Effect of Anti-Obesity Drug on Cardiovascular Risk Factors: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

Yu-Hao Zhou¹[®], Xiu-Qiang Ma¹[®], Cheng Wu¹[®], Jian Lu¹[®], Shan-Shan Zhang², Jia Guo³, Shun-Quan Wu¹, Xiao-Fei Ye¹, Jin-Fang Xu¹, Jia He¹*

1 Department of Health Statistics, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China, 2 Tumor Immunology and Gene Therapy Center, Eastern Hepatobiliary Surgery Hospital, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China, 3 Department of Ultrasonography, Eastern Hepatobiliary Surgery Hospital, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China

Abstract

Background: Anti-obesity drugs are widely used to prevent the complications of obesity, however, the effects of antiobesity drugs on cardiovascular risk factors are unclear at the present time. We carried out a comprehensively systematic review and meta-analysis to assess the effects of anti-obesity drugs on cardiovascular risk factors.

Methodology and Principal Findings: We systematically searched Medline, EmBase, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, reference lists of articles and proceedings of major meetings for relevant literatures. We included randomized placebo-controlled trials that reported the effects of anti-obesity drugs on cardiovascular risk factors compared to placebo. Overall, orlistat produced a reduction of 2.39 kg (95%Cl-3.34 to -1.45) for weight, a reduction of 0.27 mmol/L (95%Cl: -0.36 to -0.17) for total cholesterol, a reduction of 0.21 mmol/L (95%Cl: -0.30 to -0.12) for LDL, a reduction of 0.12 mmol/L (95%Cl: -0.20 to -0.04) for fasting glucose, 1.85 mmHg reduction (95%Cl: -3.30 to -0.40) for SBP, and a reduction of 1.49 mmHg (95%Cl: -2.39 to -0.58) for DBP. Sibutramine only showed effects on weight loss and triglycerides reduction and DBP reduction. No other significantly different effects were identified between anti-obesity therapy and placebo.

Conclusion/Significance: We identified that anti-obesity therapy was associated with a decrease of weight regardless of the type of the drug. Orlistat and rimonabant could lead to an improvement on cardiovascular risk factors. However, Sibutramine may have a direct effect on cardiovascular risk factors.

Citation: Zhou Y-H, Ma X-Q, Wu C, Lu J, Zhang S-S, et al. (2012) Effect of Anti-Obesity Drug on Cardiovascular Risk Factors: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials. PLoS ONE 7(6): e39062. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039062

Editor: Rocio I. Pereira, University of Colorado Denver, United States of America

Received July 6, 2011; Accepted May 17, 2012; Published June 20, 2012

Copyright: © 2012 Zhou et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Funding: This study was conducted under two grants from the National Nature Science Foundation of China (30872186, 81072388), a grant from the leading talents of science in Shanghai 2010 (022) and a grant sponsored by Program of Shanghai Subject Chief Scientist (09XD1405500). The funders had no role in the study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

* E-mail: hejia63@yahoo.com

• These authors contributed equally to this work.

Introduction

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of premature morbidity and mortality worldwide for both men and women [1-4]. Obesity and overweight are escalating and raising considerable public concern because they increase the prevalence of severe cardiovascular events and other systemic diseases, causing great costs and burden to both society and families [5-7]. Over the past few decades, several randomized controlled trials have already indicated that reduction in weight could reduce the risk of cardiovascular outcomes and other systemic diseases. In practice, lifestyle modifications remain the primary approach for obesity therapy. However, lifestyle modifications have their own limitation on lasting weight loss, especially for adolescent obesity. In fact, more than 80% of the highly motivated patients are unable to achieve weight loss with dietary and lifestyle modifications alone. Lifestyle modifications are not sufficient impact on weight loss and attentions have been drawn to additional effective prevention therapies [7–12]. Anti-obesity drugs represent additional effective therapies which have clear effect on weight loss. However, the effects of anti-obesity drugs on cardiovascular risk factors remain unclear [7,13]. Previous review [14] only provided evidence that anti-obesity drugs have a role in weight loss for obese adolescents, but did not provide clear evidence showing whether anti-obesity therapy was associated with effects on cardiovascular risk factors.

Recently, several randomized controlled trials [15,16] investigating the use of anti-obesity therapy have been performed. Data from these recent trials are needed to be evaluated to formulate a conclusion regarding the efficacy of anti-obesity therapy. We

Methods

Data Sources, Search Strategy and Selection Criteria

Randomized controlled trials and literature reporting trials of anti-obesity therapy in English met the eligibility criteria for our meta-analysis regardless of publication status (published, unpublished, in press or in progress), and relevant literatures were found by the following procedures:

(1) Electronic searches: We searched the electronic databases EmBase, Medline, and the Cochrane Center Register of Controlled Trials for articles to a time limit of September 20, 2010, using "rimonabant", "sibutramine", "orlistat", "obesity" and "randomized controlled trial" as the search terms. All reference lists from reports on non-randomized controlled trials were searched manually for additional eligible studies.

(2) Other source: We contacted the authors to obtain any possible additional published or unpublished data and searched the proceedings of annual meetings in the Cochrane Obesity Group Specialized Register. In addition, we searched the ongoing randomized controlled trials, which had been registered as been completed but not yet been published, in the metaRegister of Controlled Trials. Medical subject headings and methods, patient population and intervention were used to identify relevant trials. This review was conducted and reported according to the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis) Statement issued in 2009 (Checklist S1) [17].

The literature search, data extraction, and quality assessment were undertaken independently by two authors (Xiu-Qiang Ma and Jian Lu) with a standardized approach, and any disagreement between these two authors was settled by a third author (Yu-Hao. Zhou) until a consensus was reached.

All completed randomized controlled trials assessing the effects of anti-obesity therapy with placebo as control and reporting at least one outcome of cardiovascular risk factors were included as eligible trials.

