

GLP1-RAs in Severe Mental Illness – Opportunities and Challenges

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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Disclosures

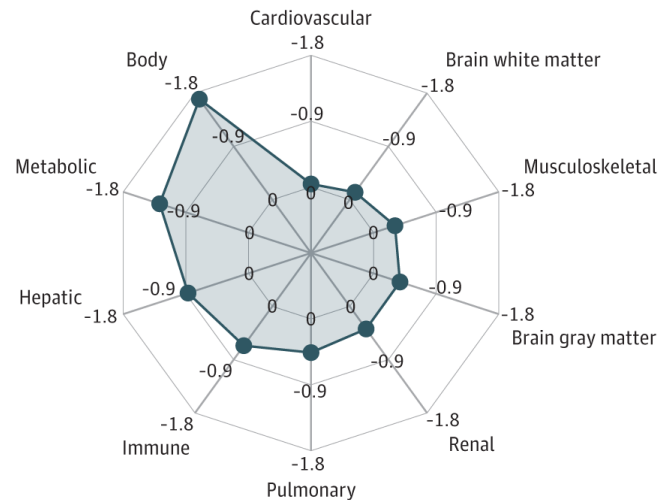
- HLS therapeutics
- Boehringer Ingelheim, Canada

Objectives

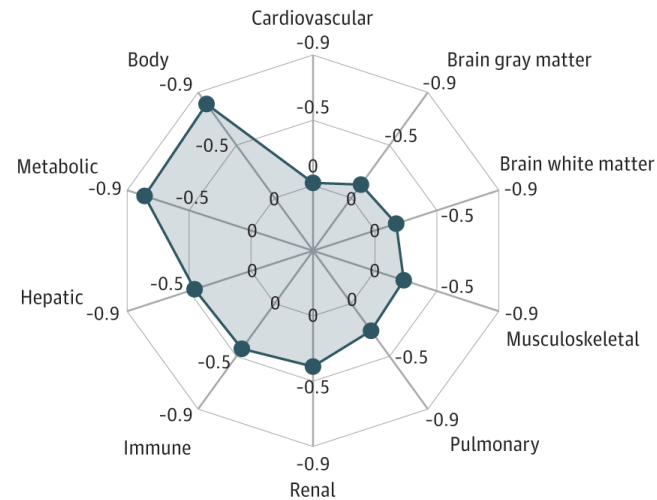
1. To review unmet needs in severe mental illness: metabolic and cognitive dysfunction
2. To review the opportunities and challenges presented by GLP-1RAs

Brain and body health scores in mental illness

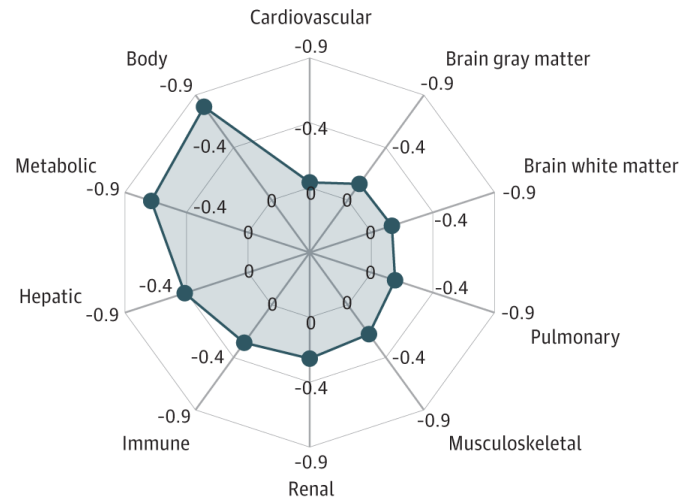
A Schizophrenia



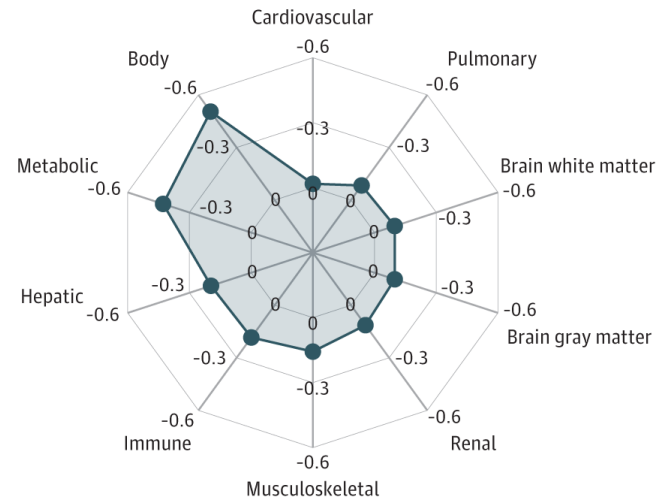
B Bipolar disorder



C Depression



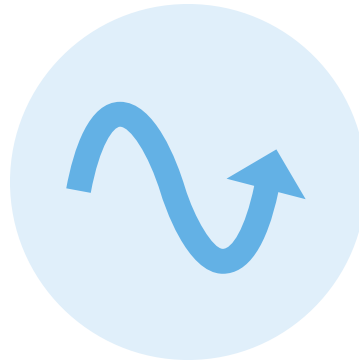
D Generalized anxiety disorder



Implications beyond cardiovascular morbidity & mortality



Medication Compliance



Self-Esteem



Hospitalization Rates



Quality of Life



Social Retreat



Social Care Costs

De Hert et al., World Psychiatry 2009; Simon et al., European Neuropsychopharmacology 2023;
Stogios et al., Current Psychiatry Reports 2023; De et al., Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica 2025

