | 3 mg, 7 mg, 14 mg | Novo Nordisk India Pvt Ltd. |

Table 2: Reported UV spectrophotometric method for the estimation of Semaglutide

| S. No. | Method | Solvent | Wavelength (nm) | Linearity ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | LOD ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | LOQ ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | Assay(%) | Ref.No. |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| 1 | UV method | 0.01N potassium dihydrogen phosphate | 239.80 | 1-15 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 99.8-102 | 14 |
| | | 0.01N potassium dihydrogen phosphate | 258.28 | 1-15 | 0.26 | 0.78 | 99.8-102 | |
| | | Sodium acetate buffer PH-5 | 293.20 | 1-15 | 0.03 | 0.09 | 98-100.8 | |
| | | Sodium acetate buffer PH-5 | 254.27 | 1-15 | 0.13 | 0.42 | 98-100.8 | |

Table 3: RP-HPLC, RP-UPLC and LC-MS Methods for Semaglutide

| S. No. | Method | Column type | Mobile phase | Wavelength (nm) | Flow Rate (mL/min) | Run Time (min) | RT (min) | Linearity ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | LOD ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | LOQ ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | Assay(%) | Ref. |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|------|
| 1 | M1: UV M2: HPLC M3: UPLC | M2: Kromasil 18 Column M3: Acquity BEH-C18 (1.7 μ , 100 \times 2.1mm) | 0.01N potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate: Acetonitrile (61:39) | 230 | M2: 0.9 M3: 0.5 | M2: 5.0 M3: 1.2 | M2: 2.581 M3: 0.89 | 1.5-9.0 | M1: 0.2 M2: 0.19 M3: 0.07 | M1: 0.61 M2: 0.57 M3: 0.24 | M1:99.15 % w/v, M2:99.99 % w/v and M3: 100.2% w/v | 15 |
| 2 | RP-HPLC | C18 column (4.6 x 250 mm) | Phosphate buffer pH 4.0: ACN (30:70 % v/v). | 254 | 1 | 6 | 2.507 | 20-100.0 | 2.535 | 2.533 | 102.5 | 16 |
| 3 | RP-HPLC | Azilent C18 column (150 x 4.6 x 5 μm) | 0.01N potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate: Acetonitrile (61:39) | 230 | 1 | 5 | 2.222 | 7-48 | 0.00 | 0.022 | 99.99 | 17 |
| 4 | RP-HPLC | Inertsil -ODS C18(250 x 4.6 mm, 5 μ) | Methanol: Water in the ratio 70:30 | 274 | 1 | 5 | 3.237 | 25.0-150.0 | 0.57 | 1.74 | 98.65 | 18 |
| 5 | RP-UPLC | BEH-C18 (50nm \times 1.6mm) 1.8 μm | 0.01N potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate(3.2pH): Acetonitrile (60:40) | 292 | 0.4 | 2 | 1.026 | 12.5-75.0 | 0.086 | 0.261 | 99.06-100.09 | 19 |
| 6 | RP-UPLC | Acquity BEH-C18 (1.7 μ , 100 \times 2.1mm) | 0.01N potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate: Acetonitrile (60:40) | 230 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 0.89 | 1.5-9.0 | - | - | 98-102 | 20 |
| 7 | LC-MS Method | Qtrap 6500+mass spectrometer (Sciex). Liraglutide as an internal standard. | Gradient elution, 0.1% formic acid in water and acetonitrile | The most abundant precursor ion in the Q1 mass scan spectrum was [M + 4H] ⁴⁺ at m/z 1029.3. | | Intra- and inter-day accuracy ranged 89.20–109.50 % in the plasma and 92.00–105.00 % in the brain. | | Precision was within 8.92 % in the plasma and 7.94 % in the brain. | | 0.5 ng/mL | - | 21 |

CONCLUSION:

The present review provides a summary of various analytical methods reported in the literature for the determination of Semaglutide in bulk, pharmaceutical formulations and also in various biological matrices like blood plasma and urine. Analytical methods consisting of chromatography, hyphenated techniques, were employed for determination Semaglutide. From this survey, it is revealed that a handful of analytical methods are obtainable on UV, RP-HPLC, RP-UPLC and only one article was available based on hyphenated methods (LC-MS/MS). The reported data for analysis of Semaglutide revealed that HPLC with UV detection is the most frequent technique employed for the determination of Semaglutide in pharmaceutical dosage forms. For analysis of Semaglutide in biological matrices like blood plasma, urine LC-MS with MS detection is appropriate since this strategy gives precise outcomes and minimal effort. Furthermore, employing MS techniques in LC offered unique selectivity and sensitivity as well as a choice of method for analysis of Semaglutide and its metabolites in biological samples. This review will be useful in further development of the analytical methods for the Semaglutide estimation and also gives a glimpse of the drug Profile.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The authors are thankful to Vignan Pharmacy College, Vadlamudi, for providing all necessary facilities for carrying out this review work.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENT:

All the authors declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest.

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