Data Collection and Quality Assessment

One author (Yu-Hao. Zhou) designed a standard data extraction procedure, and then three authors (Cheng Wu, Jia Guo, Xiao-Fei Ye) checked each full-text trial for eligibility and extracted and tabulated all relevant data with a standardized flow path. Extracted data included patients' baseline characteristics, the type and dose of anti-obesity drugs, follow-up duration, change in weight, cardiovascular risk factors, and any possible adverse outcomes. Disagreements regarding the data were settled by group discussion.

Study quality was assessed using the Jadad [18] scores (Jin-Fang Xu, Yu-Hao Zhou) based on randomization, concealment of the treatment allocation, blinding, completeness of follow-up, and the use of intention-to-treat analysis.

Statistical Analysis

Relative risks (RRs) or mean differences (MDs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using outcomes extracted from each trial before data pooling. We used RRs with 95% CIs for binary data to estimate the effects of anti-obesity drugs on adverse events and MDs with 95% CIs for continuous data to estimate the effects of anti-obesity drugs on



Figure 1. Flow diagram of the literature search and trials selection process.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039062.g001

weight loss, and cardiovascular risk factors, such as total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, triglycerides, fasting glucose, SBP and DBP. In order to explore potential heterogeneity in estimates of treatment effect, we performed univariate meta-regression and compared summary results from subgroup analysis based on the type of anti-obesity drug, mean age, follow-up years, and study quality. We chose the random-effects model [19] with Mantel-Haenszel Statistics for all estimates of effect. Heterogeneity of treatment effects between studies was investigated visually by funnel plot and statistically by the heterogeneity I^2 statistic. I^2 statistic of 0%-40% indicates unimportant heterogeneity, 30%-60% indicates moderate heterogeneity, 50%-90% indicates substantial heterogeneity, and 75%-100% indicates considerable heterogeneity [20]. All reported P values were two-side and p values less than 0.05 were regarded as significant for all included studies. All analyses were carried out using STATA (version 10.0).

Results

We identified 957 potential articles from our initial electronic search, and 826 were excluded after a preliminary review of searches. The remaining 131 studies were retrieved for detailed assessment and 21 randomized controlled trials [15,16,21–39] met our inclusion criteria (Figure 1 and Protocol S1). The 21 trials provided data of 13759 people with obesity (mean: 655 people, range: 46 to 3277 people). Table 1 summarizes the baseline

eta-analysis.
nd Dd
eview a
/stematic re
the s)
included in
trials
ð
characteristic
and
l. Design
e -
 Tab

Source	No. of patients	Mean age, y	Female patients (%)	Interventions	Baseline BMI (kg/m²)	Duration of follow-up (month)	Jadad score
Stephen R(1998) [21]	487	DN	85.2	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	35.0	24	с
Lars S(1998) [22]	688	44.8	83.0	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	36.0	12	5
James O.H(1999) [23]	363	46.2	86.0	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	32.8	12	£
Michael H.D(1999) [24]	892	43.5	84.2	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	36.3	24	5
N Finer(2000) [25]	218	41.4	88.5	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	36.8	12	5
W.P.T James(2000) [26]	467	40.6	83.5	Sibutramine 10 mg daily	36.6	24	4
Alfred W(2001) [27]	606	43.4	75.4	Sibutramine 15 mg daily	34.8	10	9
M Krempf(2003) [28]	696	41	86.4	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	36.1	18	4
The S.A.T Study (2003) [29]	348	42.7	74.4	Sibutramine 15 mg daily	35.4	12	9
R.I. Berkowitz (2003) [35]	82	14.1	55.0	Sibutramine 5 or 10 mg daily	37.8	12	9
Jarl S.T(2004) [30]	3277	43.3	55.2	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	37.3	48	4
Julie A.P(2004) [31]	588	48.3	81.6	Sibutramine 10 mg daily	37.8	12	2
A Godoy-Matos (2004) [36]	60	16.2	81.7	Sibutramine 10 mg daily	36.8	Q	4
Chanoine J.P(2005) [32]	539	13.6	67.0	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	35.6	12	5
RIO-Europe Study Group(2005) [37]	1507	45.0	79.5	Rimonabant 5 or 20 mg daily	36.0	12	6
Rimonabant in Obesity–Lipids Study Group(2005) [38]	1036	47.8	60.6	Rimonabant 5 or 20 mg daily	34.0	12	9
James W.A(2006) [33]	391	46.2	94.4	Orlistat 60 mg three times daily	26.8	4	5
W.S.C Poston (2006) [34]	167	40.7	91.6	Orlistat 120 mg three times daily	36.0	12	2
L.M Garcia-Morales (2006) [39]	46	15.0	56.5	Sibutramine 10 mg daily	35.9	6	5
S.R Daniels (2007) [15]	498	13.7	64.7	Sibutramine 10 mg daily	36.1	12	4
ADAGIO-Lipids Investigators(2009) [16]	803	49.6	53.6	Rimonabant 20 mg daily	36.2	12	4
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039062.t001							