Metabolic abnormalities and cognition in schizophrenia

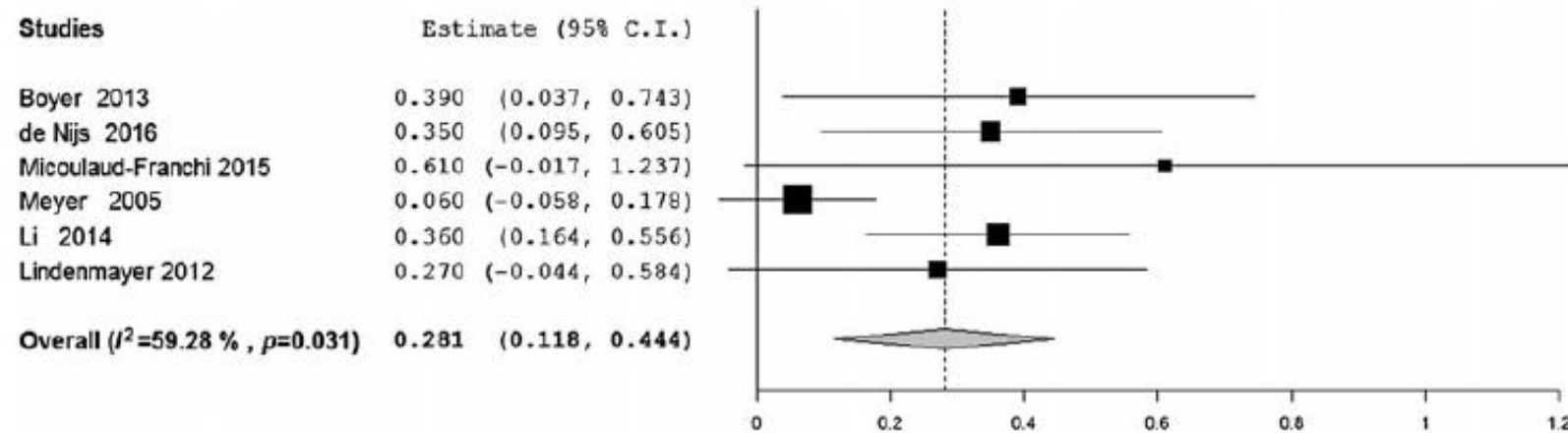


Fig. 2. Forest plot of cognitive differences between schizophrenia patients with and without metabolic syndrome.

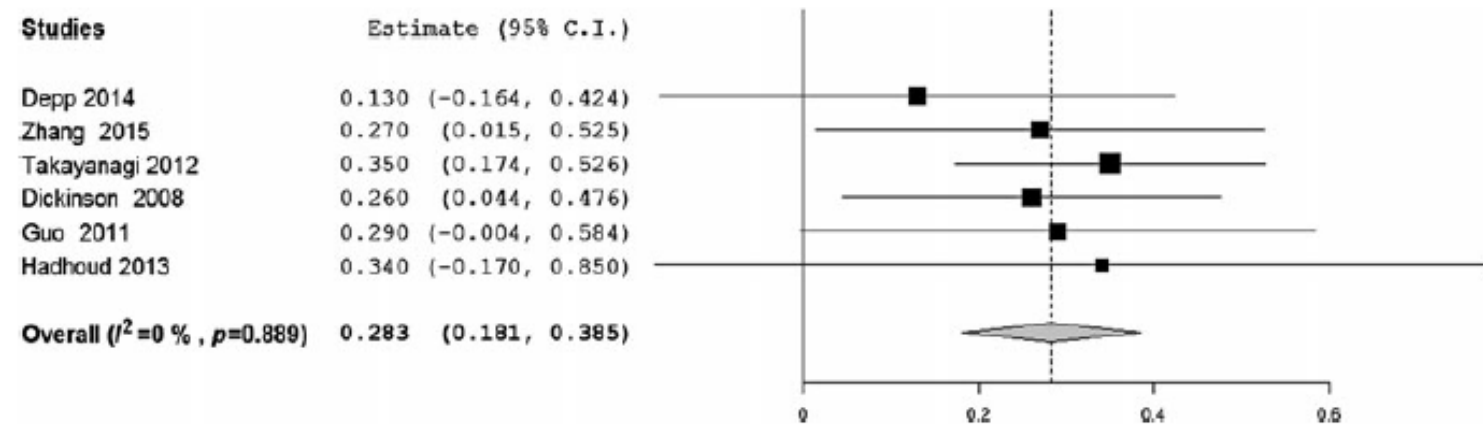
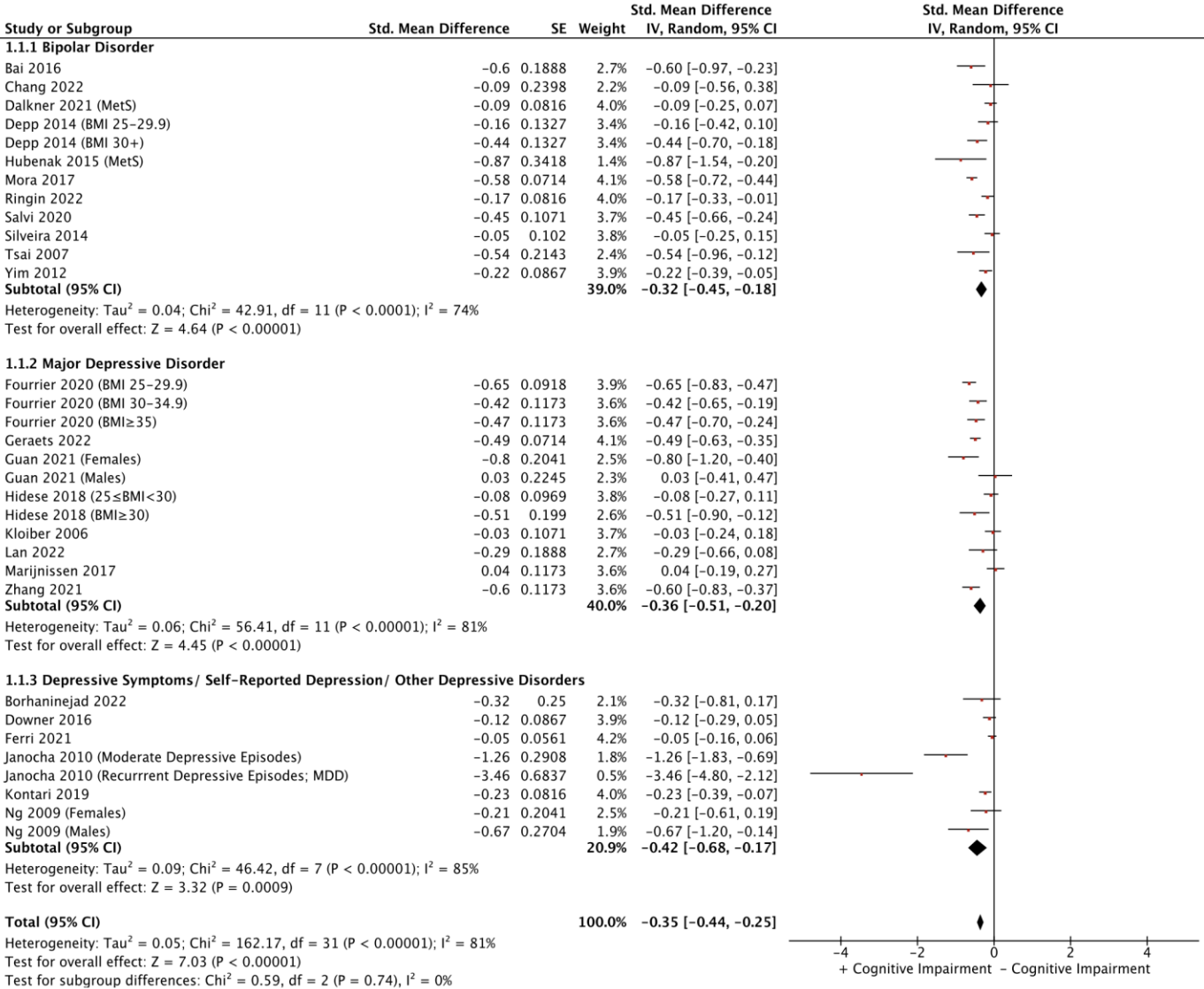


Fig. 3. Forest plot of cognitive differences between schizophrenia patients with and without diabetes mellitus.

