

GLICLAZIDE / GLIPIZIDE

Other names: Apo-Gliclazide®, Minidiab®



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 medicine?

Insulin is a hormone that is made naturally by your pancreas. It helps to control the levels of sugar in your blood. Diabetes mellitus occurs when your body does not make enough or release insulin to meet your needs. It is important that you have good control of blood sugar levels as it reduces the risk of complications later in life (e.g. foot ulcers, reduced kidney function, deterioration of eye sight and heart function). You can reduce your body's sugar load is by making changes to your diet.

However, if diet alone is not sufficient, medicines like gliclazide or glipizide alongside the diet may be required. Gliclazide and glipizide belong to a group of medicines called sulphonylureas. They work by increasing the amount of insulin released from the pancreas.

When to take this medicine

Gliclazide and glipizide are usually taken 15 to 20 minutes before a main meal. They should be taken every day usually once or twice a day.

DO NOT STOP taking it without your doctor's permission.

If you miss a dose

Take the dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for 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:

- unexplained fever, chills or sore throat
- dark urine
- skin rash, severe itching or hives
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- yellowing of skin or eyes
- visual disturbances

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

- dizziness or drowsiness
- headache
- increases sensitivity to sunlight (**avoid strong sunlight and use a sunscreen**)
- tremor
- gastrointestinal (stomach) upsets like nausea, constipation or heartburn

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

This medication may cause *hypoglycaemia* (low blood sugar levels). The signs of hypoglycaemia are:

- feeling shaky or anxious
- sweating
- looking pale
- feeling hungry
- pounding heart
- dizziness

If this happens to you, eat something containing sugar, such as a biscuit, glucose, honey or a sugary drink and follow this up with a snack such as a sandwich. Tell your doctor if you notice these symptoms.

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.

Before surgery of any kind tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking this medicine.

Increased monitoring of blood sugar levels (BSL) may be required when gliclazide or glipizide is taken with the following medicines:

- alcohol – decreases your BSL
- antibiotics (e.g. co-trimoxazole – decreases BSL; rifampicin – increases BSL)
- corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone) – increases BSL
- fibrates (e.g. bezafibrate) – decreases BSL
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs – NSAIDs (e.g. diclofenac, ibuprofen) – decreases BSL

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