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2. Metformin/saxagliptin

Metformin and saxagliptin

Generic name: metformin and saxagliptin [*met-FOR-min-and-SAX-a-GLIP-tin*]**Brand name:** [Kombiglyze XR](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet, extended release (1000 mg-2.5 mg; 1000 mg-5 mg; 500 mg-5 mg)**Drug class:** [Antidiabetic combinations](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Mar 31, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is metformin and saxagliptin?

Metformin and [saxagliptin](#) are oral diabetes medicines that help control blood sugar levels.

Metformin works by decreasing glucose (sugar) production in the liver and decreasing absorption of glucose by the intestines. Saxagliptin works by regulating the levels of insulin your body produces after eating.

Metformin and saxagliptin is a combination medicine that is used together with diet and exercise to improve blood sugar control in adults with type 2 [diabetes mellitus](#). **metformin and saxagliptin is not for treating type 1 diabetes.**

Metformin and saxagliptin may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Metformin and saxagliptin side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction:** hives, itching, peeling skin; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop taking this medicine and call your doctor right away if you have **symptoms of pancreatitis:** severe pain in your upper stomach spreading to your back, nausea and vomiting, loss of appetite, or fast heartbeats.

Some people using metformin develop [lactic acidosis](#), which can be fatal. **Get emergency medical help if you have even mild symptoms such as:**

- unusual [muscle pain](#);
- feeling cold;
- trouble breathing;
- feeling dizzy, light-headed, tired, or very weak;
- stomach pain, vomiting; or
- irregular heart rate.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- **severe autoimmune reaction**--itching, blisters, breakdown of the outer layer of skin;
- severe or ongoing pain in your joints;
- pain or burning when you urinate; or
- **symptoms of heart failure**--[shortness of breath](#) (even while lying down), swelling in your legs or feet, rapid weight gain.

Common side effects of metformin and saxagliptin may include:

- diarrhea, nausea;
- headache; or
- [cold symptoms](#) such as runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, [sore throat](#).

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.

 [Metformin / saxagliptin side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

You should not use metformin and saxagliptin if you have severe kidney disease or [diabetic ketoacidosis](#) (call your doctor for treatment).

You may develop **lactic acidosis**, a dangerous build-up of lactic acid in your blood. Call your doctor or get emergency medical help if you have unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain, dizziness, feeling cold, or feeling very

weak or tired.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use this medicine if you are allergic to metformin or saxagliptin (Onglyza), or if you have severe kidney disease or diabetic ketoacidosis (call your doctor for treatment with insulin).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- kidney disease (your kidney function may need to be checked before you take this medicine);
- liver disease;
- heart disease;
- pancreatitis;
- high triglycerides (a type of fat in the blood);
- gallstones; or
- alcoholism.

You may develop **lactic acidosis**, a dangerous build-up of lactic acid in your blood. This may be more likely if you have other medical conditions, a severe infection, chronic alcoholism, or if you are 65 or older. Ask your doctor about your risk.

If you need to have surgery or any type of x-ray or CT scan using a dye that is injected into your veins, you may need to temporarily stop taking metformin and saxagliptin. Be sure your caregivers know ahead of time that you are using this medication.

Follow your doctor's instructions about using this medicine **if you are pregnant or you become pregnant**. Controlling diabetes is very important during pregnancy, and having high blood sugar may cause complications in both the mother and the baby.

Metformin may stimulate ovulation in a premenopausal woman and may increase the risk of unintended pregnancy. Talk to your doctor about your risk.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

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

How should I take metformin and saxagliptin?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Take metformin and saxagliptin with food.

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

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.

Also watch for signs of high blood sugar (**hyperglycemia**) such as increased thirst or urination.

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.**

metformin and saxagliptin is only part of a complete treatment program that may also include diet, exercise, weight control, blood sugar testing, and special medical care. Follow your doctor's instructions very closely.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Metformin and saxagliptin dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Diabetes Type 2:

Individualize dose based patient's current regimen, effectiveness, and tolerability; gradual dose titration of metformin is advised to reduce gastrointestinal side effects.

Saxagliptin-Metformin XR:

Usual dose: 1 tablet orally once a day with the evening meal

Maximum dose: saxagliptin 5 mg-metformin 2000 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose with concomitant strong CYP450 3A4/5 inhibitors: saxagliptin 2.5-metformin 1000 mg orally once a day

-Patients not currently treated with metformin: Initial dose saxagliptin 5 mg-metformin 500 mg orally once daily

-Patients currently treated with metformin: Initial dose: saxagliptin 5 mg plus the dose of metformin that is already being taken, or the nearest therapeutically appropriate dose.

Comments:

-Patients requiring saxagliptin 2.5 mg per day AND are either metformin-naïve or require a dose of metformin greater than 1000 mg per day should use the individual components.

-Following a switch from metformin immediate-release to metformin extended release, glycemic control should be closely monitored and dosage adjustments made according.

-When used in combination with a sulfonylurea or insulin, a lower dose of the sulfonylurea or insulin may be considered to reduce the risk of hypoglycemia.

-Note: There are saxagliptin-metformin combination products available internationally that contain immediate-release metformin; saxagliptin-metformin products containing immediate-release metformin should be dosed twice a day.

Use: An adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with [type 2 diabetes](#) when treatment with both saxagliptin and metformin is appropriate.

 [Detailed Metformin / saxagliptin dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine (with food) 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. You may have severely low blood sugar (extreme weakness, nausea, tremors, sweating, confusion, trouble speaking, fast heartbeats, or seizure).

What should I avoid while taking metformin and saxagliptin?

Avoid drinking alcohol. It lowers blood sugar and may increase your risk of lactic acidosis.

What other drugs will affect metformin and saxagliptin?

Many drugs can affect metformin and saxagliptin, making metformin and saxagliptin less effective or increasing your risk of lactic acidosis.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- an antibiotic or antifungal medicine;
- insulin or oral diabetes medicine; or
- medicine to treat HIV or AIDS.

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

i [Metformin / saxagliptin drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does metformin/saxagliptin interact with my other drugs?

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

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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 this medication only for the indication prescribed.

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

[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History



Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

5.0 / 10

[17 Reviews](#)

Images

Saxagliptin Hydrochloride and Metformin Hydrochloride Extended-Release 5 mg / 500 mg (SM3 M)



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