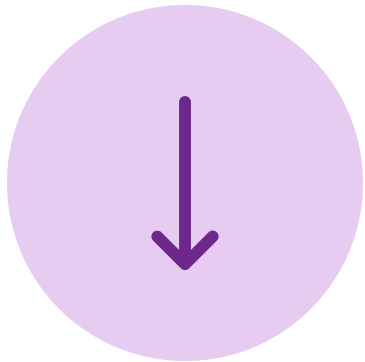
Metabolic abnormalities and cognition in mood disorders



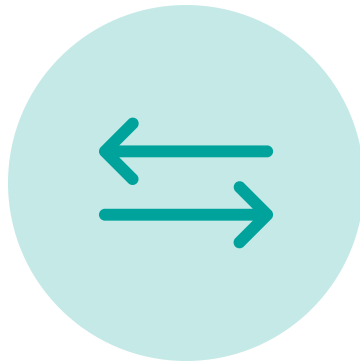
Objectives

1. To review unmet needs in severe mental illness: metabolic and cognitive dysfunction
2. To review the opportunities and challenges presented by GLP-1RAs

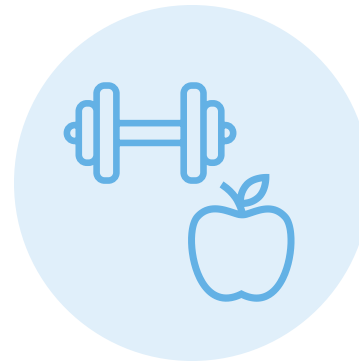
Treating metabolic problems in psychiatric disorders



Dose Reductions



Switching



**Non-Pharmacological
Interventions**

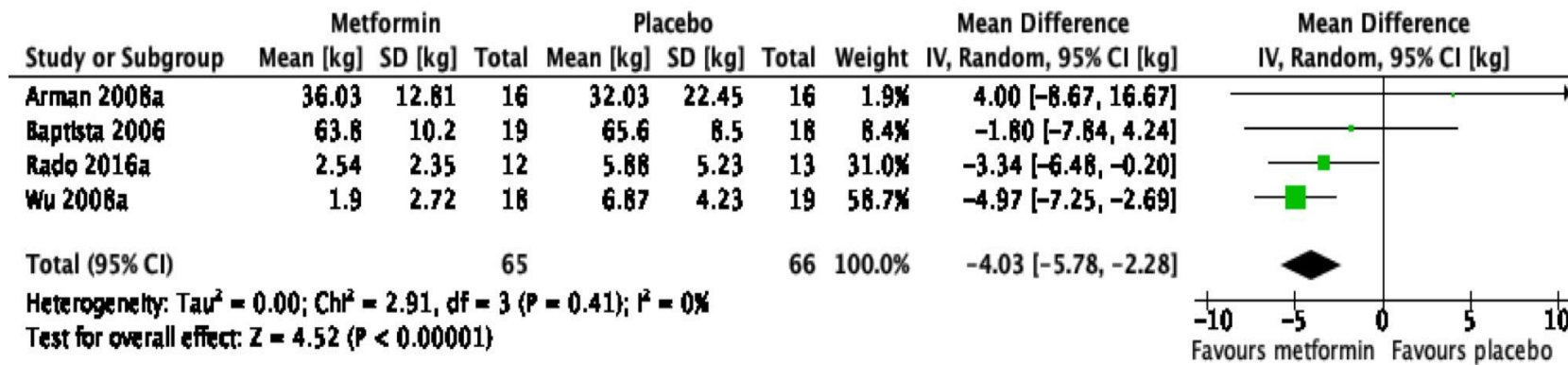


**Pharmacological
Interventions**



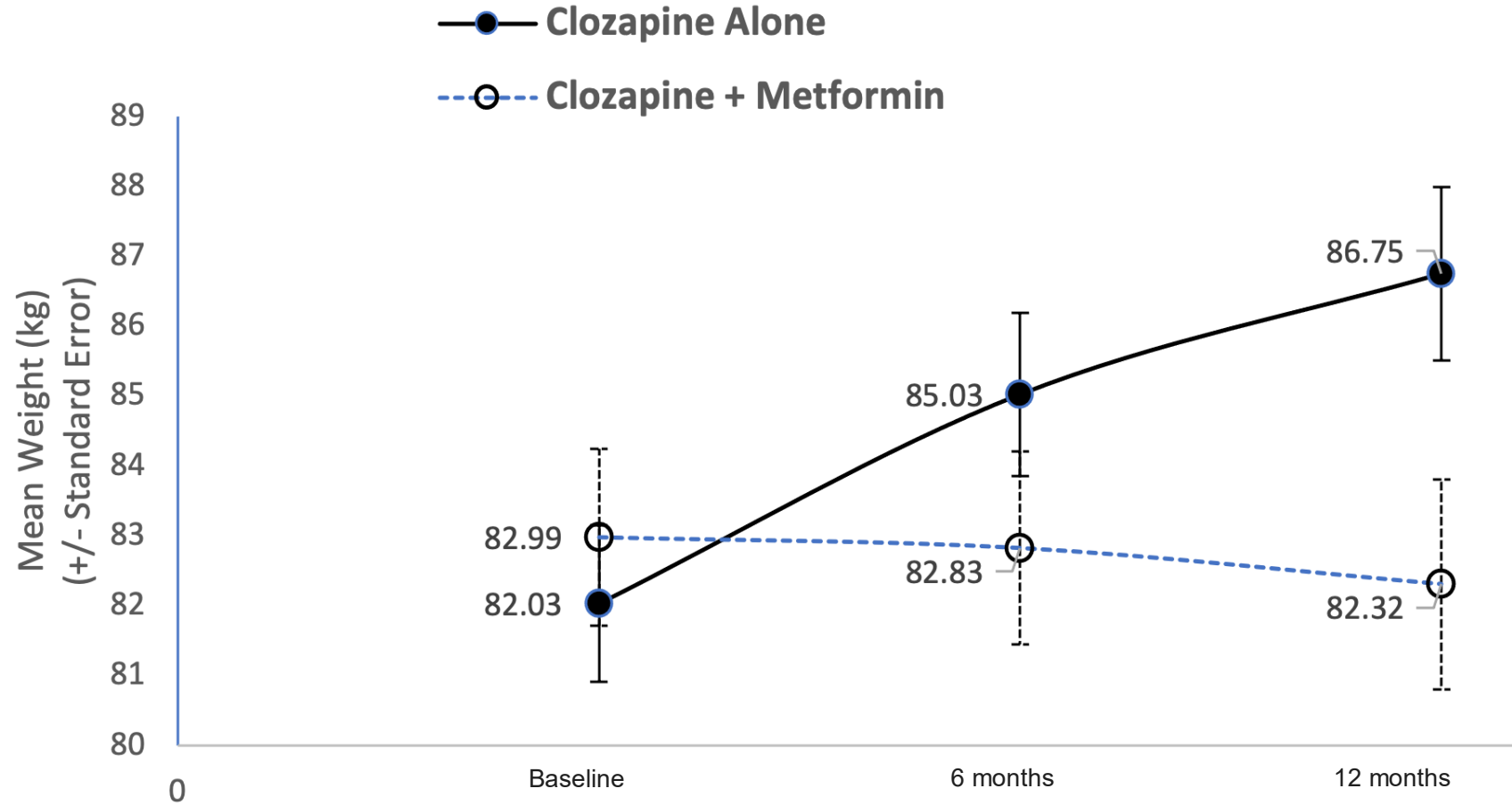
Pharmacological interventions for metabolic problems

