

Altimune boasts of differentiated obesity option

28-03-2024

US biopharma Altimune (Nasdaq: ALT) has claimed that it could have something special on its hands in the highly lucrative obesity field.

The ability of its peptide-based GLP-1/glucagon dual receptor agonist pemvidutide to boost weight loss while preserving muscle mass was shown in a body composition analysis from the recently completed MOMENTUM 48-week Phase II study.

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Data show that 74.5% of weight loss was derived from adipose tissue and only 25.5% from lean mass, comparable to the effects historically associated with weight loss from diet and exercise programs.

Speaking at the presentation of the company's latest financial results, Vipin Garg, president and chief executive of Altimune, said: "Based on a compelling weight loss, a clean safety profile, robust reductions in serum lipids and blood pressure, and now preservation of lean mass observed in our clinical trials, we believe that pemvidutide has the potential to distinguish itself broadly from other therapies for the treatment of obesity.

"We also remain excited about the outcome of our ongoing IMPACT Phase IIb metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) trial, with top-line 24-week data on the key endpoints of MASH resolution or fibrosis improvement anticipated in the first quarter of 2025.

"The results from a recently completed pre-clinical study demonstrating direct anti-fibrotic activity of pemvidutide only adds to our optimism about achieving a positive outcome in this trial."

Scott Harris, chief medical officer, Altimune, added: "Preservation of lean mass during weight loss is critical, since excessive loss of lean mass has been associated with negative outcomes, such as sarcopenia and bone fractures, especially in women and the elderly.

"There is a growing appreciation that the quality of weight loss is as important as the quantity of weight loss. Given these new body composition data, the robust reductions in serum lipids, and the class-leading

reduction of hepatic fat content, we believe that pemvidutide, if approved, could stand out as an attractive option for weight loss and weight maintenance.”