

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Diabex[®] XR 500

Diabex[®] XR 750

Diabex[®] XR 1000

Metformin hydrochloride



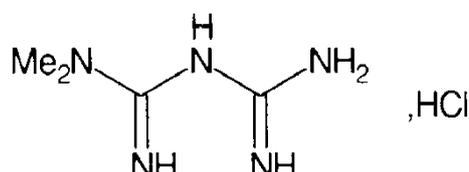
Life threatening lactic acidosis can occur due to accumulation of metformin. The main risk factor is renal impairment, other risk factors include old age associated with reduced renal function.

NAME OF THE MEDICINE

Active Ingredient: Metformin hydrochloride.

Chemical name: 1,1-dimethylbiguanide hydrochloride.

Structural Formula:



Molecular formula: C₄H₁₂ClN₅

Molecular weight: 165.63

CAS Registry No: 1115-70-4

DESCRIPTION

White crystals easily soluble in water, sparingly soluble in alcohol, practically insoluble in acetone and methylene chloride.

Metformin is a strong base with a pK_a greater than 12. At pH < 12, which is always the case in the body, metformin is very hydrophilic: the octanol/water partition coefficient is 0.05. The melting point of metformin hydrochloride is 224°C. Metformin hydrochloride is a very stable molecule.

Each Diabex XR 500, (500 mg) extended release tablet contains 500 mg of metformin hydrochloride. The 500 mg tablets also contain the following excipients: carmellose sodium, hypromellose, cellulose – microcrystalline and magnesium stearate. The tablets are gluten free.

Each Diabex XR 750, (750 mg) extended release tablet contains 750 mg of metformin hydrochloride. The 750 mg tablets also contain the following excipients: carmellose sodium, hypromellose and magnesium stearate. The tablets are gluten free.

Each Diabex XR 1000, (1000 mg) extended release tablet contains 1000 mg of metformin hydrochloride. The 1000 mg tablets also contain the following excipients: carmellose sodium, hypromellose and magnesium stearate. The tablets are gluten free.

The tablet shells may be present in the faeces. Patients should be advised that this is normal.

PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacodynamics

Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 and Diabex XR 1000 are oral anti-diabetic agents. Metformin is a biguanide with antihyperglycaemic effects, lowering both basal and postprandial plasma glucose. It does not stimulate insulin secretion and therefore does not produce hypoglycaemia.

Metformin may act via 3 mechanisms:

- 1) Reduction of hepatic glucose production by inhibiting gluconeogenesis and glycogenolysis.
- 2) In muscle, by increasing insulin sensitivity, improving peripheral glucose uptake and utilisation.
- 3) Delay of intestinal glucose absorption.

Metformin stimulates intracellular glycogen synthesis by acting on glycogen synthase.

Metformin increases the transport capacity of all types of membrane glucose transporters (GLUT).

In humans, independently of its action on glycaemia, metformin has favourable effects on lipid metabolism.

This has been shown at therapeutic doses in controlled, medium-term or long-term clinical studies: metformin reduces total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

Pharmacokinetics

Absorption:

After an oral dose of the extended release tablet Diabex XR 500, metformin absorption is significantly delayed compared to the immediate release tablet with a T_{max} at 7 hours (T_{max} for the immediate release tablet is 2.5 hours).

The Table below gives an overview on the main pharmacokinetic parameters of the three Diabex XR strengths under fed conditions:

| Cross study comparison of Diabex XR products` pharmacokinetic parameters* | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Dose (given with food) | Median Tmax [h] (range) | Mean Cmax [ng/mL] | Mean AUC _{0-inf} [ng*h/mL] |
| Diabex XR 500 | 500 mg single dose | 7 (4-8) | 645 | 6666 |
| | 500 mg steady state | 6 (4-8) | 603 | 6316 |
| Diabex XR 750 | 1500 mg (2 X 750 mg) | 4.5 (3-6) | 1466 | 15416 |
| Diabex XR 1000 | 1000 mg | 5.0 (4-10) | 1214 | 11785 |

* Studies performed in healthy volunteers under fed conditions

Diabex XR 750 was shown to be bioequivalent to Diabex XR 500 at a 1500 mg dose with respect to C_{max} and AUC in healthy fed and fasted subjects.

In addition, bioequivalence of the Diabex XR 1000 and Diabex XR 500 was demonstrated following single doses at a 1000 mg dose.

Steady state bioequivalence data of Diabex XR 750 and of Diabex XR 1000 are not available.

The bioequivalent products show the following properties:

At steady state, similar to the immediate release formulation, C_{max} and AUC do not increase in proportion with the administered dose. The administration of two, three, or four tablets Diabex XR 500 (500 mg tablets) results in a 1.8, 2.4, and 3.0 increase for C_{max} and a 2.0, 2.7, and 3.2 fold increase in AUC.

The AUC after a single oral administration of 2000 mg of metformin extended release tablets, administered as four tablets of 500 mg Diabex XR 500, is similar to that observed after administration of 1000 mg of metformin immediate release tablets twice daily.

