

# Weight outcomes at 6 years of setmelanotide in patients with POMC or LEPR deficiency and obesity

Peter Kühnen,<sup>1</sup> Erica Van den Akker,<sup>2</sup> Kathleen De Waele,<sup>3</sup> Jesús Argente,<sup>4</sup> Julie Gonneau-Lejeune,<sup>5</sup> I. Sadaf Farooqi,<sup>6</sup> Cecilia Scimia,<sup>7</sup> Guojun Yuan,<sup>7</sup> Martin Wabitsch,<sup>8</sup> Karine Clément<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Obesity Center CGG, Erasmus MC Center of Expertise for Genetic Obesity, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; <sup>3</sup>Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium; <sup>4</sup>Department of Paediatrics and Paediatric Endocrinology, University Hospital Niño Jesús, Research Institute La Princesa, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain; <sup>5</sup>CIBER Fisiopatología de la obesidad y nutrición (CIBEROBN), Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain; <sup>6</sup>IMDEA Food Institute, Madrid, Spain; <sup>7</sup>Université de la Réunion, Unité Transversale de Nutrition Clinique, CHU de la Réunion, Réunion, France; <sup>8</sup>University of Cambridge Metabolic Research Laboratories and NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre, Wellcome-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK; <sup>9</sup>Rhythm Pharmaceuticals, Boston, MA, USA; <sup>10</sup>Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes, Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany and German Center for Child and Adolescent Health (DZKJ), Partner Site, Ulm, Germany; <sup>11</sup>Nutrition Department, Reference Center of Rare Diseases PRADORT, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France and Sorbonne Université, Inserm, Nutrition and Obesity, Systemic Approaches NutriOmique Research Group, Paris, France

## Introduction

- The melanocortin-4 receptor (MC4R) pathway controls hunger, satiety, and energy expenditure, which in turn regulates body weight<sup>1,2</sup>
- Patients with proopiomelanocortin (POMC) deficiency (including variants in *POMC* or proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 1 [*PCSK1*]) or leptin receptor (LEPR) deficiency due to biallelic gene variants have disrupted MC4R signaling<sup>3-7</sup>
  - Altered MC4R signaling can lead to hyperphagia (pathological, insatiable hunger) and early-onset and severe obesity that has historically been resistant to medical treatment<sup>3-7</sup>
- In pivotal Phase 3 clinical trials, treatment with the MC4R agonist setmelanotide was associated with clinically meaningful improvements in weight and hunger-related outcomes in participants with POMC or LEPR deficiency at 1 year, followed by continuous weight improvements up to 4 years with no new safety concerns<sup>8</sup>