Metformin for prevention of weight gain in SMI





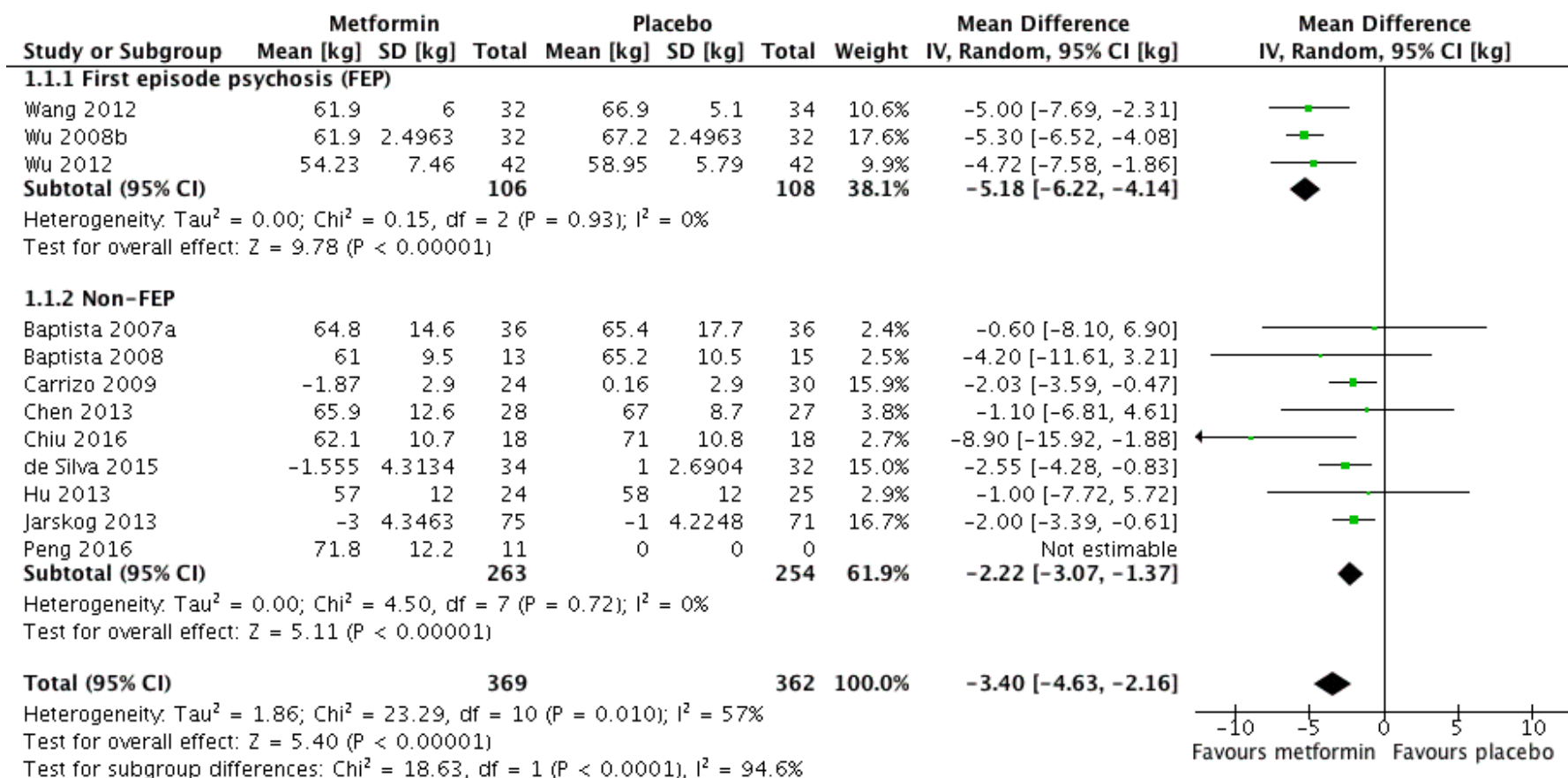
Metformin can prevent clozapine-induced weight gain





