



## Metformin (Biguanides) Drug Information

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Generic Name	Brand Name	Dosage form	Appearance
Metformin	Glucophage	500mg	
Glimepiride, Metformin	Amaryl M	2mg /500mg	
Vildagliptin, Metformin	Galvus Met	50mg /850mg	
Sitagliptin, Metformin	Janumet	50mg / 500 mg	
Empagliflozin, Metformin	Jardiance Duo	5mg / 1000mg	
Saxagliptin, Metformin	Kombiglyze XR	5mg / 1000mg	
Linagliptin, Metformin	Trajenta Duo	2.5mg / 850mg	
Dapagliflozin, Metformin	Xigduo XR	10mg / 1000mg	

## **1. Why do I need this medicine ?**

To lower blood sugar in diabetes patients with high blood sugar

## **2. How is this drug best taken?**

- (1) Starter with low dose, and increase gradually. Take with meals or after meals helps to prevent gastrointestinal side effects (e.g., diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, flatulence).
- (2) Swallow the extended-release tablets whole with water. Do not crush or chew the tablets (e.g., Kombiglyze XR, Xigduo XR)

## **3. What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

1. To keep diabetes under well control, please follow your doctor's instructions to control your diet and alcohol intake, exercise regularly, and regularly check blood sugar, glycated hemoglobin(HbA1c), and urine sugar, as well as kidney function tests.
2. Diabetes during pregnancy should be controlled mainly with insulin. When breastfeeding, inform your doctor who will decide to stop breastfeeding or discontinue medication.
3. The medication need to be temporarily discontinued during the fasting period for surgery. After eating has resumed and renal function gets normal, drug can be resumed.
4. Tell the doctor if there are major stressful situations such as high fever, severe trauma, infection, surgery, etc. It may result in difficulty to control blood sugar and require insulin instead, until the blood sugar returns to normal.

## **4. Possible Side Effect**

- (1) Lactic acidosis is a rare but extremely serious side effect. The risk is higher in people who have kidney problems, liver problems, low oxygen (hypoxia), alcohol overconsumption or a lot of fluid loss (dehydration). If gastrointestinal discomfort occurs after taking the medicine for a period of time, pay attention to whether it is an early symptom of lactic acidosis. If you have unexplained symptoms such as hyperventilation, muscle pain, or drowsiness, you should stop taking the medicine immediately and seek medical attention.
- (2) When taken metformin alone, it may not cause hypoglycemia. The chance of

hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) may be raised when metformin is used with other drugs for diabetes. Signs may be palpitations, cold sweats, extreme hunger, headache, and confusion. In mild cases, take sugary drinks or foods, such as juice, water with sugar, or sugar cubes. Pay attention to hypoglycemia. If no improvements, or cramps or coma occur, seek emergency care immediately. Pay attention to symptoms of hypoglycemia when taking multi-ingredients, e.g., Amaryl M, Galvus Met, Jardiance Duo, Kombiglyze XR, Trajenta Duo, and Xigduo XR.

- (3) It is common to have gastrointestinal discomfort when you start taking this drug. Start with low dose or take with meals may reduce the side effect. The discomforts will disappear after continuous medication use. But if diarrhea or vomiting gets severe, you need to stop the medication temporarily.

## **5. What do I do if I miss a dose?**

- (1) Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- (2) Do not take double doses at the same time or extra doses.

## **6. How do I store this drug?**

Store at room temperature under 25°C in a dry place.

\*This leaflet cannot provide complete drug information.  
Please consult doctors or pharmacist if you have any questions.

Cheng Hsin General Hospital Medication Counseling Number  
+886-2-2826-4400 #5604 #5605