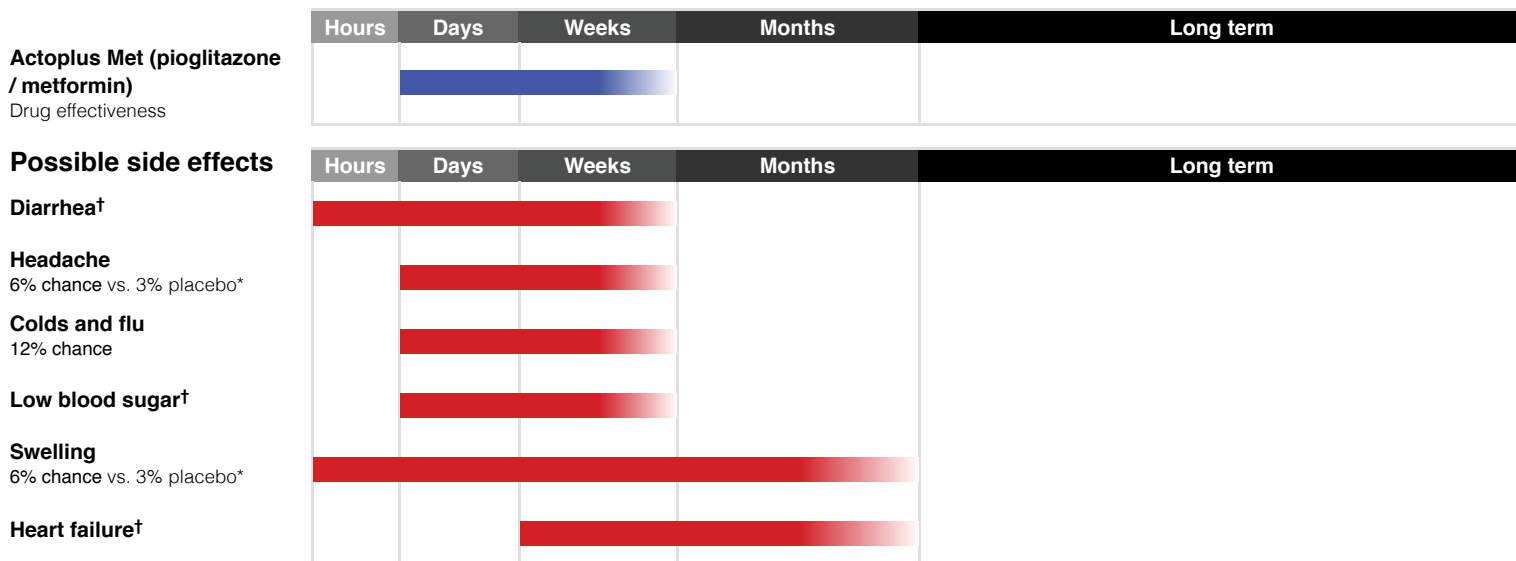


# Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin) basics

**Lowers blood sugar.** Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin) is a single-pill combination of two first-choice anti-diabetic medicines, but may cause some undesirable side effects.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take with food to reduce stomach upset.
- Check your blood sugar regularly.
- Can cause diarrhea, weight gain and cold-like symptoms.
- Tell your doctor about persistent diarrhea, shortness of breath, chest pains, or swelling.
- Not recommended if you have a history of heart failure or bladder cancer.

## Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Heart failure

Pioglitazone, one of the medicines in Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin), can cause fluid buildup that can lead to or worsen heart failure. If you have advanced heart failure, talk to your doctor since you shouldn't use Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin). Your doctor will check your heart regularly while you're taking Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin).

### Increased lactic acid

Metformin, one of the medicines in Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin), can cause rare but life-threatening build up of acid in your blood. This is more likely to happen if you've had kidney or liver damage in the past, or if you are undergoing an imaging procedure, like a CT or MRI, with contrast dye. This is a medical emergency and you should get help right away. Symptoms include deep and rapid breathing, nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain.

### Bladder cancer

There is a small chance that pioglitazone, one of the medicines in Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin), can cause bladder cancer. If you've had bladder cancer or you're at risk for it, talk to your doctor first before starting Actoplus Met (pioglitazone / metformin).