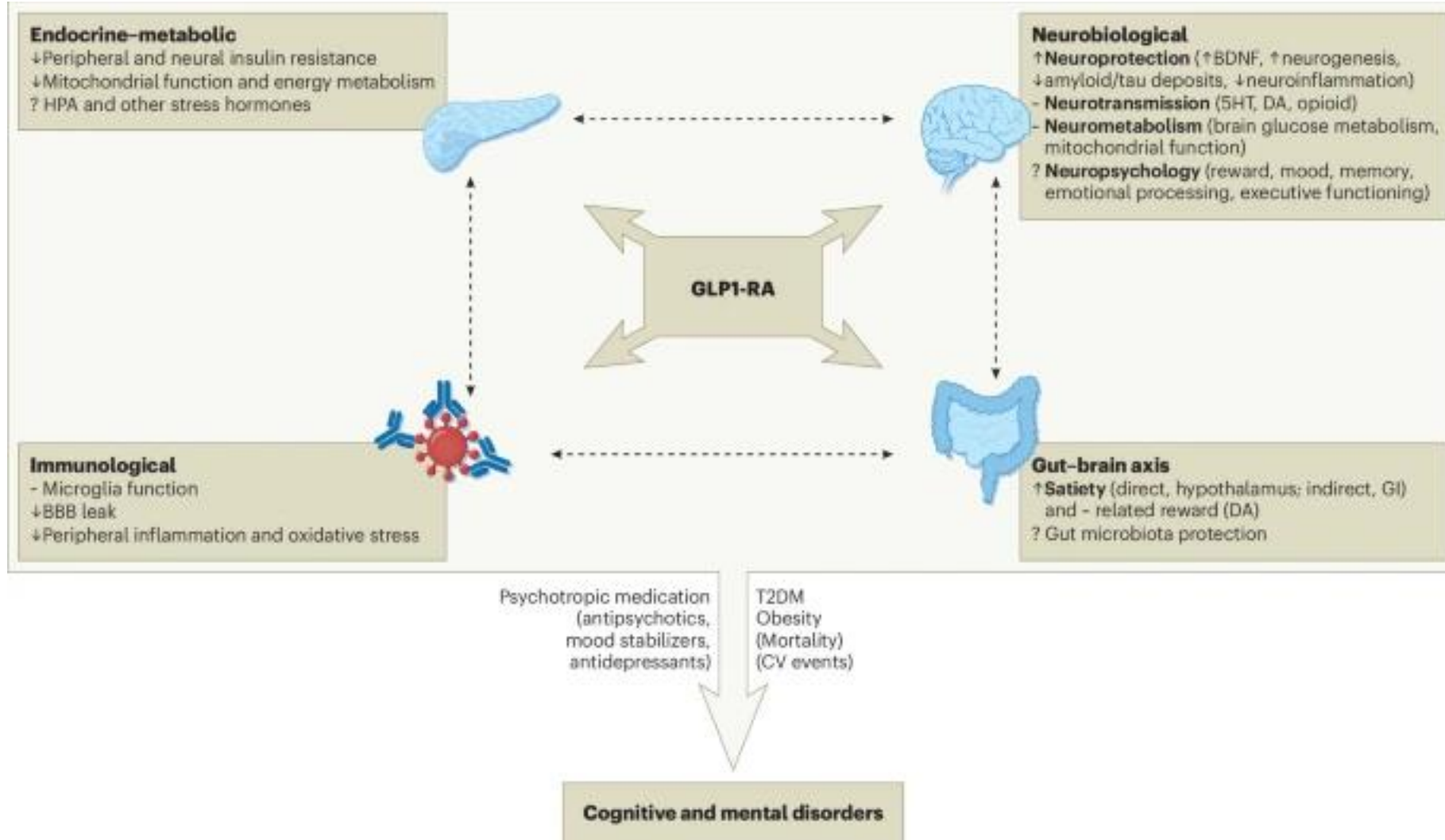
Treating metabolic problems in psychiatric disorders