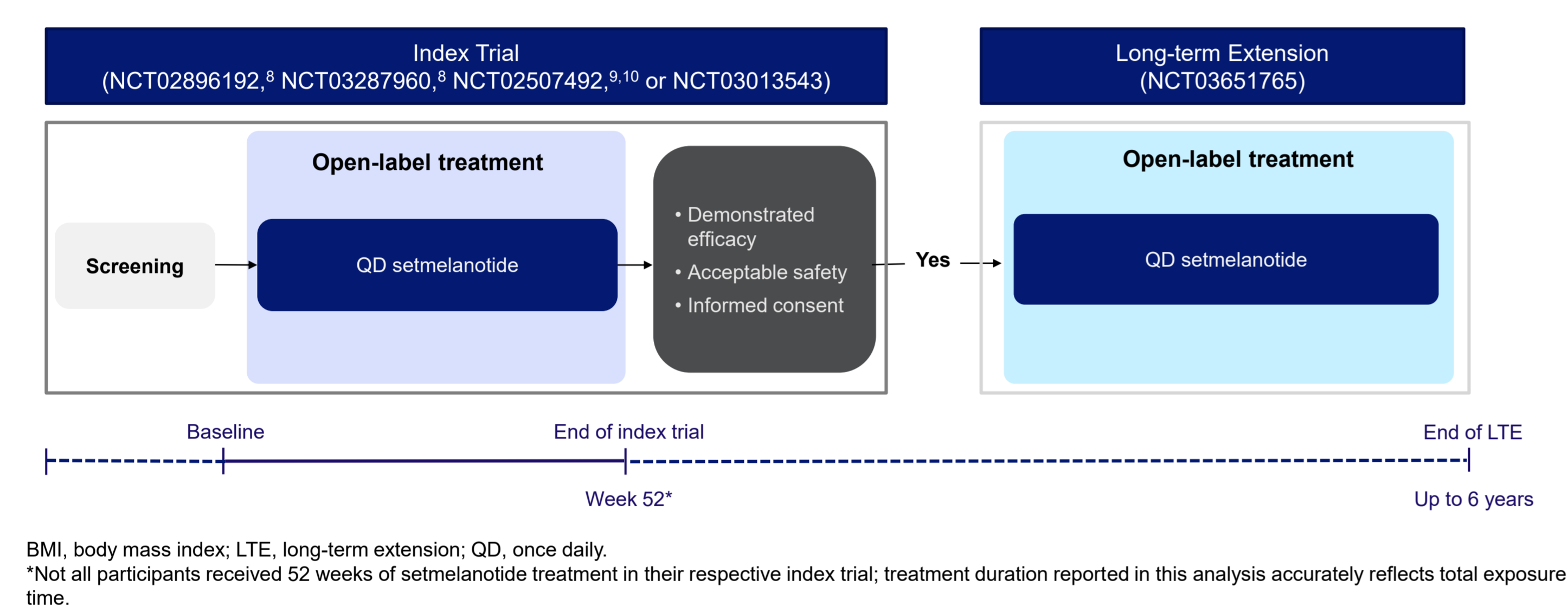
## Objective

- To assess the efficacy and safety of up to 6 years of setmelanotide treatment in participants with POMC or LEPR deficiency and obesity

## Methods

- Participants with POMC or LEPR deficiency who completed a prior clinical trial with setmelanotide and experienced clinically meaningful weight response could continue treatment in a long-term extension trial (LTE; NCT03651765) (Figure 1)
  - Key exclusion criteria for the index trials were recent diet, exercise, or gastric bypass surgery resulting in weight loss or stabilization, significant or concerning dermatologic findings (eg, melanoma or skin lesions), or a history of suicidal ideation or behavior, or moderate-to-severe renal dysfunction
- The current analysis assessed changes from index trial baseline in body mass index (BMI) and BMI z-score (aged <18 years) at up to 6 years follow-up

