

BYETTA-treated patients in the open-label extension studies at 82 weeks experienced similar types of adverse events observed in the controlled trials.

Injection site reactions

Injection site reactions have been reported in approximately 5.1 % of subjects receiving BYETTA in long-term (16 weeks or longer) controlled trials. These reactions have usually been mild and usually did not result in discontinuation of BYETTA.

Immunogenicity

Consistent with the potentially immunogenic properties of protein and peptide pharmaceuticals, patients may develop anti-exenatide antibodies following treatment with BYETTA. In most patients who develop antibodies, antibody titres diminish over time and remain low through 82 weeks.

Overall the percentage of antibody positive patients was consistent across clinical trials. Patients who developed anti-exenatide antibodies had similar rates and types of adverse events as those with no anti-exenatide antibodies. In the three placebo-controlled trials (n=963) 38 % of patients had low titre anti-exenatide antibodies at 30 weeks. For this group, the level of glycaemic control (HbA_{1c}) was generally comparable to that observed in those without antibody titres. An additional 6 % of patients had higher titre antibodies at 30 weeks. About half of this 6 % (3 % of the total patients given BYETTA in the controlled studies), had no apparent glycaemic response to BYETTA. In two insulin-comparator controlled trials (n=475) comparable efficacy and adverse events were observed in BYETTA-treated patients regardless of antibody titre.

Examination of antibody-positive specimens from one long-term uncontrolled study revealed no significant cross-reactivity with similar endogenous peptides (glucagon or GLP-1).

Spontaneous reports

Since market introduction of BYETTA, the following additional adverse reactions have been reported:

Immune system disorders: anaphylactic reaction, very rarely.

Metabolism and nutritional disorders: dehydration, generally associated with nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

Nervous system disorders: dysgeusia, somnolence.

Gastrointestinal disorders: eructation, constipation, flatulence.

Renal and urinary disorders: altered renal function, including acute renal failure, worsened chronic renal failure, renal impairment, increased serum creatinine (see section 4.4).

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: macular rash, papular rash, pruritus, urticaria, angioneurotic oedema.

Investigations: international normalised ratio increased with concomitant warfarin, some reports associated with bleeding (see section 4.5).

4.9 Overdose

Signs and symptoms of overdose may include severe nausea, severe vomiting and rapidly declining blood glucose concentrations. In the event of overdose, appropriate supportive treatment (possibly given parenterally) should be initiated according to the patient's clinical signs and symptoms.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmaco­therapeutic group: Other blood glucose lowering drugs, excl. insulins, ATC code: A10BX04.

Mechanism of action

Exenatide is an incretin mimetic that exhibits several antihyperglycaemic actions of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1). The amino acid sequence of exenatide partially overlaps that of human GLP-1. Exenatide has been shown to bind to and activate the known human GLP-1 receptor *in vitro*, its mechanism of action mediated by cyclic AMP and/or other intracellular signaling pathways.

Exenatide increases, on a glucose-dependent basis, the secretion of insulin from pancreatic beta cells. As blood glucose concentrations decrease, insulin secretion subsides. When exenatide was used in combination with metformin alone, no increase in the incidence of hypoglycaemia was observed over that of placebo in combination with metformin which may be due to this glucose-dependent insulinotropic mechanism. (see section 4.4).

Exenatide suppresses glucagon secretion which is known to be inappropriately elevated in type 2 diabetes. Lower glucagon concentrations lead to decreased hepatic glucose output. However, exenatide does not impair the normal glucagon response and other hormone responses to hypoglycaemia.

Exenatide slows gastric emptying thereby reducing the rate at which meal-derived glucose appears in the circulation.

Pharmacodynamic effects

BYETTA improves glycaemic control through the immediate and sustained effects of lowering both postprandial and fasting glucose concentrations in patients with type 2 diabetes.

Clinical efficacy

The clinical studies comprised 3945 subjects (2997 treated with exenatide), 56% men and 44% women, 319 subjects (230 treated with exenatide) were ≥70 years of age and 34 subjects (27 treated with exenatide) were ≥75 years of age.