Studies	Experin	nent		Contro	1			Mean difference	Weight
	Mean	SD	Total	Mean	SD	Total		IV,random,95% CI	
Orlistat									
Stephen R (1998)	-7.4	7.1	244	-4.3	7.4	243	_	-3.10 (-4.39,-1.81)	6.8
James OH (1999)	7.24	5.53	113	-5.93	7.59	121		-1.31 (-3.00, 0.38)	6.2
Michael HD (1999)	-8.76	9.56	668	-5.81	10.03	224	_	-2.95 (-4.45,-1.45)	6.5
M Krempf (2003)	-5.3	9.3	346	-2.4	9.4	350	_	-2.90 (-4.29,-1.51)	6.7
James WA (2006)	-3.05	3.06	194	-1.9	3.12	184		-1.15 (-1.77,-0.53)	7.7
WSC Poston (2006)	-1.7	6.3	82	1.7	4.2	85	_	-3.40 (-5.03,-1.77)	6.3
Subtotal Heterogeneity: f =0.9111 χ ² =16.47,df=5 (p=0.006);I = Text for overall effect:Z=4.98(p=0.000)	69.6%		1647			1207	\sim	-2.39 (-3.34,-1.45)	40.2
Sibutramine									
WPT James (2000)	-8.9	8.1	350	-4.9	5.9	114	_	-4.00 (-5.38,-2.62)	6.7
Alfred W (2001)	-3.8	12.07	405	0.2	9.92	201	_	-4.00 (-5.81,-2.19)	6.0
The SAT Study (2003)	-8.1	15.83	174	-5.1	13.19	174		-3.00 (-6.06, 0.06)	4.0
R.I Berkowitz (2003)	-7.8	6.3	43	-3.2	6.1	39	_	-4.60 (-7.29,-1.91)	4.6
Julie AP (2004)	0.5	4	281	0.6	3.7	220	_ _	-0.10 (-0.78, 0.58)	7.7
A Godoy–Matos (2004)	-10.3	6.6	30	-2.4	2.5	30	e	-7.90 (-10.43,-5.37)	4.8
L.M Garcia–Morales (2006)	-7.3	6.36	23	-4.3	6.36	23		-3.00 (-6.68, 0.68)	3.3
Subtotal Heterogeneity:f =7.9479;c ² =67.25,df=6 (p=0.000) ³ ;I = Text for overall effect:Z=3.22(p=0.001)	91.1%		1306			801		-3.73 (-6.00,-1.46)	37.1
Rimonabant									
RIO-Europe Study Group	-5	6.5	1202	-1.8	6.4	305	_ _	-3.20 (-4.01,-2.39)	7.5
Rimonabant in Obesity"CLipids Study Group	-6.4	5.7	691	-23	5.6	342	_ _	-4.10 (-4.83,-3.37)	7.6
ADAGIO-Lipids Investigators	-5.8	5.9	404	-2.2	5.1	395	— — —	-3.60 (-4.36,-2.84)	7.6
Subtotal Heterogeneity:f =0.0511½=2.67,df=2 (p=0.263) ⁵ I =2 Text for overall effect:Z=14.03(p=0.000)	5.0%		2297	-2.2	0.1	1042	\diamond	-3.66 (-4.17,-3.15)	22.7
Total Heterogeneity:f =2.466t%=127.47,df=15(p=0.000), Text for overa∎ effect:Z=7.03(p=0.000)	=88.2%		5250			3050	\sim	-3.13 (-4.00,-2.26)	100.0
							–10 –5 Mean difference] 5	

Figure 2. Mean reduction in weight loss (kg) based on sibutramine and orlistat. Cl, confidence intervals; IV, inverse variance. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039062.g002

characteristics of the included studies and their participants. The follow-up for patients ranged from 4 to 48 months, with a mean of 14.7 months. Among these included trials, 10 studies evaluated orlistat therapy [21–25,28,30,32–34], 3 [16,37,38] evaluated rimonabant therapy and remaining 8 [15,26,27,29,31,35,36,39] evaluated sibutramine therapy. Because the included trials scarcely reported on the key indicators of trial quality, we assessed the quality of the trials by the pre-fixed criteria using the Jadad score. Overall, five trials scored 6, seven scored 5, six scored 4, two scored 3 and the remaining one scored 2.

Data for the effect of anti-obesity drugs on weight loss compared with placebo were available from 16 trials (Figure 2). Overall, we noted that with anti-obesity therapy, weight was significantly reduced by 3.13 kg (95%CI: -4.00 to -2.26) compared with placebo. Furthermore, orlistat, sibutramine, and rimonabant produced reductions of 2.39 kg (95%CI: -3.34 to -1.45), 3.73 kg (95%CI: -6.00 to -1.46), and 3.66 kg (95%CI: -4.17 to -3.15) in weight, respectively.

Data for the effects of anti-obesity therapy on cardiovascular risk factors were divided into seven classes, i.e., total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, triglycerides, fasting glucose, SBP and DBP (Figure 3). Overall, orlistat therapy resulted in a reduction of 0.27 mmol/L (95%CI: -0.36 to -0.17) in total cholesterol, a reduction of 0.21 mmol/L (95%CI: -0.30 to -0.12) in LDL, a reduction of 0.12 mmol/L (95%CI: -0.20 to -0.04) in fasting glucose, a reduction of 1.85 mmHg (95%CI: -3.30 to -0.40) in SBP, and a reduction of 1.49 mmHg (95%CI: -2.39 to -0.58) in DBP. Moreover, sibutramine showed an effect on weight loss (MD = -3.73 kg, 95%CI: -6.00 to -1.46), triglycerides reduction (MD = -0.13 mmol/L, 95%CI: -0.26 to -0.00) with a statistical significance. Rimonabant showed clear effects on weight loss (MD = -3.66 kg, 95%CI: -4.17 to -3.15), SBP

reduction (MD = -1.63 mmHg, 95%CI: -2.76 to -0.51), and DBP reduction (MD = -1.60 mmHg, 95%CI: -2.80 to -0.39).

We also noted that some adverse outcomes were reported in several trials and 12 trials reported data for total adverse event. Overall, anti-obesity therapy increased the risk of drug-related adverse events by 8% when compared with placebo (RR: 1.08, 95%CI: 1.02 to 1.14, Figure 4). Similarly, anti-obesity therapy also resulted in a increase of 73% in the risk of gastrointestinal diseases (RR: 1.73, 95%CI: 1.40 to 2.15), 86% in the risk of hypertension (RR: 1.86, 95%CI: 1.28 to 2.71), 195% in the risk of tachycardia (RR: 2.95, 95%CI: 1.56 to 5.58), and 371% in the risk of dry mouth (RR: 4.71, 95%CI: 1.63 to 13.65). Anti-obesity therapy did not have an effect on infections and infestations, headache, rash, abdominal pain, upper respiratory tract infection, influenza and pharyngitis.

