press release

New data show once-weekly insulin icodec met additional endpoints in adults with type 2 diabetes in phase 3a trials

- After achieving primary endpoint by demonstrating superiority and non-inferiority in HbA_{1C} reduction from baseline at week 52, investigative insulin icodec helped patients achieve significantly more time in target blood glucose range (Time in Range) vs once-daily basal insulin glargine U100 in ONWARDS 1[1]
- In the ONWARDS 1 and 3 trials, more people achieved blood glucose targets without clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia with once-weekly basal insulin icodec vs once-daily basal insulin comparators[1,2]
- Insulin icodec has been submitted for regulatory review in the US, Canada, Europe, China, Australia, Switzerland and Brazil. First decisions are anticipated in H1 2024

Bagsværd, Denmark, Sunday 25 June 2023 – Novo Nordisk today announced data from the phase 3a ONWARDS 1 and 3 trials evaluating investigative once-weekly basal insulin icodec, which were presented at the 83rd Annual Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The data showed the studies met their primary endpoints, while reducing injections from seven to one per week, compared with once-daily basal insulin[1,2]. Additionally, data from the ONWARDS 1 and 3 studies demonstrated that more insulin-naïve adults with type 2 diabetes treated with once-weekly basal insulin icodec achieved an HbA_{1c} target of <7.0% without experiencing clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia compared with once-daily basal insulin comparators at 52 and 26 weeks, respectively[1,2].

In ONWARDS 1, as a confirmatory secondary endpoint, superior Time in Range (blood glucose 70–180 mg/dL) was achieved with once-weekly basal insulin icodec vs once-daily basal insulin glargine U100 (71.9% vs 66.9%, respectively) from week 48–52[1]. Comparable Time below Range (blood glucose <54 mg/dL) was achieved with once-weekly basal insulin icodec vs once-daily basal insulin glargine U100 (0.3% vs 0.2%, respectively) from week 48–52 in ONWARDS 1[1]. Both values are in line with internationally recommended targets[3].

”Time in Range provides additional information to help us assess glycaemic control and is an increasingly important tool to complement HbA_{1c} measurements, which were substantially reduced by once-weekly basal insulin icodec. In ONWARDS 1, insulin icodec allowed people to spend significantly more Time in Range, with comparable Time below Range vs once-daily basal

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insulin glargine U100," said Dr Julio Rosenstock, Lead Trial Investigator and Director of Velocity Clinical Research at Medical City Dallas and Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, US. "A once-weekly basal insulin has the potential to change how we treat people with type 2 diabetes needing basal insulin replacement."

In ONWARDS 1, there were no statistically significant differences in mean weekly insulin dose (week 50–52) or in body weight change from baseline[1]. Rates of clinically significant hypoglycaemia (blood glucose <54 mg/dL) or severe hypoglycaemia (symptomatic requiring third party assistance regardless of blood glucose measurement), were low in both treatment groups[1]. Rates of clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia were 0.30 events per patient year exposed and 0.16 events per patient year exposed to once-weekly insulin icodec and insulin glargine U100, respectively[1]. A statistically significant higher proportion of participants achieved an HbA_{1C} target of <7% without clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia with once-weekly basal insulin icodec vs once-daily basal insulin glargine U100 (52.6% vs 42.6%)[1].

In ONWARDS 3, rates of clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia were 0.31 events per patient-year exposed and 0.15 events per patient-year exposed to insulin icodec and insulin degludec respectively, at weeks 0–31[2]. The estimated proportion of participants achieving an HbA_{1C} target of <7% without clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia was statistically significantly higher with once-weekly basal insulin icodec vs once-daily basal insulin degludec[2]. There were no significant differences in mean weekly insulin dose from week 24 to 26 or body weight change from baseline to week 26 between treatment arms[2]. No unexpected safety findings were observed[1,2].

"These data reinforce our confidence in the potential of once-weekly insulin icodec," said Florian M.M. Baeres, corporate vice president, Global Medical Affairs at Novo Nordisk. "If approved, we believe this innovation – which would be the world's first once-weekly basal insulin – could help people living with type 2 diabetes ready to start insulin treatment by reducing the number of injections needed."

Insulin icodec has been submitted for regulatory review in the US, Canada, Europe, China, Australia, Switzerland and Brazil. First decisions are anticipated in H1 2024. Pending approval, insulin icodec will represent the first and only once-weekly basal insulin option for adults with diabetes, addressing an unmet need in treatment vs a daily basal insulin option[1,2,4–7].

For more news and media materials from Novo Nordisk at ADA 2023, please visit: https://www.novonordisk.com/news-and-media/ADA-e-press-room.

About insulin icodec
Insulin icodec is an investigational novel once-weekly basal insulin analog designed to cover the basal insulin requirements for a full week with a single subcutaneous injection.

About the ONWARDS clinical programme

The ONWARDS phase 3a trial programme for once-weekly basal insulin icodec comprises six phase 3a global clinical trials, including a trial with real-world elements, involving more than 4,000 adults with type 1 or type 2 diabetes[8]. All trials have met their primary endpoints[1,2,4–7].

About ONWARDS 1[9]

ONWARDS 1 is a phase 3a, 78-week, open-label efficacy and safety treat-to-target trial investigating once-weekly basal insulin icodec vs once-daily basal insulin glargine U100, both in combination with non-insulin anti-diabetic treatment, in 984 insulin-naïve adults with type 2 diabetes. The primary endpoint was change in HbA_{1C} from baseline at week 52 with insulin icodec compared with insulin glargine U100. Secondary endpoints included time in target blood glucose range (70–180 mg/dL), change in fasting plasma glucose (FPG) from baseline at week 52 and number of clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia episodes. Following the completion of the 52-week main phase of the trial, a 26-week extension phase to further assess safety was undertaken and is now finalised.

About ONWARDS 3[10]

ONWARDS 3 is a phase 3a, double-blind 26-week efficacy and safety treat-to-target trial investigating once-weekly basal insulin icodec vs once-daily basal insulin degludec, both in combination with non-insulin anti-diabetic treatment. The objective of the trial was to assess the efficacy and safety of insulin icodec in 588 insulin-naïve adults with type 2 diabetes. The primary endpoint was change in HbA_{1C} from baseline at week 26. Secondary endpoints included change in fasting plasma glucose (FPG) from baseline at week 26 and number of clinically significant or severe hypoglycaemia episodes.

About Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company, founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat diabetes and other serious chronic diseases such as obesity and rare blood and endocrine disorders. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines, and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 57,100 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries. For more information, visit novonordisk.com, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

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