BYETTA reduced HbA_{1c} and body weight in patients treated for 30 weeks in three placebo-controlled studies, whether the BYETTA was added to metformin, a sulphonylurea or a combination of both. These reductions in HbA_{1c} were generally observed at 12 weeks after initiation of treatment. See Table 2. The reduction in HbA_{1c} was sustained and the weight loss continued for at least 82 weeks in the subset of 10 µg BID patients completing both the placebo-controlled studies and the uncontrolled study extensions (n=137).

Table 2: Combined results of the 30 week placebo controlled studies (intent to treat patients)

	Placebo	BYETTA 5µg BID	BYETTA 10µg BID
N	483	480	483
Baseline HbA _{1c} (%)	8.48	8.42	8.45
HbA _{1c} (%) change from base line	0.08	-0.59	-0.89
Proportion of patients (%) achieving HbA _{1c} ≤7%	7.9	25.3	33.6
Proportion of patients (%) achieving HbA _{1c} ≤7% (patients completing studies)	10.0	29.6	38.5
Baseline weight(kg)	99.26	97.10	98.11
Change of weight from baseline(kg)	-0.65	-1.41	-1.91

In a placebo-controlled study of 16 weeks duration, BYETTA (n=121) or placebo (n=112) was added to existing thiazolidinedione treatment, with or without metformin. BYETTA (5 µg BID for 4 weeks, followed by 10 µg BID) resulted in statistically significant reductions from baseline HbA_{1c} compared to placebo (-0.8% versus +0.1%) as well as significant reductions in body weight (-1.5 versus -0.2 kg).

When BYETTA was used in combination with a thiazolidinedione, the incidence of hypoglycaemia was similar to that of placebo in combination with a thiazolidinedione. The experience in patients > 65 years and in patients with impaired renal function is limited.

In insulin-comparator studies BYETTA (5 µg BID for 4 weeks, followed by 10 µg BID) in combination with metformin and sulphonylurea significantly (statistically and clinically) improved glycaemic control, as measured by decrease in HbA_{1c}. This treatment effect was comparable to that of insulin glargine in a 26-week study (mean insulin dose 24.9 IU/day, range 4-95 IU/day, at the end of study) and biphasic insulin aspart in a 52-week study (mean insulin dose 24.4 IU/day, range 3-78 IU/day, at the end of study). BYETTA lowered HbA_{1c} from 8.21 (n=228) and 8.6% (n=222) by 1.13 and 1.01% while insulin glargine lowered from 8.24 (n=227) by 1.10% and biphasic insulin aspart from 8.67 (n=224) by 0.86%. Weight loss of 2.3 kg (2.6 %) was achieved with BYETTA in the 26 week study and a loss of 2.5 kg (2.7 %) in a 52-week study whereas treatment with insulin was associated with weight gain. Treatment differences (BYETTA minus comparator) were -4.1 kg in the 26-week study and -5.4 kg in the 52-week study. Seven-point self monitored blood glucose profiles (before and after meals and at 3 am) demonstrated significantly reduced glucose values compared to insulin in the postprandial periods after BYETTA injection. Premeal blood glucose concentrations were generally lower in patients taking insulin compared to BYETTA. Mean daily blood glucose values were similar between BYETTA and insulin. In these studies the incidence of hypoglycaemia was similar for BYETTA and insulin treatment.

BYETTA has shown no adverse effects on lipid parameters. A trend for a decrease in triglycerides has been observed with weight loss.

Clinical studies with BYETTA have indicated improved beta-cell function, using measures such as the homeostasis model assessment for beta-cell function (HOMA-B) and the proinsulin to insulin ratio.

A pharmacodynamic study demonstrated in patients with type 2 diabetes (n=13) a restoration of first phase insulin secretion and improved second phase insulin secretion in response to an intravenous bolus of glucose.

A reduction in body weight was seen in patients treated with BYETTA irrespective of the occurrence of nausea although the reduction was larger in the group with nausea (mean reduction 2.4kg versus 1.7kg) in the long term controlled studies of up to 52 weeks.