Metformin for treatment of weight gain in SMI



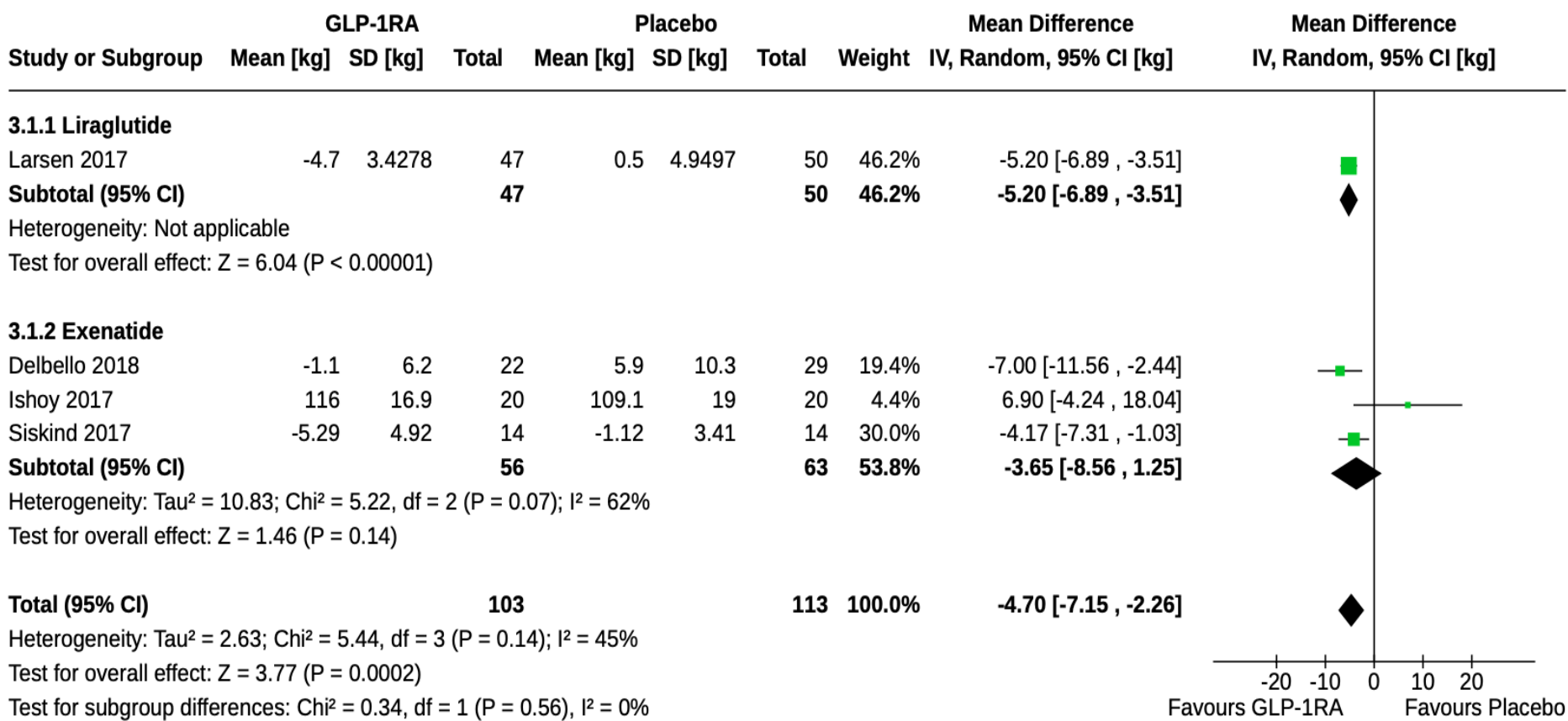


GLP-1 RAs: The hot new thing



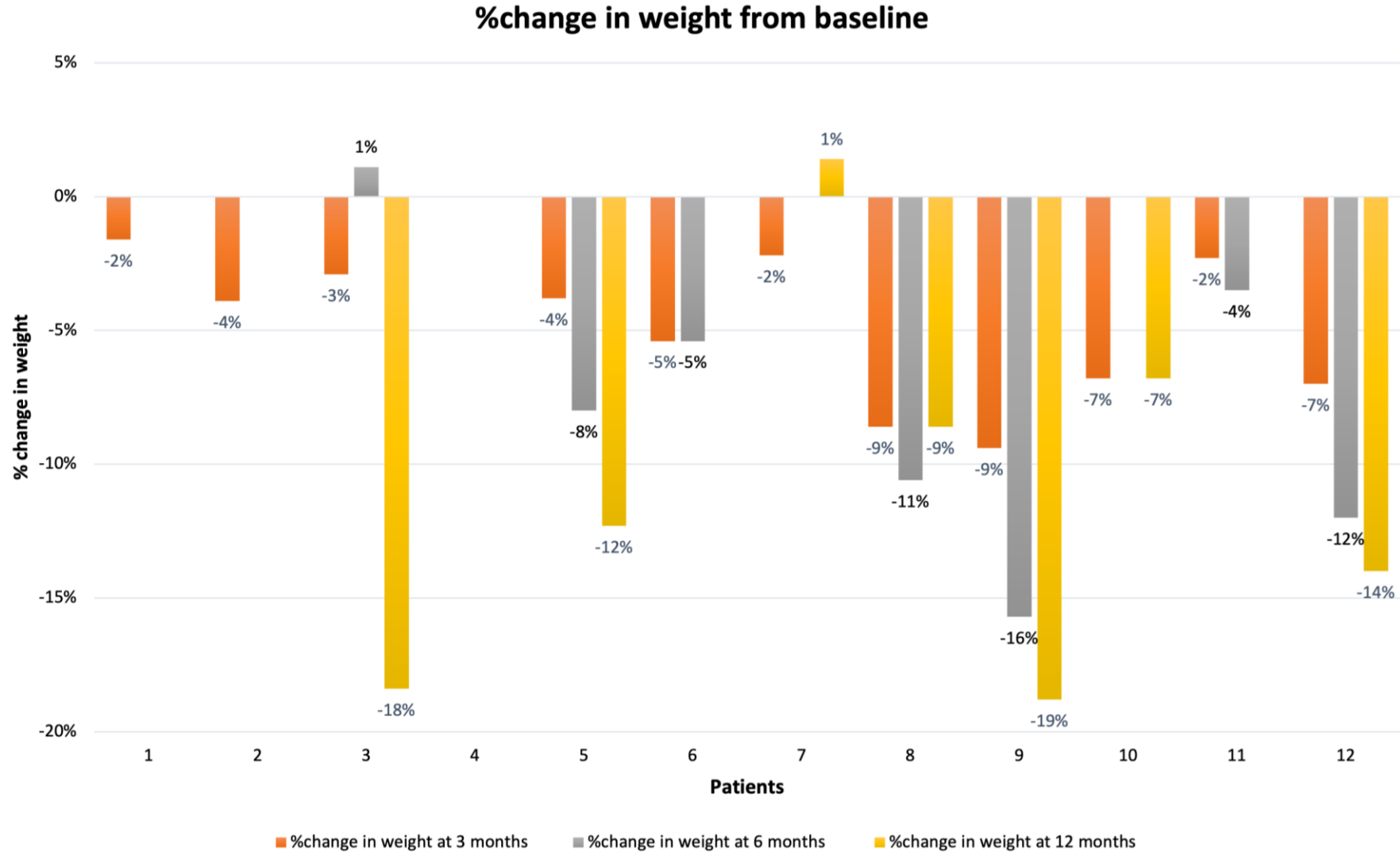


GLP-1 RAs for Treatment of Weight Gain in SMI

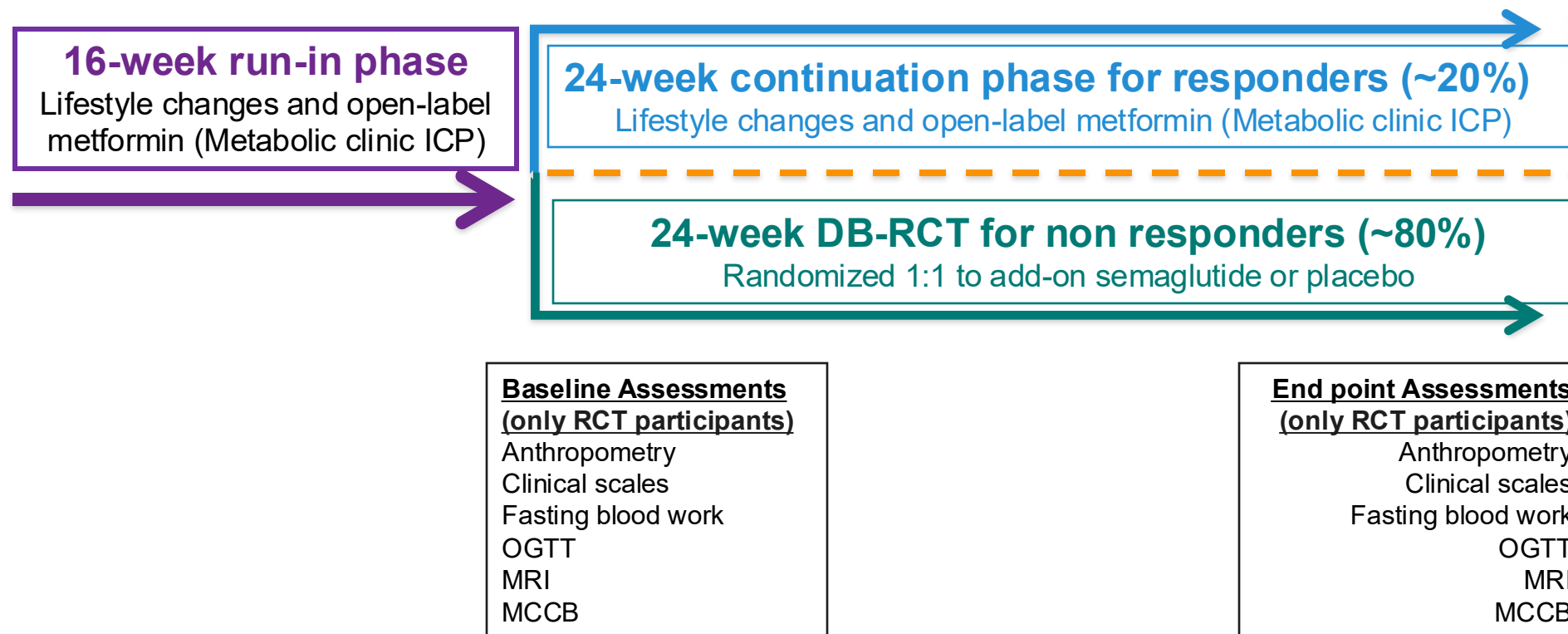




Semaglutide: Early evidence of efficacy in metformin non responders



Semaglutide for metformin-non responders study



ICP: Integrated Clinical Pathway; BCATS: Brief Cognitive Assessment Tool for Schizophrenia, DB-RCT: Double blind randomized control trial; OGTT: Oral Glucose Tolerance Test, MCCB: MATRICS Consensus Cognitive Battery

