

Wegovy Approval for MASH in India

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Health

Why in News?

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), officially approved Novo Nordisk's Wegovy for treating Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH).

MASH is highly progressive, causing chronic liver inflammation and scarring, but frequently shows no symptoms until reaching advanced stages.

Wegovy

- It is primarily known as a blockbuster chronic weight management drug.
- It is now the **first and only GLP-1 receptor agonist** approved both globally and in India to treat a severe, progressive form of fatty liver disease.
- The approval targets a critical public health crisis in India, where medical estimates indicate that approximately **2/3 individuals** suffer from fatty liver disease.
- **Mechanism** - GLP-1 Receptor Agonist
- **Route** - Once-weekly subcutaneous injection.
- **Approved Mash Patient Criteria**
 - Adults with Noncirrhotic MASH
 - Moderate to Advanced Fibrosis (F2-F3)
 - Combined with a low-calorie diet & ex.
- **Efficacy Data** - The approval relies heavily on data from Part 1 of the international **ESSENCE clinical trial**, which proved that semaglutide directly targets liver fat, inflammation, and cellular scarring.
 - **63% of patients** experienced a complete resolution of steatohepatitis (liver inflammation).
 - **37% of patients** achieved a significant reduction in structural liver

fibrosis without any worsening of their baseline liver inflammation.

- **Beyond Weight Loss** - Crucially, researchers noted that the observed therapeutic liver benefits were not solely explained by body weight loss, indicating a distinct protective pathway on liver tissues.

Reference

[The Indian Express | Wegovy](#)

