

Diabinese (chlorpropamide) basics

Lowers blood sugar. Diabinese (chlorpropamide) is a less commonly used medicine for lowering blood sugar, but it can cause low blood sugar levels so always carry some form of sugar with you that can be readily used.

What to expect when starting

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

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Diabinese (chlorpropamide) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Dizziness	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Headache	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Low blood sugar	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Nausea	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Hunger	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Diarrhea	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- If you take Diabinese (chlorpropamide) once daily, be sure to take it in the morning with breakfast. Taking Diabinese (chlorpropamide) with food will reduce stomach upset.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking Diabinese (chlorpropamide).
- Diabinese (chlorpropamide) should be used alongside diet and exercise. Eat regular and well-balanced meals to keep your blood sugar levels normal.
- Check your blood sugar regularly to make sure Diabinese (chlorpropamide) is working.
- Diabinese (chlorpropamide) can cause dizziness so avoid activities that require coordination until you know how your body can handle the medicine.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose with a meal as soon as you remember. However, if it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your usual routine. Don't take two doses at the same time.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Serious heart problems

Medicines that lower blood sugar similarly to Diabinese (chlorpropamide) can increase your risk of death from heart problems when compared to other methods of controlling blood sugar, specifically with diet alone or diet and insulin. Talk to your doctor about the risk and benefits of taking Diabinese (chlorpropamide) to decide if it is the right medicine for you.

Low blood sugar

Diabinese (chlorpropamide) can lower your blood sugar to dangerous levels, which can be life-threatening. Symptoms of low blood sugar include fast heartbeat, sweating, pale skin, shakiness, confusion and irritability. Make sure to carry with you some form of sugar such as hard candies or glucose tablets while you take this medicine in case you experience episodes of low blood sugar.

Severe allergic reaction

Diabinese (chlorpropamide) can cause a severe allergic reaction which include symptoms like skin rash, hives, face swelling, difficulty breathing, and the feeling of wanting to pass out. Go to the emergency room right away if you can't breathe or you feel like fainting after taking the medicine. If you had these problems before with a sulfa-containing medicine, talk to your doctor first before taking Diabinese (chlorpropamide).