We observed evidence of heterogeneity in the magnitude of the effect across the included trials for weight loss, HDL and Triglycerides. However, we performed a sequential exclusion of each trial from the pooled analysis and these exclusions did not affect our conclusions. Therefore, we did subgroup analyses to minimize the consequences of heterogeneity among the included trials based on mean age, follow-up years, and study quality (Table 2). Subgroup analyses were performed for weight loss, HDL and Triglycerides. The outcomes showed that there was evidence of heterogeneity in the magnitude of the effect across the included trials. The subgroup analysis based on the type of antiobesity drugs contributed to the minimization of heterogeneity. However, few subsets provided a unanimous conclusion, and this might be due to the fact that fewer trials were included in these subsets.

Anti-Obesity Drug on Cardiovascular Risk Factors

Studies	Studies included		Mean difference IV,random,95% CI	p value for heterogeneity
Total Cholesterol				
Orlistat	19– 23, 32	•	-0.27 (-0.36,-0.17;)p = 0.000	0.219
Sibutramine	24, 27, 29	•	-0.03 (-0.12, 0.07)p = 0.578	0.913
Rimonabant	35, 36, 38	•	0.01 (-0.07, 0.09)p = 0.835	0.382
Subtotal	19-24 , 27, 29, 32, 35, 36, 38	•	-0.12 (-0.22,-0.03)p =0.013	0.000
LDL				
Orlistat	19-23 32	0	-0.21 (-0.30,-0.12)p = 0.000	0.180
Sibutramine	24, 27, 29	•	-0.02 (-0.11, 0.06)p = 0.559	0.578
Rimonabant	35 , 36, 38	o	0.03 (-0.04, 0.10)p = 0.432	0.873
Subtotal	19-24 , 27, 29, 32, 35, 36, 38	¢	-0.10 (-0.18,-0.01) ^o =0.031	0.000
HDL				
Orlistat	19-23 32		-0.02 (-0.04, 0.00)p = 0.087	0.626
Sibutramine	24 , 27, 29	p	0.04 (-0.02, 0.11)p = 0.165	0.045
Rimonabant	35 , 36, 38	Þ	0.13 (-0.04, 0.31)p = 0.140	0.000
Subtotal	19-24 , 27, 29, 32, 35, 36, 38	•	0.02 (-0.03, 0.07)p =0.494	0.000
Triglycerides				
Orlistat	19-22 32	\$	-0.00 (-0.16, 0.15)p = 0.950	0.014
Sibutramine	24 , 27, 29	0	-0.13 (-0.26,-0.00)p = 0.045	0.297
Rimonabant	35 , 36, 38	\diamond	-0.11 (-0.63, 0.42)p = 0.690	0.000
Subtotal	19-22 24 , 27, 29, 32, 35, 36, 38	\$	-0.09 (-0.23, 0.04)p =0.169	0.000
Fasting Glucose				
Orlistat	19,20,22 32	0	-0.12 (-0.20,-0.04)p =0.003	0.858
Sibutramine	24, 29	0	-0.10 (-0.23, 0.03)p = 0.139	0.455
Rimonabant	35 , 36, 38	q	-0.08 (-0.17, 0.01)p = 0.101	0.106
Subtotal	19,20,2224, 29, 32, 35, 36, 38	•	-0.08 (-0.13,-0.04)p = 0.000	0.503
SBP				
Orlistat	19,20,22 32		-1.85 (-3.30,-0.40)p = 0.013	0.673
Sibutramine	15, 24 , 27, 29, 33, 34, 37	$\langle \rangle$	0.65 (-0.80, 2.11)p =0.379	0.207
Rimonabant	35 , 36, 38	\sim	-1.63 (-2.76,-0.5t)p = 0.005	0.224
Subtotal	15,19,20,22,24,27,29,32-38	\sim	-0.78 (-1.74, 0.17)p = 0.107	0.033
DBP				
Orlistat	19,20,22 32	\sim	-1.49 (-2.39,-0.58)p = 0.001	0.518
Sibutramine	15, 24 27, 29, 33, 34, 37		0.86 (-0.48, 2.20) p = 0.209	0.041
Rimonabant	35 , 36, 38	\sim	-1.60 (-2.80,-0.39)p =0.009	0.031
Subtotal	15,19,20,22,24,27,29,32-38	\sim	–0.45 (–1.33, 0.42) p = 0.311	0.000
	_5	–2 0 2 Mean difference	5	

Figure 3. Subgroup analyses for the effects of anti-obesity on cardiovascular risk factors based on the type of drug. Cl, confidence intervals; IV, inverse variance.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039062.g003

Discussion

Obesity remains the most frequent cause of cardiovascular disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes mellitus and other systemic diseases [40]. Evidence from several studies shows that obesity shortens life range from 4.8 to 7.1 years for people over forty years old, and it is associated with a tremendous social burden [41,42]. Although many anti-obesity drugs show strong effects on weight loss, some researches [15,43] indicate that the effects of anti-obesity drugs on the risk of cardiovascular risk factors remain unclear.

The results of this meta-analysis showed that anti-obesity therapy significantly reduced weight, total cholesterol, LDL and fasting glucose, and increased the risk of total adverse event, tachycardia, gastrointestinal diseases, hypertension, and dry mouth.

Due to the fact that the cardiovascular risk factors were increased in patients with diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidaemia, hyperglycemia, and hypertension [44,45], we therefore restricted inclusion criteria to ensure our study to explore the effects of antiobesity drugs on cardiovascular risk factors.

