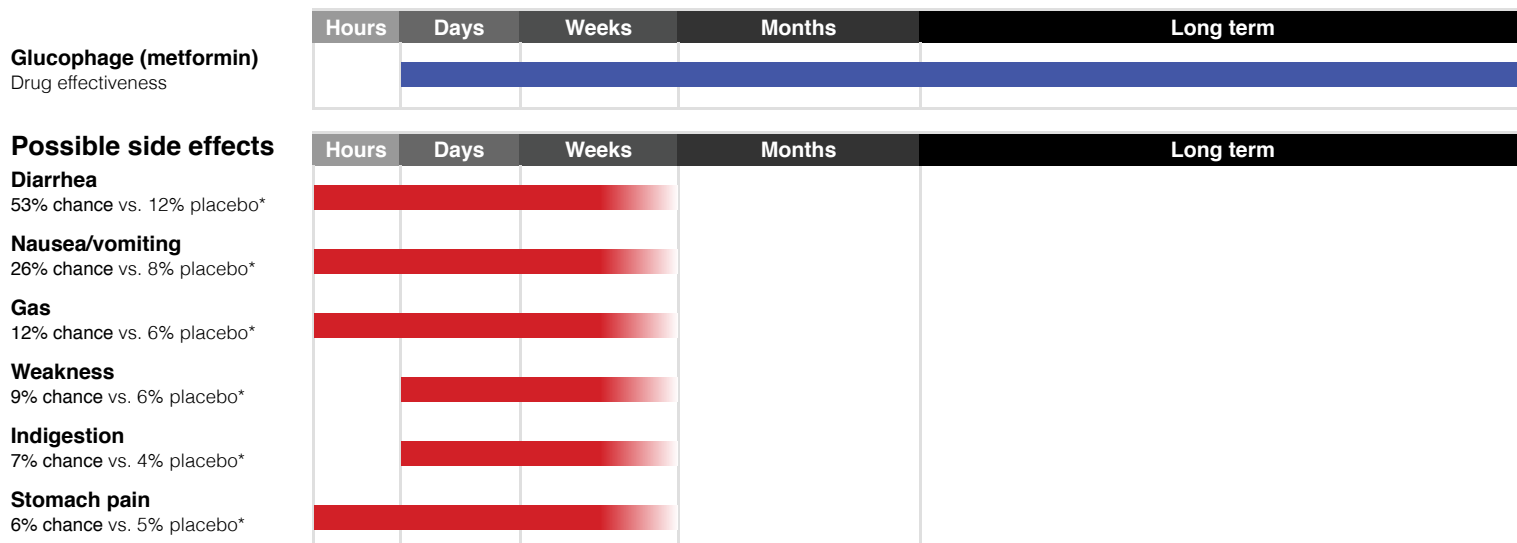


Glucophage (metformin) basics

Lowers blood sugar. Glucophage (metformin) is the first choice medicine to control your blood sugar and lower the risk of death from diabetes, although a few people may not tolerate the stomach 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.

Tips from pharmacists

- Can cause upset stomach with nausea and especially diarrhea in the first couple of weeks.
- Always take it with food to lessen stomach upset.
- Stay hydrated.
- Limit or avoid alcohol when taking this medicine.
- Tell your doctor about any deep or rapid breathing, or persistent nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain.
- Check your blood sugar regularly.

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.

Excess lactic acid in the blood

Glucophage (metformin) can cause this rare life-threatening condition. Your doctor will check your kidneys and liver before you start. Symptoms include deep and rapid breathing, nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain. This is a medical emergency and you should get help right away. You're more likely to get this if you already have kidney problems.

Glucophage (metformin) should be stopped 48 hours before and after surgery or any imaging procedure needing contrast dye.

Low vitamin B12 levels

Rarely, Glucophage (metformin) can cause low levels of vitamin B12 which can lead to anemia. Let your doctor know about any persistent low energy, muscle weakness, low appetite, tingling or numbness on hands/feet. A blood test can help determine if you have anemia and if Glucophage (metformin) is the reason.