Administration of exenatide has been shown to reduce food intake, due to decreased appetite and increased satiety.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Following subcutaneous administration to patients with type 2 diabetes, exenatide reaches median peak plasma concentrations in 2 h. Mean peak exenatide concentration (C_{max}) was 211 pg/ml and overall mean area under the curve (AUC_{0-inf}) was 1036 pg •h/ml following subcutaneous administration of a 10 µg dose of exenatide. Exenatide exposure increased proportionally over the therapeutic dose range of 5 µg to 10 µg. Similar exposure is achieved with subcutaneous administration of exenatide in the abdomen, thigh, or arm.

Distribution

The mean apparent volume of distribution of exenatide following subcutaneous administration of a single dose of exenatide is 28 l.

Metabolism and Elimination

Nonclinical studies have shown that exenatide is predominantly eliminated by glomerular filtration with subsequent proteolytic degradation. In clinical studies the mean apparent clearance of exenatide is 9 l/h and the mean terminal half-life is 2.4 h. These pharmacokinetic characteristics of exenatide are independent of the dose.

Special populations

Patients with renal impairment

In patients with mild (creatinine clearance 50 to 80 ml/min) or moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance 30 to 50 ml/min), exenatide clearance was mildly reduced compared to clearance in individuals with normal renal function (13 % reduction in mild and 36 % reduction in moderate renal impairment). Clearance was significantly reduced by 84% in patients with end-stage renal disease receiving dialysis (see section 4.2).

Patients with hepatic insufficiency

No pharmacokinetic study has been performed in patients with hepatic insufficiency. Exenatide is cleared primarily by the kidney, therefore hepatic dysfunction is not expected to affect blood concentrations of exenatide.

Gender and race

Gender and race have no clinically relevant influence on exenatide pharmacokinetics.

Elderly

Data in elderly are limited, but suggest no marked changes in exenatide exposure with increased age up to about 75 years old. There are no pharmacokinetic data in patients >75 years.

Children and adolescents

In a single-dose pharmacokinetic study in 13 patients with type 2 diabetes and between the ages of 12 and 16 years, administration of exenatide (5µg) resulted in slightly lower mean AUC (16% lower) and Cmax (25% lower) compared to those observed in adults.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazards for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeat-dose toxicity, or genotoxicity.

In female rats given exenatide for 2 years, an increased incidence of benign thyroid C–cell adenomas was observed at the highest dose, 250 µg/kg/day, a dose that produced an exenatide plasma exposure 130-fold the human clinical exposure. This incidence was not statistically significant when adjusted for survival. There was no tumorigenic response in male rats or either sex of mice.

Animal studies did not indicate direct harmful effects with respect to fertility or pregnancy. High doses of exenatide during mid-gestation caused skeletal effects and reduced foetal growth in mice and reduced foetal growth in rabbits. Neonatal growth was reduced in mice exposed to high doses during late gestation and lactation.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

metacresol
mannitol
glacial acetic acid
sodium acetate trihydrate
water for injections

6.2 Incompatibilities

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

6.3 Shelf life

2 years.

Shelf life for pen in use: 30 days.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C - 8 °C).

Do not freeze.

In use

The pen should be returned to the refrigerator after each use. However, chemical and physical in use stability at ≤25°C has been demonstrated for 7 days (168 hours), during the 30 day in use period.

The pen should not be stored with the needle attached.

Replace cap on pen in order to protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Type I glass cartridge with a (bromobutyl) rubber plunger, rubber disc, and aluminium seal. Each cartridge is assembled into a disposable pen-injector (pen).

Each 5 microgram prefilled pen contains 60 doses of sterile preserved solution (approximately 1.2 ml)

Each 10 microgram prefilled pen contains 60 doses of sterile preserved solution (approximately 2.4 ml)

Pack size of 1 and 3 pens. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Injection needles are not included. The following are examples of disposable needles that can be used with the BYETTA pen: 29, 30 or 31 gauge (diameter 0.25 - 0.33mm) and 12.7, 8 or 5mm length.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

The patient should be instructed to discard the needle after each injection.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

Instructions for use

BYETTA is for use by one person only.

The instructions for using the pen, included with the leaflet, must be followed carefully.

The pen is stored without needle.

BYETTA should not be used if particles appear or if the solution is cloudy and/or coloured.

BYETTA that has been frozen must not be used.

**Manufactured by:
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