

ACARBOSE

Other names: Glucobay®, Accarb®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medication?

Acarbose slows the digestion and absorption of carbohydrates (sugars), resulting in a decrease of blood glucose levels in patients who have diabetes.

When to take this medication

Swallow whole with a little water just before your meals, or chew with the first few mouthfuls of food. Take in divided doses. The dose may be increased after 4-8 weeks to gain the maximum benefit from this medicine.

DO NOT STOP taking this medicine without your doctor's permission.

If you miss a dose

Take your dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- abdominal pain

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- diarrhoea
- stomach discomfort or wind (flatulence)

This list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

Other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Medicines used to help digest food such as Creon or Panzytrat should be avoided as acarbose effectiveness can be reduced.

When acarbose is taken with other anti-diabetic medicines (e.g. glipizide and gliclazide), very low blood glucose levels (hypoglycaemia) may occur – extra monitoring of blood glucose levels should be undertaken when starting treatment with acarbose.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.