

Orforglipron and Retatrutide

The anatomy of a Drug to Watch

Key evaluation criteria in obesity and how orforglipron and retatrutide were selected as Drugs to Watch 2026

Clarivate analysts rely on actionable data and market intelligence from our suite of products to identify each year's Drugs to Watch — the blockbusters and treatment paradigm-shifters.

Narrowing the obesity landscape to potential game changers

The obesity drug pipeline is crowded, with more than 130 drugs in the clinical pipeline. The first step needs to turn a crowded pipeline into a coherent competitive picture that identifies which drugs are likely to launch and succeed within the Drugs to Watch target timeframe.

Mapping the obesity therapy landscape: Cortellis Competitive Intelligence

Our analysts gain a broad view of the status and potential success of obesity drugs using Cortellis Competitive Intelligence, which:

- Covers the entire development lifecycle
- Provides clinical, deals, regulatory and patent intelligence for each drug and company
- Predicts the likelihood and timing of drug launches with the Drug Timeline & Success Rates statistical modeling methodology and ML-based predictive analytics

By mapping competing therapies by mechanism and timeline, Clarivate analysts narrow the field to a short list of assets, including orforglipron and retatrutide (both Eli Lilly and Co), that warrant deeper investigation as Drugs to Watch.

Figure 1: Comparison of drug timelines and success rates by therapeutic area (obesity) and location determined by Cortellis Competitive Intelligence, Drug Timeline & Success Rates Prediction.



Europe shown, but global comparisons are also available.

Orforglipron

First to market with the best patient fit

Cortellis Competitive Intelligence

Shows orforglipron is differentiated by oral convenience without fasting restrictions and greater weight loss than other oral options.

- Only oral, non-peptide GLP-1 RA in phase 3 trials
- Statistically significant efficacy across all endpoints in head-to-head ACHIEVE-3 study; at the highest studied doses, treatment-regimen estimand HbA1c reduction of -1.9% vs -1.5% with oral semaglutide
- AI precedent analysis of Cortellis data showing 90% probability of success each for obesity and T2DM

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Disease Landscape & Forecast

Shows orforglipron's potential within the shift toward interventions based on GLP-1 receptor agonists (RAs), including its ability to reshape the treatment algorithm.

- Forecasted sales of \$11.1bn for obesity and \$5.2bn for T2DM in the G7 markets by 2031
- 16% and 3% of patients with obesity or T2DM, respectively, forecast to be on oral GLP-1 RA products in the G7 markets by 2031
- Orforglipron patient share of 12% in obesity and 2% in T2DM in the G7 markets by 2031

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Epidemiology Intelligence

Identifies that orforglipron could make a meaningful impact, particularly within large patient segments where convenience, accessibility and tolerability are key drivers of adoption.

- ~257m (obesity) and ~85m (T2DM) addressable patients across the G7 markets by 2031
- Rising prevalences of obesity and T2DM, combined with overlapping comorbidities such as MASH and hypertension, further expanding the market opportunity
- 25% of the obesity population with comorbid OSA and 60% with comorbid hypertension, indicating expansion potential

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Cortellis Regulatory Intelligence (with AI Regulatory Assistant)

Indicates a 2026 obesity launch, followed by sequential T2DM and comorbidity indication approvals.

- Commissioners National Priority Voucher (CNPV) awarded in November 2025 for obesity and related conditions
- Validated 2026-2027 U.S., E.U., U.K. and Japan launch feasibility across obesity and T2DM indications
- 7+ pivotal phase 3 trials across 5 indications (obesity, T2DM, OSA, hypertension, maintenance)

[Learn more](#)

Retatrutide

Class-leading asset with first-mover advantage

Cortellis Competitive Intelligence

Shows retatrutide's first-mover advantage in the triple agonist space, with surgical-level weight loss levels.

- Only triple agonist (GLP-1/GIP/glucagon) in phase 3 trials
- Mean weight loss: retatrutide 28.7% vs. placebo 2.1%
- 10+ pivotal phase 3 trials (TRIUMPH and TRANSCEND programs), including head-to-head trials vs tirzepatide and semaglutide

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Epidemiology Intelligence

Highlights that retatrutide could provide an effective option for the large global population with obesity and/or T2DM, as well as address the comorbidities common with those conditions, which could justify premium pricing.

- ~257m (obesity) and ~85m (T2DM) addressable patients in the G7 markets by 2031
- High overlap between the obesity and T2DM populations, highlighting dual-indication revenue potential
- Prevalence of obesity-related conditions, including cardiovascular and kidney disease, MASH and osteoarthritis, aligned with the scope of the phase 3 obesity and T2DM programs

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Disease Landscape & Forecast

Shows the potential for blockbuster status with either indication alone as well as retatrutide's potential to meet an unmet medical need.

- Forecasted sales of \$10bn for obesity and \$20bn for T2DM in the G7 markets by 2031
- Retatrutide patient share of approximately 5-8% in the G7 markets by 2031 across obesity and T2DM
- Relevant for patients with severe obesity and comorbidities for whom other treatments are insufficient


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DRG Fusion

Demonstrates the potential for retatrutide's positioning to move from "weight loss drug" to a life-saving, organ-protective therapy.

- Projected 25-30% real-world treatment discontinuation within 12 months
- \$10k-\$80k healthcare savings per event avoided (CV, CKD, OA)
- Positioned as a therapy that reduces serious disease burden, not just weight, based on AI and real-world claims data that spotlight its impact in high-risk obesity populations and reveal care gaps current therapies don't address

[Learn more](#)



Summary of impact

Orforglipron

First-mover positioning in the oral non-peptide GLP-1 space, combined with manufacturing cost advantages and encouraging clinical data, positions orforglipron to capture a meaningful share of the oral-preferring patient segment, offering an effective and convenient GLP-1 option for patients.

Retatrutide

First-in-class triple agonist, combined with promising phase 3 efficacy, a comprehensive clinical program and a large target population, positions retatrutide to capture a meaningful share of the obesity and T2DM markets.

Ready to see if your drug is one to watch?

Contact us to learn how integrating intelligence from multiple Clarivate products, powered by AI, drives confident predictions of the potential competitive impact of your drug on the market and patients' lives.

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