Figure 1. Study design

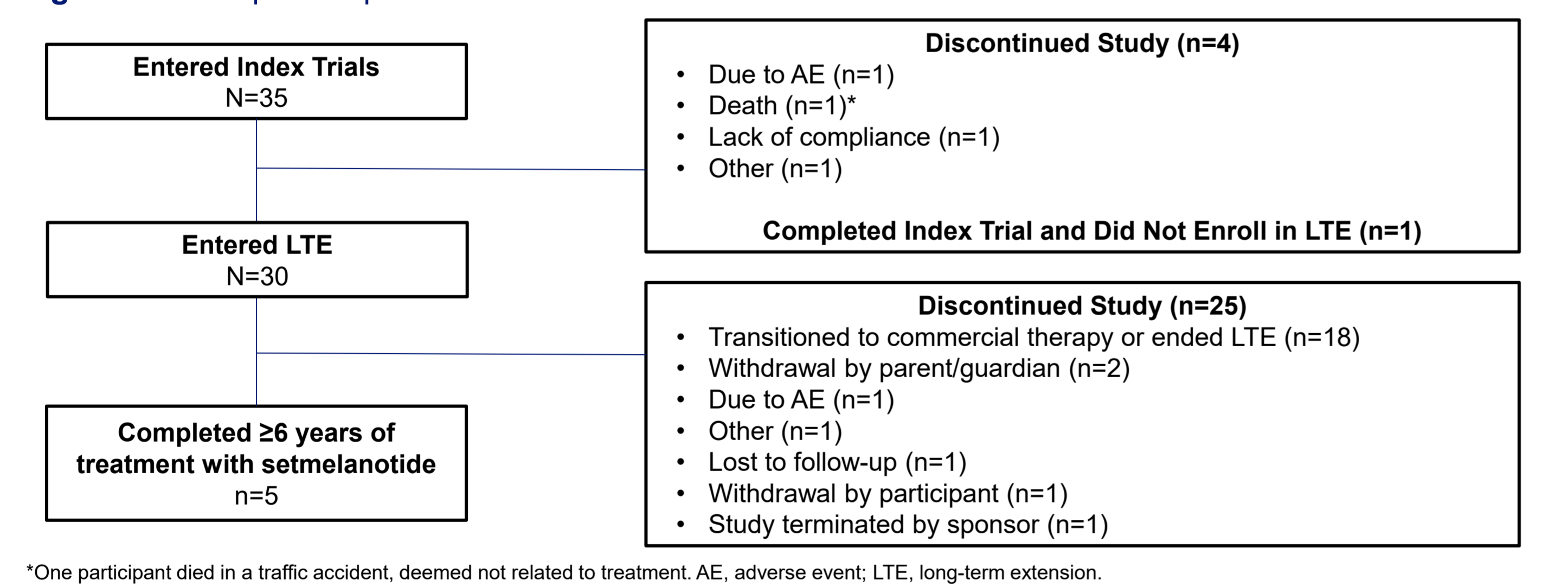


## Results

### Participant Disposition and Baseline Characteristics

- Thirty-five participants entered an index trial, of whom, 30 entered the LTE (Figure 2)
  - A common reason for trial discontinuation was participants transitioned to commercial therapy after regulatory approval of setmelanotide

Figure 2. Participant disposition



- The mean (SD) BMI at baseline in all participants was 44.1 (11.3; n=35) kg/m<sup>2</sup> (Table 1)
- The mean (SD) BMI z-score at baseline in participants <18 years old was 3.86 (0.75; n=16)

Table 1. Characteristics at index trial baseline

	Setmelanotide N=35
Age, mean (SD; range), years	19.5 (7.6; 7-37)
Age, n (%)	
≥18	19 (54.3)
<18	16 (45.7)
Sex, n (%)	
Male	18 (51.4)
Female	17 (48.6)
Race, n (%)	
White	24 (68.6)
Black or African American	1 (2.9)
Other	10 (28.6)
Weight, mean (SD), kg	123.8 (36.4)
BMI, mean (SD), kg/m <sup>2</sup>	44.1 (11.3)
BMI z-score (in participants <18 years old), mean (SD)*	3.86 (0.75)
Waist circumference, mean (SD), cm	122.7 (20.8)

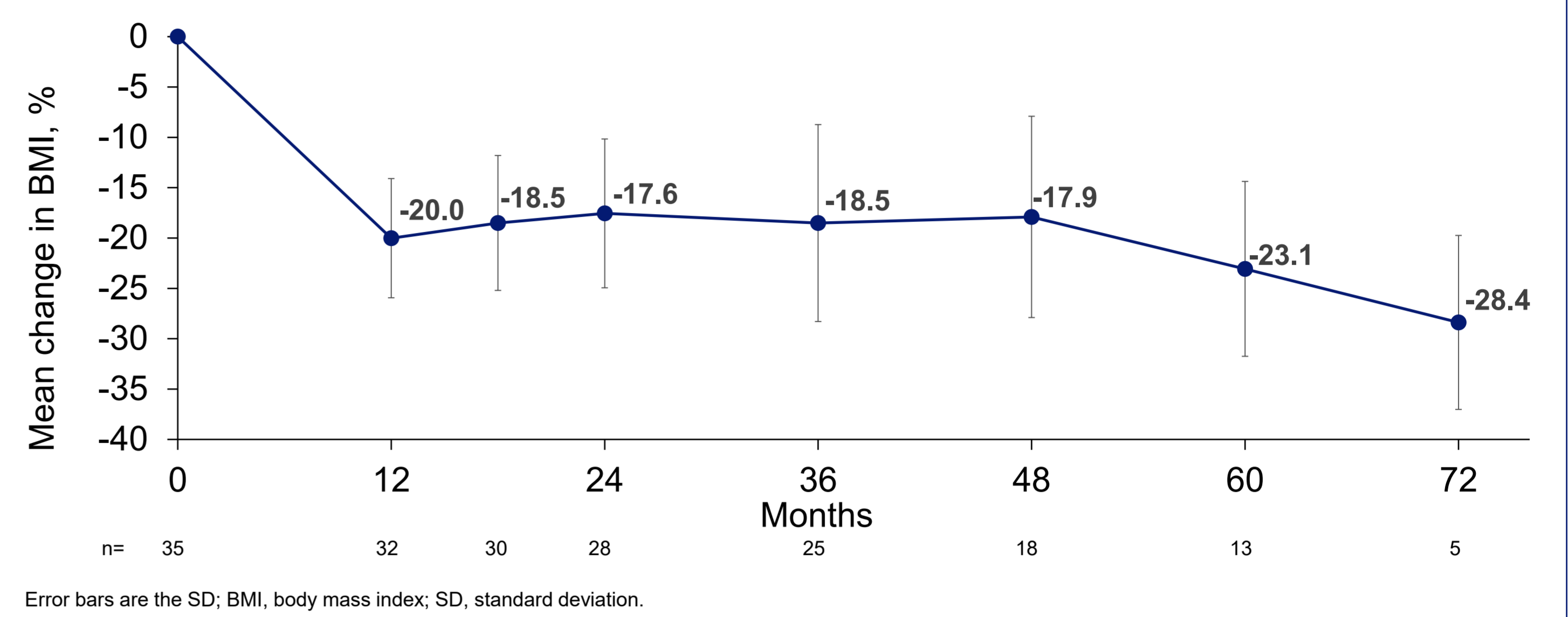
BMI, body mass index; SD, standard deviation.  
\*BMI z-score calculated according to the World Health Organization 2007 method.

