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Milana M. Vuković¹, Mladena N. Lalić-Popović^{1,2}, Jelena N. Jovičić Bata¹, Nemanja B. Todorović¹, Dunja M. Vesković^{3,4}, Gorana G. Puača¹, Jasmina M. Jovanović Ljubičić⁴, Katarina S. Otašević⁵, Jelena M. Čanji Panić¹, Boris Ž. Milijašević⁶

¹University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine Novi Sad, Department of Pharmacy, Novi Sad, Serbia

²University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine Novi Sad, Centre for Medical and Pharmaceutical Investigations and Quality Control (CEMPhIC), Novi Sad, Serbia

³University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine Novi Sad, Department of Dermatovenereology Diseases, Novi Sad, Serbia

⁴Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Clinic of Dermatovenereology Diseases, Novi Sad, Serbia

⁵University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine Novi Sad, Department of Dental Medicine, Novi Sad, Serbia

⁶University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine Novi Sad, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Novi Sad, Serbia

Comparison of glucagon-like peptide-1 analogues consumption between Serbia and Finland, in the period 2018-2020



Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) analogues or incretin mimetics are antidiabetic drugs administered parenterally, in form of the injectable pen devices.

The information about the consumption of five GLP-1 analogues (liraglutide, dulaglutide, lixisenatide, semaglutide and exenatide) was taken from the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of Serbia - ALIMS, and Finnish Medicines Agency - Fimea. The results are expressed in DDDs (defined daily doses) per 1000 inhabitants/day.

During the observed period (2018-2020) the consumption of GLP-1 analogues was much higher in Finland compared to Serbia. In Serbia, of all drugs from the group, only liraglutide was used (0.02, 0.01 and 0.01 DDD/1000 inhabitants/day during 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively). In Finland, liraglutide consumption of 1.92, 2.08 and 1.77 DDD/1000 inhabitants/day was recorded during the three observed years. In the last year, there was a decrease in the consumption of liraglutide, but the consumption of semaglutide was recorded at 2.49 DDD/1000 inhabitants/day. Dulaglutide, lixisenatide and exenatide have also been used in Finland.

Finland, as a country with a developed pharmacotherapeutic practice, has a significantly higher consumption of drugs from the examined group compared to Serbia. It is necessary to consider the factors that led to the difference in consumption and create new guidelines in accordance with modern pharmacotherapy that would lead to an equalization of consumption.