CIHR IRSC

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

PI: Hahn and Agarwal

Preliminary Data from the Metabolic Clinic at CAMH

Intervention	NNT $\geq 5\%$ Weight Loss	NNT $\geq 7\%$ Weight Loss
Lifestyle Only	3	4
Add-on Metformin	3	4
Add-on Topiramate	3	5
Add-on Semaglutide	2	2
Switch to add-on Metformin	4	7
Switch to add-on Topiramate	3	3
Switch to add-on Semaglutide	4	7
Metformin + Topiramate	5	5
Metformin + Semaglutide	2	3
Other	3	3
All Interventions (Overall Clinic Effect)	3	4





GLP-1 RAs: Early evidence of improving cognition/brain morphology

> [Eur Neuropsychopharmacol.](#) 2017 Nov;27(11):1153-1162. doi: 10.1016/j.euroneuro.2017.08.433.

Epub 2017 Sep 1.

Treatment with a GLP-1R agonist over four weeks promotes weight loss-moderated changes in frontal-striatal brain structures in individuals with mood disorders

Rodrigo B Mansur¹, Andre Zugman², Juhie Ahmed³, Danielle S Cha³,
Mehala Subramaniapillai³, Yena Lee³, Julie Lovshin⁴, Jung G Lee⁵, Jae-Hon Lee⁶,
Vladislav Drobinin⁷, Jason Newport⁷, Elisa Brietzke⁸, Eva Z Reininghaus⁹, Kang Sim¹⁰,
Maj Vinberg¹¹, Natalie Rasgon¹², Tomas Hajek⁷, Roger S McIntyre³

Randomized Controlled Trial > [Acta Psychiatr Scand.](#) 2017 Jul;136(1):52-62.

doi: 10.1111/acps.12711. Epub 2017 Mar 5.

No cognitive-enhancing effect of GLP-1 receptor agonism in antipsychotic-treated, obese patients with schizophrenia

P L Ishøy^{1 2}, B Fagerlund^{1 2}, B V Broberg¹, N Bak¹, F K Knop^{2 3 4}, B Y Glenthøj^{1 2},
B H Ebdrup¹



GLP-1 RAs: Risk of worsening mental health

> [Expert Opin Drug Saf.](#) 2024 Jan;23(1):47-55. doi: 10.1080/14740338.2023.2295397.

Epub 2023 Dec 19.

The association between glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) and suicidality: reports to the Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS)

[Roger S McIntyre](#)^{1 2 3}, [Rodrigo B Mansur](#)^{1 4}, [Joshua D Rosenblat](#)^{1 4}, [Angela T H Kwan](#)^{3 5}

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 38087976 DOI: [10.1080/14740338.2023.2295397](#)

> [Sci Rep.](#) 2024 Oct 18;14(1):24433. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-75965-2.

The risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal behavior in patients with obesity on glucagon like peptide-1 receptor agonist therapy

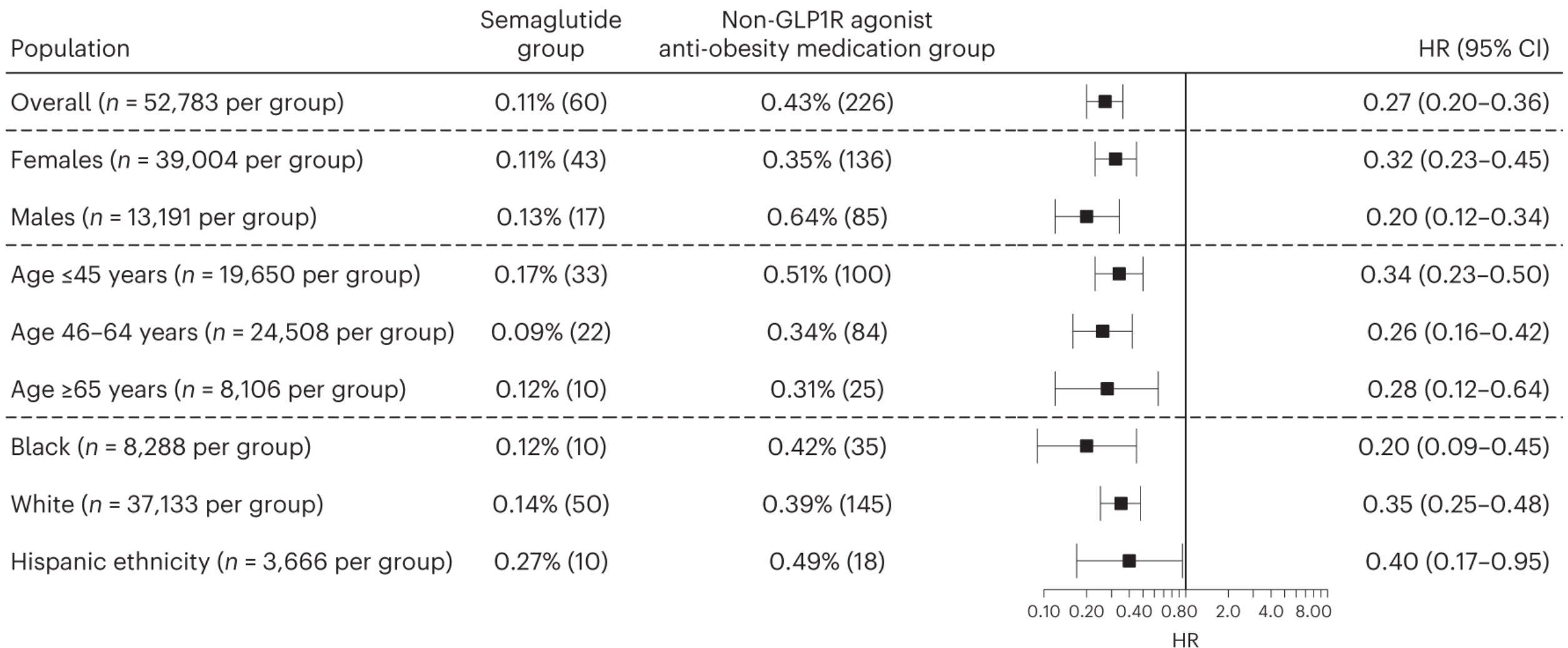
[Edy Kornelius](#)^{1 2 3}, [Jing-Yang Huang](#)⁴, [Shih-Chang Lo](#)², [Chien-Ning Huang](#)^{1 2 5},
[Yi-Sun Yang](#)^{6 7 8}

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 39424950 PMCID: [PMC11489776](#) DOI: [10.1038/s41598-024-75965-2](#)