The participants in individual studies included in our metaanalysis could correspond with our eligible criteria. Patients with cardiovascular diseases or other cardiovascular risk factors should be excluded. Furthermore, the patients with uncontrolled hypertension, more than 4 kg weight loss in 3 months, surgery for weight reduction, a history of post surgical adhesions, bulimia or

Studies	Studies included		Relative Risk (95%Cl)	p value for heterogenei
Adverse Envent				
Orlistat	20, 26, 28, 30, 31	\$	1.10 (1.01, 1.20) = 0.036	0.000
Sibutramine	15. 25. 27. 29. 37	\diamond	1.21 (0.98, 1.49) = 0.078	0.001
Rimonabant	35,38	þ	1.03 (0.98, 1.08) = 0.195	0.244
Subtotal	15,25-31,35,37,38	<u>م</u>	1.08 (1.02, 1.140 = 0.005	0.000
Hypertension				
Orlistat	none			
Sibutramine	24, 27, 29	\diamond	1.86 (1.28, 2.7.1) = 0.001	0.451
Rimonabant	none			
Subtotal	24, 27, 29	\diamond	1.86 (1.28, 2.7,1) = 0.001	0.451
Technoordia				
Orlistat	none			
Sibutramine	15.29		2.95 (1.56, 5.58) = 0.001	0 155
Bimonabant	none			0.155
Subtotal	15,29	$\langle \rangle$	2.95 (1.56, 5.58) = 0.001	0.155
		\sim		0.100
Gastrointestinal	10 01 00 06 09 20 21			
Unistat	19,21-23,20, 28, 30, 31		2.17 (1.65, 2.85) = 0.000	0.000
Sibutramine	24,25,27	◆	1.06 (0.88, 1.27) = 0.545	0.793
Rimonabant	35,36		1.27 (0.73, 2.20) = 0.400	0.079
Subtotal	19,21-28,30,31,35,36	♦	1.73 (1.40, 2.15) = 0.000	0.000
Infections And Infestations				
Onlistat	none			
Sibutramine	24,25,27	\diamond	1.03 (0.77, 1.39) = 0.829	0.840
Rimonabant	none			
Subtotal	24,25,27	\diamond	1.03 (0.77, 1.39) = 0.829	0.840
D. M. d				
Dry Mouth	popo			
Sibutramina	04.07.00.04.07		471 (1 62 12 65) 0.004	0.000
Bimonabant	1000e		4.71 (1.03, 13.04) = 0.004	0.009
Subtotal	24,27,29,34,37		4.71(1.63, 13.65) = 0.004	0.009
Subiola				0.000
Headache				
Orlistat	20,23,30	\diamond	1.23 (0.98, 1.54) = 0.076	0.993
Sibutramine	24,25,27,29,34,37	\Leftrightarrow	1.11 (0.58, 2.1,10) = 0.762	0.000
Rimonabant	35,36	\diamond	0.85 (0.63, 1.13) = 0.255	0.199
Subtotal	20,23-25,27,29,30,34-37	\diamond	1.00 (0.78, 1.28) = 0.998	0.005
Rash				
Orlistat	none			
Sibutramine	24,25,27,29,33	$\langle \rangle$	1.28 (0.54, 2.99) = 0.575	0.028
Rimonabant	none			
Subtotal	24,25,27,29,33	$ \longrightarrow $	1.28 (0.54, 2.99) = 0.575	0.028
Pain Abdominal				
	00.01.00		1 50 (0 00 0 00) 0 400	0.000
Offisiat	20,21,30		1.55 (0.69, 2.0,0) = 0.120	0.009
Sibutramine	24,29,34		1.67 (0.55, 5.0, qp = 0.365)	0.189
Subtotal	20.21.24.29.30.34	\sim	1.55 (1.00, 2.4th) = 0.050	0.029
oustolla		-	100 (100) 1 (0 - 0.000	0.025
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection				
Orlistat	23,31	\leftarrow	1.59 (0.76, 3.34) = 0.218	0.392
Sibutramine	24,25,27	\Leftrightarrow	1.15 (0.74, 1.77) = 0.534	0.491
Rimonabant	35,36	\diamond	0.86 (0.64, 1.10) = 0.314	0.894
Subtotal	23-25,27,31,35,36	\diamond	0.99 (0.79, 1.25) = 0.951	0.532
nnuenza=innuenza Syndrome	23		1 25 / 0 50 2 63 - 0 557	
Sibutramine	24.25.27		1.04 (0.00, 2.00) = 0.007	0 700
Bimonabant	none	\square	1.24 (0.00, 1.7,4) = 0.217	0.750
Subtotal	23-25,27	\sim	1.24 (0.91, 1.70) = 0.172	0.925
Pharyngitis	23			
Chistat	24 25 27		2.29 (0.61, 8.64) = 0.221	A 474
olouramine		\rightarrow	1.07 (0.76, 1.5µp) = 0.716	0.878
Rimonabant	93-95 97	L		
SUDIOTAL		\sim	1.12 (0.80, 1.55) = 0.512	0.690
	~	2 1 5 50		
	.02	Relative Risk (95%CI)		

Figure 4. Summary of the relative risks of all adverse outcomes assessed. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039062.g004

Table 2. Subgroup analysis of weight loss, HDL and Triglycerides after treatment with anti-obesity agents.

