Ozempic Associated Portal Venous Gas

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INTRODUCTION

Ozempic (semaglutide) is an injectable GLP-1 receptor agonist primarily used for:
- Type 2 diabetes: increases insulin secretion, suppresses glucagon release
- Weight management: delays gastric emptying, slows glucose absorption, promotes satiety

Common side effects:
- Gastrointestinal symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- May exacerbate pre-existing GI conditions

Portal venous gas:
- Presence of gas within the portal venous system
- Often associated with severe GI pathology (e.g., bowel ischemia, necrosis)

Case presentation:
- Gastric outlet obstruction with portal venous gas in a patient on Ozempic
- Highlights the need for careful monitoring of GI distress in patients using GLP-1 receptor agonists

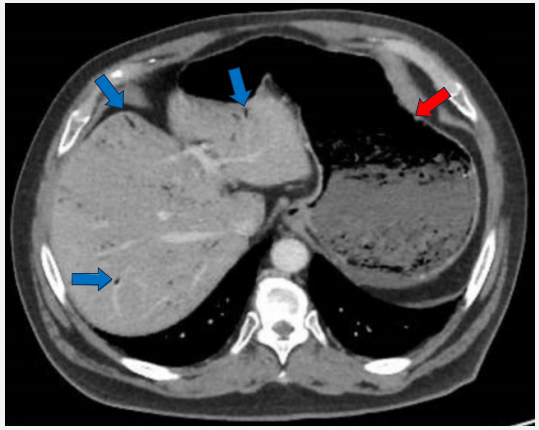
PRESENTATION

A 78-year-old male with past medical history of diabetes mellitus on Ozempic.
- **Chief complaints**: 3 weeks of worsening nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal discomfort
- **CT abdomen/pelvis:** gastric outlet obstruction (functional, no mechanical obstruction), presence of portal venous gas
- **Surgical consultation**: evaluated for potential gastric ischemia
- **Physical examination**: benign abdominal exam
- **Management**: withheld Ozempic, NGT placement with 200cc gastric content returned, gastroenterology consultation
- **Esophagogastroduodenoscopy**: erosive gastritis, gastric ulcers

HOSPITAL COURSE

Hospital course and management:
- Conservative treatment approach with bowel rest with IVF and NGT decompression

Outcome:
- Gradual clinical improvement, no surgical intervention required
- Patient discharged in stable condition



Distended Stomach

Portal Venous Gas

CONCLUSION

Ozempic's mechanism of action:
- Delays gastric emptying
- In severe cases, may contribute to gastroparesis

Gastroparesis complications:
- Inflammation and gastric ulcer formation
- Potential for portal venous gas development

Clinical significance of portal venous gas:
- Typically associated with severe gastrointestinal pathology
- Can be an alarming and potentially life-threatening finding

Key takeaway:
- Close monitoring of gastrointestinal symptoms in patients on Ozempic is crucial
- If complications arise, alternative treatment options should be considered

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