## Results (continued)

### Efficacy

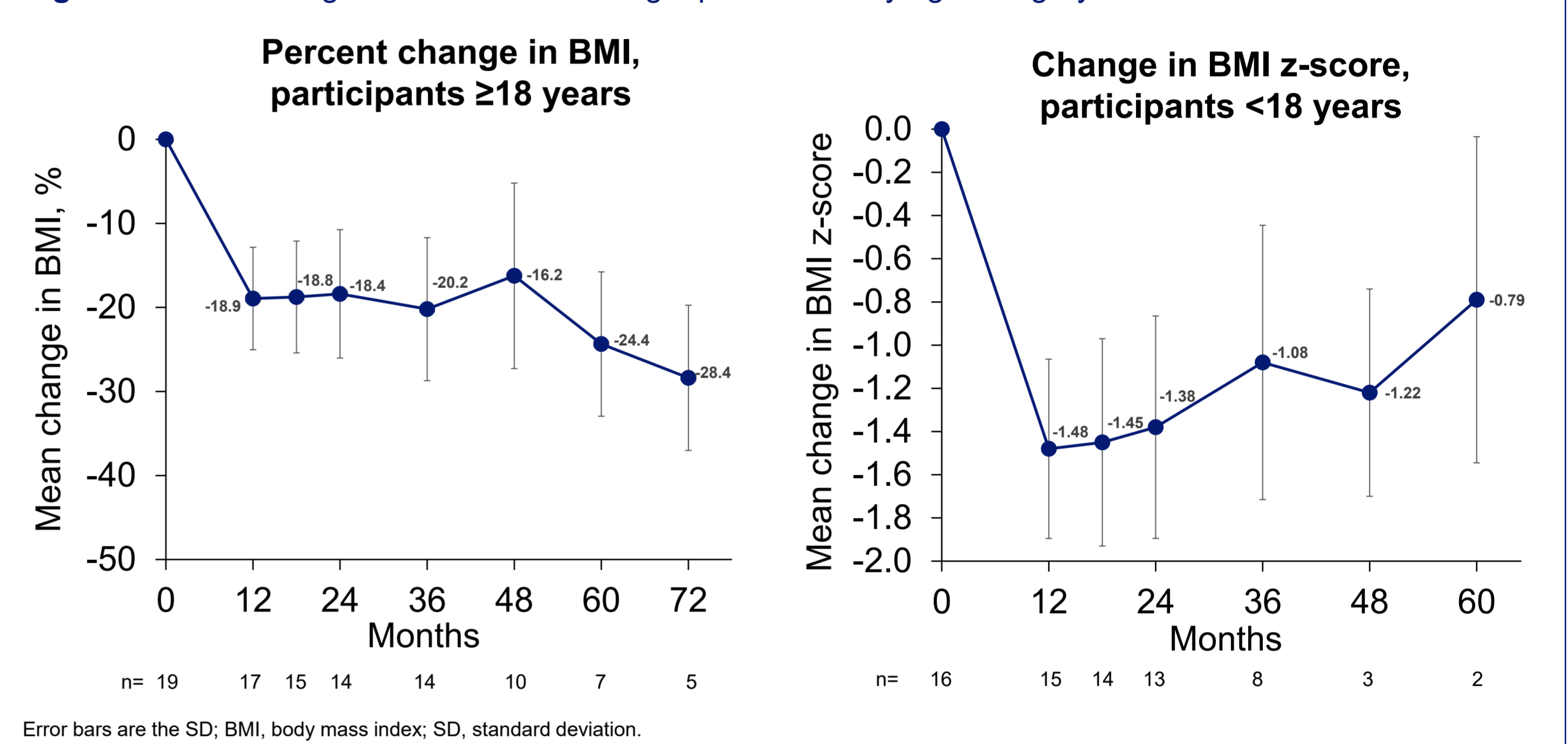
- At Year 6, the mean (SD) percent change in BMI from baseline in 5 participants was -28.4% (17.3%; Figure 3)

