

THE SCIENCE · 4 MIN READ

# Semaglutide vs. Tirzepatide: Which Is Right for You?

Both are prescribed by AvataCore's licensed providers and both are backed by landmark clinical trials -- but they work differently. This guide breaks down the real differences so you can have an informed conversation with your provider.

**Semaglutide activates one appetite pathway. Tirzepatide activates two. That single difference drives most of what sets them apart -- from average results to how your provider may dose them.**

## The one-pathway vs. two-pathway difference

Semaglutide is a GLP-1 receptor agonist -- it mimics the GLP-1 hormone your body releases after eating, which signals fullness and slows digestion. Tirzepatide does that too, but adds a second action on the GIP receptor, a separate hunger-and-metabolism pathway. Targeting both is why tirzepatide is sometimes described as a "dual agonist."

### Semaglutide

GLP-1 · compounded

- Targets one appetite pathway (GLP-1)
- Proven, well-studied weight loss
- A strong first step for most patients
- Weekly subcutaneous injection

### Tirzepatide

GLP-1 + GIP · compounded

- Targets two pathways (GLP-1 + GIP)
- Greater average weight loss in trials
- Often chosen for maximum results
- Weekly subcutaneous injection

## Average results from landmark NEJM trials



Average body-weight reduction in the landmark NEJM trials. Trials studied FDA-approved branded products; compounded medications are not FDA-approved. Individual results vary.

## What about side effects?

Both medications share a similar side-effect profile because both act on the GLP-1 pathway. The most common effects are gastrointestinal -- nausea, reduced appetite, and changes in digestion -- and they're

usually most noticeable early and ease as your body adjusts.

### **Your provider makes the call**

Which medication is appropriate depends on your health history, current medications, and goals. AvataCore's licensed providers review every intake and recommend the option that fits you -- it isn't a choice you have to make alone.

### **Can I switch between them later?**

~~Many patients start on one and revisit with their provider over time. Any change is a clinical decision your provider makes based on your response and tolerability.~~

### **Is one safer than the other?**

Both share a similar safety and side-effect profile. Neither compounded medication is FDA-approved, and eligibility for either is determined by a licensed provider after reviewing your medical history.

### **Do they cost the same at AvataCore?**

Both start at \$149 for your first 4 weeks (intro pricing). Your provider recommends the medication; pricing is transparent and shown before you check out.

## **See if you qualify -- [avatacore.com](https://avatacore.com)**

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