

Stopping Metformin After Getting Contrast Medium

Information for patients and families

Read this medicine fact sheet to learn:

- what metformin is
- what contrast medium is
- why you need to stop metformin after having a procedure that uses a contrast medium

What is metformin?

Metformin is a medicine that helps lower blood sugar levels in patients with diabetes. Other names for this medicine or for medications that contain this medicine are:

Generic Name	Brand name
Metformin	Glucophage®
Metformin ER	Glumetza®
Some combination products containing metformin - Immediate release formulation	
Metformin and Linagliptin	Jentaduetto®
Metformin and Sitagliptin	Janumet®
Metformin and Saxagliptin	Komboglyze®
Metformin and Alogliptin	Kazano®
Metformin and Dapagliflozin	Xigduo®
Metformin and Empagliflozin	Syndardy®
Metformin and Canagliflozin	Invokamet®
Metformin and Ertugliflozin	Segluromet®
Extended release formulation	
Metformin ER and Sitagliptin	Janumet XR®
Metformin ER and Canagliflozin	Invokamet XR®



What is contrast medium?

Contrast medium is a dye injected into your vein so it is easier to see your organs, arteries or veins in x-rays.

Some procedures that use contrast medium include:

- Computed Tomography Scan (CT scan)
- Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)
- Angiogram
- Venogram

Why do I need to stop metformin if I get contrast medium?

Your kidneys remove metformin from your body. Contrast medium can slow down how quickly your kidneys work. This can cause a build-up of metformin in your body.

A build-up of metformin could lead to **lactic acidosis**. Lactic acidosis is a very rare but serious side effect of metformin. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include:

- feeling drowsy
- losing your appetite
- nausea and/or vomiting
- muscle cramps
- difficulty breathing

Before you have your procedure, you will have a blood test called **serum creatinine**. This test tells you how well your kidneys are working.



If you are taking metformin and getting a contrast medium, **stop taking metformin for 2 days after your procedure or as instructed by your health care provider.**

Restart your metformin on:

Date: _____ Time: _____

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