		Subgroup		MD (95% CI)	P value	P value for heterogeneity
Weight loss	Orlistat	Mean age	>45	-1.17 [-1.75, -0.58]	<0.001	0.86
			18–45	-3.06 [-3.92, -2.19]	<0.001	0.89
			<18	-	-	-
		Follow-up (month)	>12	-2.80 [-3.46, -2.14]	<0.001	0.44
			<12	-1.15 [-1.77, -0.53]	<0.001	-
		Jadad score	>4	-2.20 [-3.57, -0.84]	0.002	0.01
			<4	-2.66 [-3.86, -1.47]	<0.001	0.16
	Sibutramine	Mean age	>45	-0.10 [-0.78, 0.58]	0.77	-
			18–45	-3.89 [-4.92, -2.86]	<0.001	0.83
			<18	-5.37 [-8.20, -2.54]	<0.001	0.06
		Follow-up (month)	>12	-2.80 [-5.48, -0.11]	0.04	<0.01
			<12	-5.07 [-7.93, -2.21]	<0.001	0.02
		Jadad score	>5	-2.80 [-5.15, -0.45]	0.02	<0.01
			<5	-5.80 [-9.61, -1.99]	0.003	0.008
	Rimonabant	Mean age	>45	-3.66 [-4.17, -3.15]	<0.001	0.26
			18–45	_	_	-
			<18	_	-	_
		Follow-up (month)	>12	-366 [-417, -315]	< 0.001	0.26
		i onorr up (monun)	<12	-	_	-
		ladad score	>5	-367 [-455 -279]	< 0.001	0.10
		Juliu Score	<5	-3.60 [-4.36, -2.84]	< 0.001	-
וחו	Orlistat	Mean age	>45	-0.04 [-0.23, 0.15]	0.69	_
	Ollistat	mean age	18_45	-0.02 [-0.04, 0.01]	0.16	0.37
			<18	-	-	-
		Follow-up (month)	>12	-0.02 [-0.04, 0.00]	0.09	0.63
		rollow up (month)	<12	0.02 [0.04, 0.00]	0.09	0.05
		ladad cooro	<12 _1		0.25	-
		Jadad score	~4	-0.05 [-0.11, 0.01]	0.25	0.40
	Sibutramino	Moon ago	<4 <45		1.00	0.05
	Sibutianine	Mean age	24J	0.00 [-0.04, 0.04]	0.04	-
			<10	0.08 [0.00, 0.13]	0.04	0.20
		F . H . (< 18	-	-	-
		Follow-up (month)	>12	0.04 [-0.02, 0.11]	0.16	0.05
		to de deserves	<12	-	-	-
		Jadad score	>5	0.02 [-0.03, 0.07]	0.43	0.16
	e:		<5	0.13 [0.02, 0.24]	0.02	-
	Rimonabant	Mean age	>45	0.13 [-0.04, 0.31]	0.14	<0.001
			18-45	-	-	-
			<18	-	-	-
		Follow-up (month)	>12	0.13 [-0.04, 0.31]	0.14	<0.001
			<12	-	-	-
		Jadad score	>5	3.61 [-3.47, 10.68]	0.32	<0.001
			<5	0.09 [0.06, 0.12]	<0.001	-
riglycerides	Orlistat	Mean age	>45	-0.12 [-0.30, 0.06]	0.19	-
			18–45	0.08 [-0.20, 0.36]	0.58	0.006
			<18	-	-	-
		Follow-up (month)	>12	-0.00 [-0.16, 0.15]	0.95	0.01
			<12	-	-	-
		Jadad score	>4	-0.06 [-0.16, 0.05]	0.27	0.96

Subg	group	MD (95% CI)	P value	P value for heterogeneity
	<4	0.03 [-0.24, 0.31]	0.81	0.003
Sibutramine Mean	n age >45	-0.06 [-0.19, 0.07]	0.38	-
	18–45	-0.24 [-0.43, -0.05]	0.01	0.72
	<18	-	-	-
Follo	ow-up (month) >12	-0.13 [-0.26, -0.00]	0.05	0.30
	<12	-	-	-
Jadao	d score >5	-0.11 [-0.30, 0.08]	0.26	0.25
	<5	-0.22 [-0.44, -0.00]	0.05	-
Rimonabant Mean	n age >45	-0.11 [-0.63, 0.42]	0.69	<0.001
	18–45	-	-	-
	<18	-	-	-
Follo	ow-up (month) >12	-0.11 [-0.63, 0.42]	0.69	<0.001
	<12	-	-	-
Jadad	d score >5	5.45 [-5.89, 16.78]	0.35	<0.001
	<5	-0.41 [-0.56, -0.26]	<0.001	-

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039062.t002

laxative abuse, use of any drug that might influence bodyweight or plasma lipids in the month before study entry, and drug or alcohol abuse did not meet our inclusion criteria either [15,21–34].

Recently, several randomized controlled trials [41,43,46] indicated that anti-obesity therapy had direct effects on weight loss and cardiovascular risk factors in obese individuals. Furthermore, Daniels's study [15] indicated that sibutramine might have some direct cardiovascular effects on obese adolescents, although they concluded that no evidence showed sibutramine produced an increase in the risk of cardiovascular risk factors, and the reason could be that cardiovascular risk factors might be affected by reduction in weight. Therefore, we restricted the baseline characteristics of obese individuals between these two groups to explore the correlation between anti-obesity drugs and cardiovascular risk factors.

Previous researches [45,47] reported that anti-obesity drugs could reduce the body weight, contributing to an improvement in cardiovascular risk factors. However, the direct effect of antiobesity drugs on cardiovascular risk factors is unclear. Furthermore, obesity usually accompanies with comorbidities, especially for older obese individuals. We therefore performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to assess intrinsic correlation between anti-obesity therapies and cardiovascular risk factors.

Previous meta-analysis [14] only demonstrated the effect of antiobesity therapy on cardiovascular risk factors in adolescents, and provided weak correlation between them. However, this metaanalysis showed that anti-obesity therapy could reduce some cardiovascular risk factors, such as total cholesterol, LDL and fasting glucose, but had no effect on triglycerides, SBP and DBP.

Orlistat may play an important role in reducing SBP, DBP, total cholesterol, LDL and fasting glucose. The effect of orlistat on cardiovascular risk factors seems to be weak, although reduction in several cardiovascular risk factors was reported. However, the reason for this significant difference may arise from weight loss. Therefore, the reason for orlistat being superior to sibutramine could be that orlistat belongs to a class of anti-obesity agents that act directly and specifically at the site of fat breakdown in the lumen of the stomach and small intestine, so the effect of arlistat on cardiovascular risk factors seems to be weak [22].

Sibutramine produced an increase in several cardiovascular risk factors. Interpretation of this result is that receiving sibutramine includes the recognized effect of increased blood pressure, which increased the risk of cardiovascular events, especially for high risk people with previous cardiovascular disease [7]. Our research showed that hypertension in drug-related adverse event was also consistently higher in the sibutramine group than in the placebo group, which might have a direct effect on cardiovascular risk factors and contribute increase incidence of major cardiovascular events.

Rimonabant as a new drug, which is commonly used for obese people, produced a significant reduction in body weight. Moreover, it could effectively reduce SBP and DBP. Previous research [38] indicated that rimonabant therapy produced a substantial mobilization of abdominal fat, which would predict an improved cardiovascular risk profile. Rimonabant therapy alone will not eradicate the epidemic of obesity, however, our study provided evidence that rimonabant as a new approach could reduce the body weight and the cardiovascular risk.