Intrasubject variability of C_{max} and AUC of metformin extended release is comparable to that observed with metformin immediate release tablets.

Although the AUC is decreased by 30% following single dose administration of Diabex XR 500 administered as four tablets of 500 mg in fasting conditions, both C_{max} and T_{max} are unaffected.

In fasting conditions after administration of Diabex XR 750 extended release tablet the AUC is decreased by approximately 49% compared to fed state; C_{max} is decreased by about 21% and T_{max} is reduced by approximately 1.5 hours.

When Diabex XR 1000 (1000 mg) extended release tablet is administered in fasting conditions the AUC is decreased by approximately 40% compared to fed state (C_{max} is decreased by 10 to 20% and T_{max} is reduced by 1 hour).

Metformin absorption from the extended release formulation is not altered by meal composition.

No accumulation is observed after repeated administration of up to 2000 mg of metformin administered as four tablets of 500 mg Diabex XR 500. Steady state studies have not been conducted with Diabex XR 750 and Diabex XR 1000.

Distribution:

Plasma protein binding is negligible. Metformin partitions into erythrocytes. The blood peak is lower than the plasma peak and appears at approximately the same time. The red blood cells most likely represent a secondary compartment of distribution. The mean volume of distribution V_d ranged between 63 to 276 L.

Metabolism:

Metformin is excreted unchanged in the urine. No metabolites have been identified in humans.

Elimination:

Renal clearance of metformin is > 400 ml/min, indicating that metformin is eliminated by glomerular filtration and tubular secretion. Following an oral dose, the apparent terminal elimination half-life is approximately 6.5 hours. When renal function is impaired, renal clearance is decreased in proportion to that of creatinine and thus the elimination half-life is prolonged, leading to increased levels of metformin in plasma.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Metformin modified release tablet has been evaluated in three double-blind, randomised, multicentre, parallel-group clinical trials, two of which employed a placebo control. These studies were each followed by a 52-week open-label extension study involving subjects who completed double-blind treatment and/or were withdrawn for inadequate glycaemic control. The primary endpoint was the mean change in HbA_{1C} from baseline in each case.

Both placebo-controlled studies were in diet-failed patients previously not exposed to metformin. One study evaluated once-daily metformin modified release tablet at daily doses of 500 mg, 2 x 500 mg, 3 x 500 mg, and 4 x 500 mg, and also twice-daily 2 x 500 mg, for 16 weeks. Treatment with once-daily metformin modified release tablet resulted in dose-related reductions in indices of glycaemic control (HbA_{1C}, fasting plasma glucose [FPG] and the proportions of patients achieving HbA_{1C} $< 7.0\%$ at study end or last prior measurement) that were significant at all doses relative to placebo (Table 1). The results of a 52-week open-label extension to this study (Table 1) showed that the antihyperglycaemic effects of metformin modified release tablet were maintained over time. There was no weight gain in any treatment group.

The second placebo-controlled study evaluated metformin modified release tablet at a target dose of 2 x 500 mg, once-daily for a period of 12 weeks. Indices of glycaemic control (as above) improved significantly compared with placebo (Table 2). The magnitudes of improvements were comparable to those observed in the dose-ranging study (Table 1). The accompanying 52-week open-label study again showed that

improvements in glycaemia were durable over time. No weight gain was associated with metformin modified release tablet treatment.

The third randomised, double-blind study evaluated the effects of switching from the immediate-release formulation of metformin to metformin modified release tablet. Patients sub-optimally controlled with metformin received immediate-release metformin 500 mg twice daily, were randomised to continue on immediate-release metformin or to receive once-daily metformin modified release tablet at a dose of 2 x 500 mg or 3 x 500 mg, for a period of 12 weeks. Indices of glycaemia were not markedly altered after switching between the formulations, either in the double-blind study or an associated 52-week open-label study (Table 3).

Table 1. Placebo-controlled, dose-ranging evaluation of metformin modified release tablet in diet-failed patients (Double Blind: 16 weeks – Open-Label: 52 weeks).

| | Double-blind placebo | Double-blind Metformin modified release tablet | | | | | Open-label Metformin modified release tablet 1000 mg q.d. |
|---|----------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| | | 500 mg q.d. | 1000 mg q.d. | 1500 mg q.d. | 2000 mg q.d. | 1000 mg b.i.d. | |
| Haemoglobin A1c | N=111 | N=115 | N=115 | N=111 | N=125 | N=112 | N=404 |
| Baseline Mean (%) | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.1 |
| Final Mean | 8.5 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.1 |
| Difference from placebo/baseline ^a | – | -0.6* | -0.7* | -1.0* | -1.0* | -1.2* | -1.0 |
| Fasting Plasma Glucose | N=113 | N=126 | N=118 | N=120 | N=132 | N=122 | N=387 |
| Baseline Mean (mmol/L) | 10.0 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 9.5 |
| Final Mean | 10.4 | 9.3 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 7.9 |
| Difference from placebo/baseline ^a | – | -1.3* | -1.5* | -2.0* | -2.1* | -2.3* | -1.5 |
| Body Weight Mean Change from Baseline (kg) | -0.8 | -0.6 | -0.6 | -0.3 | -0.7 | -1.0 | -1.2 |
| Final HBA1c Distribution (%) | N=111 | N=115 | N=115 | N=111 | N=126 | N=112 | N=404 |
| <7% | 11 | 18 | 23 [†] | 38* | 45* | 50* | 47 |
| ≥7% | 89 | 82 | 77 | 62 | 55 | 50 | 53 |

[†]p<0.05; *p< 0.001 vs. placebo (statistical evaluation for double-blind study only);

^a difference from placebo for double-blind studies and difference from baseline for the open-label study.