Figure 3. Mean percent change from baseline in BMI for all participants



- In participants aged ≥18 years, the mean (SD) percent change in BMI from baseline was -28.4% (17.3%) in 5 participants at Year 6 (n=5; Figure 4)
- The mean (SD) change in BMI z-score from baseline for participants aged <18 years old was -0.79 (1.51) at Year 5 (n=2; Figure 4)
  - There were no pediatric participants who reached 6 years of treatment

Figure 4. Mean change from baseline in weight parameters by age category



### Safety

- Skin hyperpigmentation (28/35; 80.0%) and injection site erythema (24/35; 68.6%) were the most commonly reported adverse events up to Year 6 (Table 2)

Table 2. Safety

n (%)	Setmelanotide N=35
Any AEs	30 (85.7)
Treatment-related AEs	30 (85.7)
Serious AEs	11 (31.4)
Treatment-related serious AEs	0
AE leading to study drug withdrawal	4 (11.4)
AE leading to death	1 (2.9)*
AEs in ≥30% of participants	
Skin hyperpigmentation	28 (80.0)
Injection site erythema	24 (68.6)
Headache	18 (51.4)
Injection site pruritus	18 (51.4)
Nausea	18 (51.4)
Injection site edema	16 (45.7)
Diarrhea	14 (40.0)
Back pain	11 (31.4)
COVID-19	11 (31.4)
Vomiting	11 (31.4)

\*One participant died in a traffic accident, deemed not related to treatment. AE, adverse event; COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019.

## Conclusions

- These data further demonstrate the long-term weight improvements with setmelanotide treatment in participants with POMC or LEPR deficiency and obesity
- Furthermore, the mean BMI z-score reduction in participants <18 years of age over the course of 5 years of treatment with setmelanotide further reinforces the potential benefits of beginning early intervention with a targeted therapy in this patient population, where early-onset and severe obesity is a common clinical feature

**Acknowledgments:** This study was sponsored by Rhythm Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Writing and editorial support for this poster was provided under the direction of the authors by Fingerpaint Medical and funded by Rhythm Pharmaceuticals.

**Disclosures:** Peter Kühnen has participated on a safety board for Rhythm Pharmaceuticals and reports research grants from HorizonEU and Erasmus Trust Foundation which have no link to the study reported in this publication. Kathleen De Waele has nothing to disclose. Jesús Argente has served as a site principal investigator for industry-sponsored clinical trials for Rhythm Pharmaceuticals and received reimbursement for travel expenses for scientific meetings from Rhythm Pharmaceuticals. Julie Gonneau-Lejeune has nothing to disclose. I. Sadaf Farooqi has received payment for lectures from Rhythm Pharmaceuticals and is supported by the Wellcome Trust, Botnar Foundation, a NIHR Senior Investigator Award, and the Bernard Wolfe Endowment. Cecilia Scimia and Guojun Yuan are employees and may hold stock options in Rhythm Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Martin Wabitsch has consulted for and participated as principal investigator in clinical studies of Rhythm Pharmaceuticals and Novo Nordisk and received invitations to speak at industry sponsored symposia. Karine Clément has served as a site principal investigator for industry-sponsored clinical trials for Rhythm Pharmaceuticals and received reimbursement for travel expenses for scientific meetings from Rhythm Pharmaceuticals.

**References:** 1. Kühnen et al. *Trends Mol Med.* 2019;25(2):136-148. 2. Sohn et al. *Cell.* 2013;152(3):612-9. 3. Krude et al. *Nat Genet.* 1998;19(2):155-157. 4. Farooqi et al. *Diabetes.* 2006;55(9):2549-2553. 5. Folon et al. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2023;11(3):182-190. 6. Montague et al. *Nature.* 1997;387:903-908. 7. Clément et al. *Nature.* 1998;396:392(6674):398-401. 8. Clément et al. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2020;8:960-970. 9. Kühnen et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2016;375:240-246. 10. Clément et al. *Nat Med.* 2018;24:551-555.

For more information, please contact us at EU\_Medinfo@rhythmtx.com