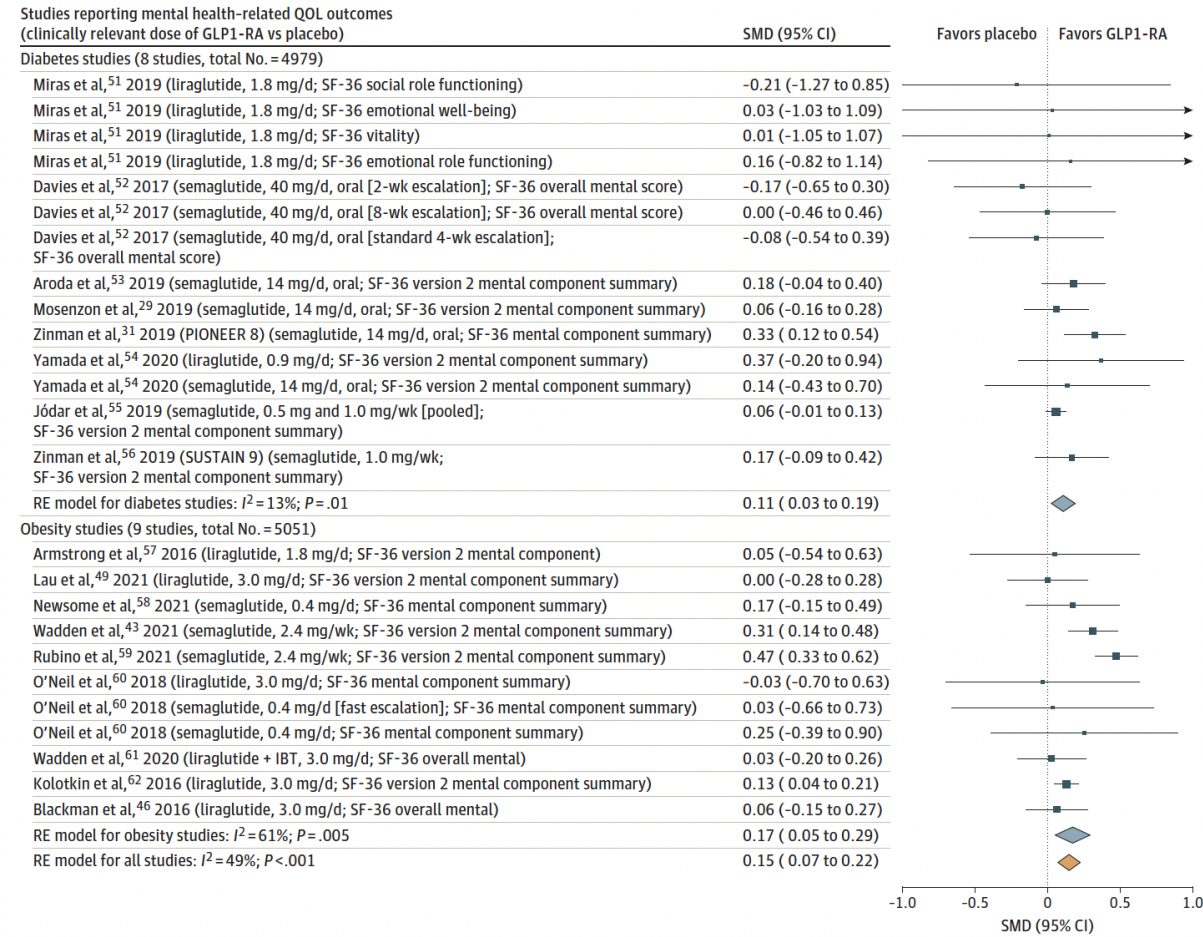
GLP-1 RAs: Risk of worsening mental health





GLP-1 RAs: Improvement in mental health-related QoL

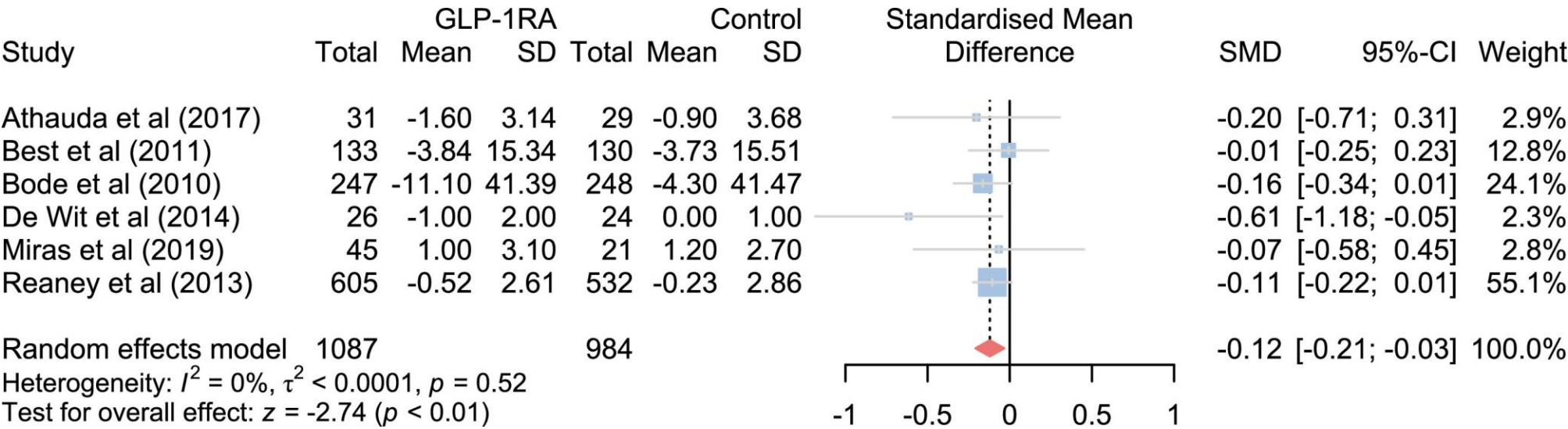
Figure 4. Forest Plot of the Effect of Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonists (GLP1-RAs) vs Placebo on Mental Health-Related Quality of Life (QOL)



A total of 17 studies were included (GLP1-RAs, $n = 5818$, vs placebo, $n = 4212$). The summary effect size indicates that GLP1-RAs are associated with improved mental health-related QOL relative to placebo, with Hedges g of 0.15 ($P < .001$). RE indicates random effects; SMD, standardized mean difference.



GLP-1 RAs: Early evidence of improving symptoms of depression





GLP-1 RAs: Opportunities and challenges

- Weight effects
- May improve CV health
- May not worsen mental health
- May have cognitive benefits
- May improve quality of life
- Very little data in SMI
- Gastric effects
- Interaction with ECTs
- Accessibility
- Length of use, weight regain

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