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2. Aciphex

AcipHex

Generic name: [rabeprazole](#) [*ra-BEP-ra-zole*]

Brand names: AcipHex, [AcipHex Sprinkle](#)

Drug class: [Proton pump inhibitors](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sophia Entringer, PharmD](#). Last updated on Aug 22, 2023.

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What is AcipHex?

AcipHex is a proton pump inhibitor that decreases the amount of acid produced in the stomach.

AcipHex is used short-term to treat symptoms of [gastroesophageal reflux disease \(GERD\)](#) in adults and children who are at least 1 year old.

AcipHex is used only in adults to treat conditions involving excessive stomach acid, such as [Zollinger-Ellison syndrome](#). Rabeprazole is also used in adults to promote healing of duodenal ulcers or [erosive esophagitis](#) (damage to your esophagus caused by stomach acid).

AcipHex may also be given with an antibiotic to prevent [duodenal ulcer](#) caused by infection with *Helicobacter pylori* (H. pylori).

Warnings

You should not use AcipHex if you are allergic to rabeprazole or to similar medicines such as lansoprazole (Prevacid), esomeprazole (Nexium), omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid), or pantoprazole (Protonix).

AcipHex is not for immediate relief of heartburn symptoms.

Rabeprazole can cause kidney problems. Tell your doctor if you are urinating less than usual, or if you have blood in your urine.

[Diarrhea](#) may be a sign of a new infection. **Call your doctor if you have diarrhea that is watery or has blood in it.**

Rabeprazole may cause new or worsening symptoms of [lupus](#). Tell your doctor if you have joint pain and a [skin rash](#) on your cheeks or arms that worsens in sunlight.

Taking AcipHex may increase your risk of bone fracture in the hip, wrist, or spine, especially if you take the medicine long term or more than once per day.

Before taking this medicine

Heartburn can mimic early symptoms of a [heart attack](#). Get emergency medical help if you have chest pain that spreads to your jaw or shoulder and you feel anxious or light-headed.

You should not use AcipHex if you are allergic to rabeprazole or:

- if you also take any medicine that contains rilpivirine (Edurant, [Complera](#), [Juluca](#), [Odefsey](#));
- if you had breathing problems, kidney problems, or a severe allergic reaction after taking rabeprazole in the past; or
- if you are also allergic to medicines like rabeprazole, such as [esomeprazole](#), [lansoprazole](#), [omeprazole](#), [pantoprazole](#), [Nexium](#), [Prevacid](#), [Prilosec](#), [Protonix](#), and others.

To make sure AcipHex is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had

- liver disease;
- [osteoporosis](#) or low bone mineral density ([osteopenia](#));
- lupus (an autoimmune disorder); or
- low levels of magnesium in your blood.

You may be more likely to have a broken bone in your hip, wrist, or spine while taking a proton pump inhibitor long-term or more than once per day. Talk with your doctor about ways to keep your bones healthy.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice. Certain forms and strengths of rabeprazole should not be given to a child younger than 12 years old.

i [Aciphex pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take AcipHex?

AcipHex is usually taken once per day. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

AcipHex is for short-term use only, usually 4 to 8 weeks. Your doctor may recommend a second course of treatment if you need additional healing time.

AcipHex Sprinkle should not be given to a child younger than 1 year old.

Take this medicine with a full glass of water.

If you take this medicine to treat duodenal ulcers, take the medicine after a meal. If you take AcipHex to prevent ulcers caused by *Helicobacter pylori*, take the medicine with food. If you take it for any other condition, you may take the medicine with or without food.

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand these instructions.

Swallow the **tablet** whole and do not crush, chew, or break it.

Do not swallow a delayed-release capsule (**AcipHex** Sprinkle) whole. Open it and sprinkle the medicine into a spoonful of soft food such as applesauce, yogurt, or baby food made from fruit or vegetable. You may also mix the medicine with apple juice, Pedialyte, or infant formula. Swallow the mixture right away without chewing. Do not save it for later use.

This medicine can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using this medicine.

Some conditions are treated with a combination of AcipHex and **antibiotics**. Use all medications as directed.

Take your medicines for the full prescribed length of time, even if your symptoms quickly improve.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse while using AcipHex.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed AcipHex dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What to avoid

This medicine can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new infection. **If you have diarrhea that is watery or bloody, call your doctor before using anti-diarrhea medicine.**

AcipHex side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to AcipHex**: **hives**; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe stomach pain, diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- sudden pain or trouble moving your hip, wrist, or back;
- seizure (convulsions);
- **kidney problems** - fever, rash, **nausea**, loss of appetite, joint pain, urinating less than usual, blood in your urine, swelling, rapid weight gain;
- **new or worsening symptoms of lupus** - joint pain, and a skin rash on your cheeks or arms that worsens in sunlight;
- **low magnesium** - **dizziness**, fast or irregular heart rate, tremors (shaking) or jerking muscle movements, feeling jittery, muscle cramps, muscle spasms in your hands and feet, cough or choking feeling; or

- **signs of bleeding (if you also take warfarin** - headaches, dizziness, weakness; pain or swelling; bruising, unusual bleeding (nosebleeds, bleeding gums); red or pink urine; heavy menstrual flow; bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds; or any bleeding that will not stop.

Taking rabeprazole long-term may cause you to develop stomach growths called fundic gland polyps. Talk with your doctor about this risk.

If you use AcipHex for longer than 3 years, you could develop a [vitamin B-12](#) deficiency. Talk to your doctor about how to manage this condition if you develop it.

Common AcipHex side effects may include:

- infection;
- pain;
- [sore throat](#);
- [headache](#);
- nausea, [vomiting](#);
- gas, diarrhea, [constipation](#); or
- stomach pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Aciphex side effects](#) (more detail)

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What other drugs will affect AcipHex?

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines. Many drugs can affect rabeprazole, especially:

- an antibiotic such as [clarithromycin](#) or [amoxicillin](#);
- [digoxin](#);
- a diuretic or "water pill";
- [methotrexate](#); or
- warfarin ([Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#)).

This list is not complete and many Other drugs may interact with rabeprazole. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

 [Aciphex drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Aciphex interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Aciphex

+

Enter a drug name

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[Aciphex Sprinkle](#)

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Other brands

[Aciphex Sprinkle](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Barrett's Esophagus](#)
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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use AcipHex only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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Rx	Prescription only	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
	Risk data available	
CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
Approval History		
10+ years	FDA approved 1999	▼

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9.1 / 10

[54 Reviews](#)

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