Neither HDL nor Triglycerides was impacted by obesity medications, which might be due to the fact that the intrinsic effect might be lessened or balanced by other different anti-obesity drugs. For rimonabant therapy, it might produce an increase in HDL significantly, and the reason could be that only limited trials provided regarding data. For orslitat or sibutramine, it might have no direct effect on HDL or triglycerides.

The limitations of our research are shown as follows: (i) Inherent assumptions made by any meta-analysis—the analysis used pooled data either published or provided by individual study authors, and individual patient data or original data were unavailable, which restricted us from performing more detailed relevant analysis and obtaining more comprehensive results. (ii) The duration of followup and drug dose could affect our conclusions about the association between anti-obesity and cardiovascular risk factors. (iii) We did not have sufficient or appropriate data to explore detailed effects of anti-obesity therapy on body mass index, waist circumference and adverse events. (IV) Obese people frequently have low fat, low calorie, and AHA-type diet, which might play an important role in influencing cardiovascular risk factors.

Therefore, in future research, it is important to focus on patients with cardiovascular risk factors for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease, and to combine other anti-obesity drugs to provide an optimal therapy that minimizes adverse effects in obese individuals. We suggest that the ongoing trials should be improved in the following ways: (i) The adverse effects in clinical trials should be recorded and reported normatively, so that the side-effects of any treatment can be evaluated in future trials. (ii) The role of different drugs, dosages and treatment durations should be investigated in more detail to explore optimal antiobesity drug, dose and duration of treatment [48]. (iii) Weight loss, body mass index and waist circumference should be recorded in detail to provide comprehensive information in the future trials.

References

- Coutinho WF (2007) The obesity older female patient: CV risk and the SCOUT study. Int J Obes 31: S26–S30.
- Hubert HB, Feinleib M, McNamara PM, Castelli WP (1983) Obesity as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease: a 26-year follow-up of participants in the Framingham Heart Study. Circulation 67: 968–77.
- Jousilahti P, Tuomilehto J, Vartiainen E, Pekkanen J, Puska P (1996)?Body weight, cardiovascular risk and coronary mortality: 15-year follow-up of middleaged men and women in Eastern Finland. Circulation 93: 1372–9.
- National Task Force on the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity (2000) Overweight, obesity, and health risk. Arch Intern Med 160: 898–904.
- Mokdad AH, Bowman BA, Ford ES, Vinicor F, Marks JS, et al. (2001) The continuing epidemics of diabetes and obesity in the United States. JAMA 286: 1195–1200.
- Allison DB, Fontaine KR, Manson JE, Stevens J, VanItallie TB (1999) Annual deaths attributable to obesity in the United States. JAMA 282: 1530–1538.
- SCOUT Investigators (2010) Effect of Sibutramine on cardiovascular outcomes in overweight and obese subjects. N Engl J Med 363: 905–17.
- OBES-002 Study Group (2004) A randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study of the long-term efficacy and safety of topiramate in the treatment of obese subjects. Int J Obes 28: 1399–1410
- 9. Goldstein DJ (1992) Beneficial health effects of modest weight loss. Int J Obes 16: 397–415.
- Wing RR, Hill JO (2001) Successful weight loss maintenance. Annu Rev Nutr 21: 323–41.
- Kramer FM, Jeffery RW, Forster JL, Snell MK (1989) Long-term follow-up of behavioral treatment for obesity: patterns of weight regain among men and women. Int J Obes 13: 123–136.
- Ayyad C, Andersen T (2000) Long-term efficacy of dietary treatment of obesity: a systematic review of studies published between 1931 and 1999. Obes Rev 1: 113–119.
- Poston WSC, Reeves RS, Haddock CK, Stormer S, Balasubramany, et al. (2003) Weight loss in obese Mexican Americans treated for 1-year with orlistat and lifestyle modification. Int J Obes 27: 1486–1493.
- Czernichow S, Lee CMY, Barzi F, Greenfield JR, Baur LA, et al. (2010) Efficacy of weight loss drugs on obesity and cardiovascular risk factors in obese adolescents: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. Obesity 11: 150– 158.
- Daniels SR, Barbara L, Scott C, Styne D, Sothem M, et al. (2007) Cardiovascular effects of Sibutramine in the treatment of obese adolescents: results of a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. PEDIATRICS 120: e147–e157.
- ADAGIO-Lipids Investigators (2009) Effect of Rimonabant on the High-Triglyceride/Low HDL-Cholesterol Dyslipidemia, Intraabdominal Adiposity, and Liver Fat: The ADAGIO-Lipids Trial. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol 29; 416–423.
- Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, Grp P (2009) Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. Plos Medicine 6.
- Jadad AR, Moore RA, Carroll D, Jenkinson C, Reynolds DJ, et al. (1996) Assessing the quality of reports of randomized clinical trials: is blinding necessary? Control Clin Trials 17:1–12.
- Ades AE, Lu G, Higgins JP (2005) The interpretation of random-effects metaanalysis in decision models. Med Decis Making 25: 646–54.
- Decks JJ, Higgins JPT, Altman DG (2008) Analyzing data and undertaking meta-analyses. In: Higgins J, Green S, eds. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions 5.0.1. Oxford, UK: The Cochrane Collaboration: chap 9.
- Stephan R, Lars S, Rudolf N, Meinders AE, Noseda G, et al. (1998) Weight loss, weight maintenance, and improved cardiovascular risk factors after 2 years treatment with orlistat for obesity. Obes Res 8: 49–61.

Supporting Information

Checklist S1 PRISMA Checklist. (DOC)

Protocol S1 PRISMA Flowchart. (DOC)

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: YHZ JH. Performed the experiments: JLJFX CW. Analyzed the data: XFY JG XQM. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: YHZ JH. Wrote the paper: YHZ JL SSZ SQW.

