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Albiglutide

Pronunciation: *AL-bi-GLOO-tide***Generic name:** albiglutide**Brand name:** [Tanzeum](#)**Dosage form:** pen injection for subcutaneous use**Drug class:** [GLP-1 Agonists \(Incretin Mimetics\)](#)Medically reviewed by [Carmen Pope, BPharm](#). Last updated on Jan 5, 2025.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#)

What is albiglutide?

Albiglutide (brand name [Tanzeum](#)) was an injectable diabetes medicine that helps control blood sugar levels. Albiglutide has been discontinued.

Albiglutide was used together with diet and exercise to improve blood sugar control in adults with [type 2 diabetes mellitus](#).

Albiglutide was usually given after other diabetes medications have been tried without success. It is not for treating [type 1 diabetes](#).

Albiglutide gained FDA approval under the brand name Tanzeum on April 15, 2014. The manufacturing company, GlaxoSmithKline announced that it was discontinuing the manufacturing and sale of Tanzeum on July 26, 2017, due to limited prescribing of the drug and declining sales.

Warnings

You should not use albiglutide if you have multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 (tumors in your glands), a personal or family history of medullary [thyroid cancer](#), [insulin](#)-dependent diabetes, or [diabetic ketoacidosis](#).

Call your doctor at once if you have **signs of a thyroid tumor**, such as swelling or a lump in your neck, trouble swallowing, a hoarse voice, or shortness of breath.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use albiglutide if you are allergic to albiglutide, Tanzeum, or if you have:

- multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 (tumors in your glands);
- a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (a type of thyroid cancer); or
- diabetic ketoacidosis (call your doctor for treatment with [insulin](#)).

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

- a stomach or intestinal disorder;
- [pancreatitis](#); or
- liver or kidney disease.

In animal studies, albiglutide caused thyroid tumors or thyroid cancer. It is not known whether these effects would occur in people using regular doses. Ask your doctor about your risk.

Albiglutide may harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Albiglutide can have long-lasting effects on your body. **Avoid getting pregnant for at least 1 month after you stop using this medicine.**

You should not breastfeed while using albiglutide.

Albiglutide is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

 [Albiglutide pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I use albiglutide?

Use albiglutide exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets.

Albiglutide is injected under the skin. A healthcare provider may teach you how to properly use the medication by yourself.

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand all instructions.

Prepare an injection only when you are ready to give it. Do not use if the medicine has particles in it. Call your pharmacist for new medicine.

The prefilled injection pen contains a powder and a liquid that must be mixed before using the pen. Each different pen strength has a certain "wait" time to allow the powder to completely dissolve after mixing: 15 minutes for a 30-mg pen and 30 minutes for a 50-mg pen.

Albiglutide is usually given once per week at any time of the day, with or without a meal. If you want to change your weekly injection day, wait at least 4 days after your most recent injection before giving another one.

Drink plenty of liquids to keep your kidneys working properly.

Your healthcare provider will show you where on your body to inject albiglutide. Use a different place each time you give an injection. Do not inject into the same place two times in a row.

You may have [low blood sugar \(hypoglycemia\)](#) and feel very hungry, dizzy, irritable, confused, anxious, or shaky. To quickly treat [hypoglycemia](#), eat or drink a fast-acting source of sugar (fruit juice, hard candy, crackers, raisins, or non-diet soda).

Your doctor may prescribe a [glucagon](#) injection kit in case you have severe hypoglycemia. Be sure your family or close friends know how to give you this injection in an emergency.

Blood sugar levels can be affected by [stress](#), illness, surgery, exercise, alcohol use, or skipping meals. **Ask your doctor before changing your dose or medication schedule.**

Call your doctor if you have ongoing [vomiting](#) or [diarrhea](#), or if you are sweating more than usual. You can easily become dehydrated while taking albiglutide. This can lead to [kidney failure](#).

Store injection pens in their original carton in a refrigerator. **Do not freeze albiglutide**, and throw away the medication if it has become frozen. Throw away any pens not used before the [expiration date](#).

