

Remarkable Improvement in Plaque Psoriasis with a 4 week Short Course Liraglutide Therapy in an Obese Type 2 DM Patient

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Abstract

Psoriasis is an immune mediated chronic skin disease associated with components of metabolic syndrome like obesity and type-2 diabetes. Previously, anti-diabetic drugs especially insulin sensitizers (metformin and pioglitazone) have shown positive outcomes in subjects with psoriasis¹. Recently, many case series and longitudinal observational studies previously have demonstrated improvement in psoriasis with GLP1 agonist therapy when followed up for 8-12 weeks^{2,3}. We report a patient with psoriasis and Type2 DM in whom a marked improvement in psoriasis was seen with liraglutide therapy, even with a short course of therapy for 4 weeks, which has not been previously recorded, to the best of our knowledge. This could be due to our subject possibly being a better GLP-1 responder based on baseline characteristics of relatively higher BMI and HbA1c⁴.

Case report

A 42 year old male patient with type-2 diabetes and hypertension of 5 years, presented to us for the care of his diabetes. His BMI was 32.5 kg/m² at the time of presentation. He had a history of plaque psoriasis of 13 years duration. His PASI(Psoriasis area and severity index) was calculated as 10.2, which is Grade 2 category as per the scoring system. He was on Metformin 1 gm BD, Glimepride 2 mg BD for diabetes and Telmisartan 40 mg OD for hypertension. The patient was on topical therapy with an emollient and Mometasone and 3% salicylic acid on inflamed lesions for his psoriasis. His psoriatic lesions were stable for the previous 6 months (Figure 1).



Figure 1: (before liraglutide initiation).



Figure 2: (after 4 weeks liraglutide therapy).

Table 1:

Visit	FPG (mg/dl)	PPG (mg/dl)	Weight loss (kg)	PASI score (PASI50)	Liraglutide dose (mg)
Baseline	132	228	-	10.2	0.6
4 weeks	102	142	3	4.7	1.2

Investigations showed FPG 132 mg/dl; PPPG 228 mg/dl and HbA1c of 8.4% ; TSH was 1.32 mIU/ml. Lipids and hepato-renal parameters were normal. Liraglutide 0.6 mg subcutaneous OD was added to achieve glycemic control. The dose was up titrated to 1.2 mg OD after a week. The patient was followed up after 4 weeks. Glucose levels came down to FPG 102 mg/dl ; PPPG 142 mg/dl with a weight loss of 3 kg. Remarkable improvement was seen in severity of symptoms and the psoriatic lesion (Figure 2).The PASI score improved substantially from 10.2 to 4.7 a PASI50 response (Table 1).

Discussion:

PASI50 improvement has been shown to be a meaningful marker of clinical outcomes in chronic psoriasis, based on the quality of life and histological parameters as per various clinical trials⁵. Here, the difference observed over a 1 month therapy with liraglutide, in an otherwise chronic disease is attributable to drug therapy or metabolic improvement in this illustrative report. Anecdotal Case series and observational studies have previously documented this benefit, not just with liraglutide but also other insulin sensitizers, including metformin and

thiazolidinediones^{1,6,7}. Most of these studies have observed a positive clinical outcome only after 8 to 12 weeks therapy with liraglutide; in our case report, the betterment was observed on completion of 4 weeks of therapy itself. Subjects with higher baseline BMI and HbA1c values have shown to respond better to the effects of GLP-1 analogues, explaining the faster and more efficacious response seen with our case⁴. GLP-1 analogues as a class have shown improvement in psoriatic skin lesions; this has been speculated to be due to the drugs action on iNKT (invariant Natural Killer T cells) that have shown to play a role in disease pathogenesis⁸. Thus, we advocate further for the use of liraglutide therapy for psoriasis, especially for those subjects who possibly could be better responders based on baseline characteristics.

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