

Byetta (Exenatide) basics

Lowers blood sugar. Byetta (Exenatide) can lower your blood sugars in addition to metformin. It does not increase your appetite unlike some other anti-diabetics, but must be given by injection and usually causes upset stomach.

What to expect when starting

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



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Inject into your belly, thighs, or upper arms within an hour of your main meals.
- Store unused pens in the refrigerator.
- After first use, pens can be kept at room temperature for 30 days.
- Change the needle and prime the pen every time you inject.
- If you're also on insulin, don't inject into the same site.
- Best to check your blood sugar once a day to make sure your medicine is working properly.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Loss of medication effectiveness

Your immune system can develop antibodies to fight Byetta (Exenatide). If enough antibodies develop, it can stop the medicine from working. This can happen up to 12% of the time.

Pancreatitis

Byetta (Exenatide) can cause inflammation of the pancreas. This can happen any time while taking the medicine and can lead to hospitalization or death. Tell your doctor immediately if you notice severe abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, or inability to eat.

Kidney problems

If you have severe kidney or liver problems, you should not take Byetta (Exenatide). Talk to your doctor about testing your kidneys before starting Byetta (Exenatide). People taking medications that are damaging to kidneys such as ACE inhibitors, NSAIDs or diuretics in addition to Byetta (Exenatide) may notice nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.