You may also store the pens at room temperature for up to 4 weeks before use.

Use an injection pen only once and then place it in a puncture-proof "sharps" container. Follow state or local laws about how to dispose of this container. Keep it out of the reach of children and pets.

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Diabetes Type 2:

Initial dose: 30 mg subcutaneously once a week

-If glycemic response is inadequate, may increase to 50 mg subcutaneously once a week

Maintenance dose: 30 or 50 mg subcutaneously once a week

Comments:

-This drug is not recommended as first-line therapy because of uncertain relevance of the rodent C-cell tumor findings to humans; prescribe only to patients for whom the potential benefits are considered to outweigh the potential risk.

-This drug has not been studied in patients with a history of pancreatitis; consider alternative therapies

-The dose of concomitantly administered insulin or insulin secretagogues may need to be reduced when starting therapy in order to decrease the risk of hypoglycemia.

-This drug has not been studied in combination with prandial insulin.

Use: As an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in patients with [type 2 diabetes](#) mellitus.

 [Detailed Albiglutide dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if you are more than 3 days late for the dose. Do not use two doses within 3 days of each other.

What happens if I overdose?

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

What should I avoid while using albiglutide?

Never share an injection pen, cartridge, or syringe with another person, even if the needle has been changed. Sharing these devices can allow infections or disease to pass from one person to another.

Albiglutide side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to albiglutide**: [hives](#); fast heartbeats, feeling light-headed; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- **symptoms of pancreatitis** - severe pain in your upper stomach spreading to your back, [nausea and vomiting](#), [fast heart rate](#);
- **signs of a thyroid tumor** - swelling or a lump in your neck, trouble swallowing, a hoarse voice, or if you feel short of breath;
- **low blood sugar** - [headache](#), hunger, weakness, sweating, confusion, irritability, [dizziness](#), fast heart rate, or feeling jittery; or
- **kidney problems** - little or no urination, swelling in your feet or ankles, feeling tired or short of breath.

Common albiglutide side effects may include:

- [nausea](#), diarrhea;
- cough, cold or flu symptoms;
- [back pain](#), joint pain; or
- pain, swelling, or irritation where medicine was injected.

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.

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

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What other drugs will affect albiglutide?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- insulin; or
- oral diabetes medications.

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

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

Does albiglutide interact with my other drugs?

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

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Add

How should I store albiglutide?

Store your pens in the refrigerator between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).

You may store your pen in the box at room temperature below 86°F (30°C) for up to 4 weeks before you are ready to use the pen.

Store pens in the carton they came in. Do not freeze pens. If the liquid in the pen is frozen, throw away the pen and use another pen.

Albiglutide ingredients (Tanzeum pen)

Active Ingredient: albiglutide

Inactive Ingredients: mannitol, polysorbate 80, sodium phosphate, and trehalose dihydrate. TANZEUM does not contain a preservative.

Who makes albiglutide?

GlaxoSmithKline LLC made albiglutide under the brand name Tanzeum. Tanzeum has now been discontinued.

Albiglutide Biosimilars

Biosimilar and interchangeable products are biological products that are highly similar to and have no clinically meaningful differences from the reference product.

Reference products

These are biological products that have already been approved by the FDA, against which biosimilar products are compared. There is 1 for albiglutide.

Tanzeum (albiglutide) - GlaxoSmithKline LLC



Formulation type	Strength
Autoinjector	30 mg Discontinued, Voluntarily Revoked
Autoinjector	50 mg Discontinued, Voluntarily Revoked

View [Tanzeum](#) information in detail.

References

1. [Tanzeum \(albiglutide\) Package Insert](#)

More about albiglutide

- [Check interactions](#)
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- [Dosage information](#)
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Patient resources

Other brands

[Tanzeum](#)

Professional resources

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Related treatment guides

- [Type 2 Diabetes](#)

Further information

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

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

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 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



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4.6 / 10

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