- Lars S, Aila R, Teis A, Boldrin M, Golay A, et al. (1998) Randomised placebocontrolled trial of orlistat for weight loss and prevention of weight regain in obese patients. Lancet 352: 167–73.
- James OH, Hauptman J, James WA, Fujioka K, O'Neil PM, et al. (1999) Orlistat, a lipase inhibitor, for weight maintenance after conventional dieting: a 1-y study. Am J Clin Nutr 69: 1108–16.
- Michael HD, Hauptman J, DiGirolamo M, Foreyt JP, Halsted CH, et al. (1999) Weight control and risk factors reduction in obese subjects treated for 2 years with orlistat: a randomized controlled trial. JAMA 281 (3): 235–242.
- Finer N, James WPT, Kopelman PG, Lean ME, Williams G (2000) One-year treatment of obesity: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study of orlistat, a gastrointestinal lipase inhibitor. Int J Obes 24: 306–313.
- James WPT, Astrup A, Finer N, Hilsted J, Kopelman P, et al. (2000) Effect of Sibutramine on weight maintenance after weight loss: a randomised trial. Lancet 356: 2119–25.
- Alfred W, Jutta K (2001) Long-term weight loss with Sibutramine: a randomized controlled trial. JAMA 286 (11): 1331–1339.
- Krempf M, Louvet JP, Allanic H, Miloradovich T, Joubert JM, et al. (2003) Weight reduction and long-term maintenance after 18 months treatment with orlistat for obesity. Int J Obes 27: 591–597.
- S.A.T. study Group (2004) Weight reduction by Sibutramine in obese subjects in primary care medicine: the S.A.T. study. Exp Clin Endocrinol Diabetes 112: 201–207.
- Jarl ST, Boldrin MN, Hauptman J, Sjostrom L (2004) XENical in the prevention of diabetes in obese subjects (XENDOS) study: a randomized study of orlistat as an adjunct to lifestyle changes for the prevention of type 2 diabetes in obese patients. Diabetes Care 27: 155–161.
- 31. Julie AP, Raebel MA, Conner DA, Lanty FA, Vogel EA, et al. (2004) The long-term outcomes of Sibutramine effectiveness on weight (LOSE Weight) study: Evaluation the role of drug therapy within a weight management program in a group-model health maintenance organization. Am J Manag Care 10: 369–376.
- Chanoine JP, Hampl S, Jensen C, Boldrin M, Hauptman J (2005) Effect of orlistat on weight and body composition in obese adolescent: a randomized controlled trial. JAMA 293 (23): 2873–2883.
- James WA, Schwartz SM, Hauptman J, Boldrin M, Rossi M, et al. (2006) Lowdose orlistat effects on body weight of mildly to moderately overweight individuals: a 16 week, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Ann Pharmacother 40: 1717–23.
- Poston WSC, Haddock CK, Pinkston MM, Pace P, Reeves RS, et al. (2006) Evaluation of a primary care-oriented brief counseling intervention for obesity with and without orlistat. J Int Med 260: 388–398.
- Berkowitz RI, Wadden TA, Tershakovec AM, Cronquist JL (2003) Behavior Therapy and Sibutramine for the Treatment of Adolescent Obesity A Randomized Controlled Trial. JAMA 289: 1805–1812.
- Godoy-Matos A, Carraro L, Vieira A, Oliveira J, Guedes EP, et al. (2004) Treatment of Obese Adolescents with Sibutramine: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Controlled Study. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 0263.
- RIO-Europe Study Group (2005) Effects of the cannabinoid-1 receptor blocker rimonabant on weight reduction and cardiovascular risk factors in overweight patients: 1-year experience from the RIO-Europe study. Lancet 365: 1389–97.
- Rimonabant in Obesity–Lipids Study Group (2005) Effects of Rimonabant on Metabolic Risk Factors in Overweight Patients with Dyslipidemia. N Engl J Med 353: 2121–34.
- Garcia-Morales LM, Berber A, Macias-Lara CC, Lucio-Ortiz C, Del-Rio-Navarro BE, et al. (2006) Use of Sibutramine in Obese Mexican Adolescents: A 6-Month, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group Trial. Clin Ther 28: 770–782.
- Goldstein DJ, Rampey AH Jr, Enas GG, Potvin JH, Fludzinski LA, et al. (1994) Fluoxetine: a randomized clinical trial in the treatment of obesity. Int J Obes 18: 129–135.

- UK Multimorbidity Study Group (2002) Randomised trial of the effect of orlistat on body weight and cardiovascular disease risk profile in obese patients: UK Multimorbidity Study. Int J Clin Pract 56 (7): 494–499.
- 42. Toplak H, Ziégler Ó, Keller U, Hamann Á, Godin C, et al. (2005) X-PERT: weight reduction with orlistat in obese subjects receiving a mildly or moderately reduce-energy diet. Early response to treatment predicts weight maintenance. Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism 2005; 7: 699–708.
- Simone GD, Romano C, Caprio CD, Contaldo F, Salanitri T, et al. (2005) Effects of Sibutramine- induced weight loss on cardiovascular system in obese subjects. Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases 15: 24–30.
- Doggrell SA (2009) Tesfensine-a novel potent weight loss medicine. Expert Opin. Investig. Drugs 18(7): 1043–1046.
- Swinburn BA, Carey D, Hills AP, Hooper M, Marks S, et al. (2005) Effect of orlistat on cardiovascular disease risk in obese adults. Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism 7: 254–262.
- 46. The Orlistat Swedish Multimorbidity Study Group (2000) The effect of orlistat on body weight and coronary heart disease risk profile in obese patients: The Swedish Multimorbidity Study. J Int Med 248: 245–254.
- Richelsem B, Tonstad S, Toubro S, Niskanen L, Madsbad S, et al. (2007) Effect of orlistat on weight regain and cardiovascular risk factors following a very-lowenergy diet in abdominally obese patients: a 3-year randomized, placebocontrolled study. Diabetes Care 30: 27–32.
- Joseph Y, Richard WT, N Goldfarb (2009) Obesity management interventions: a review of the evidence. Population Health Management 12: 305–316.