- In the new once-weekly formulation of exenatide, the exenatide molecule is dispersed in microspheres that degrade in situ and slowly release active agent.
- In patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus, therapy with exenatide once weekly as monotherapy or in combination with other antidiabetic treatments was associated with reductions in glycated hemoglobin (–1.3% to –1.9%), fasting plasma glucose (–32 mg/dL to –41 mg/dL), and body weight (–2.0 kg to –3.7 kg).
- The use of exenatide was not associated with an increase in the rate of hypoglycemic episodes, except when used in combination with sulfonylureas.
- The primary tolerability issues with exenatide once weekly were gastrointestinal adverse events, particularly during the first weeks of use, although the rate of nausea during start up was lower than that with the related agents, exenatide twice daily and liraglutide once daily.
- Exenatide once weekly may be particularly well suited to patients who desire the benefits associated with glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists, including significant glycemic control, low risk of hypoglycemia, and moderate weight loss, but prefer the convenience of once-weekly dosing.

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