Table 2. Placebo-controlled, evaluation of metformin modified release tablet in diet-failed patients (Double Blind: 12 weeks – Open-Label: 52 weeks).

| | Double-blind | | Open-label |
|---|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Placebo | Metformin modified release tablet 1000 mg q.d. | Metformin modified release tablet |
| Haemoglobin A1c | N=79 | N=155 | N=59 |
| Baseline Mean (%) | 7.9 | 8.0 | 7.7 |
| Final Mean | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.2 |
| Difference from placebo/baseline ^a | - | -0.6* | -0.6 |
| Fasting Plasma Glucose | N=79 | N=159 | N=57 |
| Baseline Mean (mmol/L) | 9.6 | 9.9 | 9.2 |
| Final Mean | 9.6 | 8.6 | 8.7 |
| Difference from placebo/baseline ^a | – | -1.2* | -0.5 |
| Body Weight Mean Change from Baseline (kg) | -0.8 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Final HBA1c Distribution (%) | N=79 | N=155 | N=59 |
| <7% | 11 | 45 [†] | 44 |
| ≥7% | 89 | 55 | 56 |

†p<0.05; *p< 0.001 vs. placebo (statistical evaluation for double-blind study only);

^adifference from placebo for double-blind studies and difference from baseline for the open-label study.

Table 3. Double-blind, randomised study evaluating the effects of a switch from immediate-release metformin to metformin modified release tablet

| | Double-blind | | | Open-label |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Immediate-release metformin 500 mg b.i.d. | Metformin modified release tablet 1000 mg q.d. | Metformin modified release tablet 1500 mg q.d. | Metformin modified release tablet |
| Haemoglobin A1c | N=66 | N=70 | N=65 | N=112 |
| Baseline Mean (%) | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.9 |
| Final Mean | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| Mean change | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.04 | 0.2 |
| Fasting Plasma Glucose | N=69 | N=72 | N=70 | N=109 |
| Baseline Mean (mmol/L) | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.0 |
| Final Mean | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Mean change | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Final HBA1c Distribution (%) | N=66 | N=70 | N=65 | N=112 |
| <7% | 47 | 43 | 49 | 48 |
| ≥7% | 53 | 57 | 51 | 52 |

The prospective randomised (UKPDS) study has established the long-term benefit of intensive blood glucose control in overweight type 2 diabetes. The immediate release tablet form of metformin was used in the UKPDS.

Analysis of the results for overweight patients treated with metformin after failure of diet alone showed:

- A significant reduction of the absolute risk of any diabetes-related complication in the metformin group (29.8 events/ 1000 patient-years) versus diet alone (43.3 events/ 1000 patient-years), p=0.0023, and versus the combined sulphonylurea and insulin monotherapy groups (40.1 events/ 1000 patient-years), p=0.0034.
- A significant reduction of the absolute risk of diabetes-related mortality: metformin 7.5 events/1000 patient-years, diet alone 12.7 events/ 1000 patient-years, p=0.017;
- A significant reduction of the absolute risk of overall mortality: metformin 13.5 events/ 1000 patient-years versus diet alone 20.6 events/ 1000 patient-years (p=0.011), and versus the combined sulphonylurea and insulin monotherapy groups 18.9 events/ 1000 patient-years (p=0.021);
- A significant reduction in the absolute risk of myocardial infarction: metformin 11 events/ 1000 patient-years, diet alone 18 events/ 1000 patient-years (p=0.01).

For metformin used as second-line therapy, in combination with a sulphonylurea, benefit regarding clinical outcome has not been shown.

In type 1 diabetes, the combination of metformin and insulin has been used in selected patients, but the clinical benefit of this combination has not been formally established.

INDICATIONS

Treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus in adults, particularly in overweight patients, when dietary management and exercise alone does not result in adequate glycaemic control. Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 may be used as monotherapy or in combination with other oral antidiabetic agents, or with insulin.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to metformin hydrochloride or to any of the excipients.
- Any type of metabolic acidosis (such as lactic acidosis, diabetic ketoacidosis)
- Diabetic pre-coma.
- Renal failure or renal dysfunction (creatinine clearance < 60 mL/min).
- Acute conditions with the potential to alter renal function such as:
 - Dehydration
 - Severe infection
 - Shock
 - Intravascular administration of iodinated contrast agents (see **PRECAUTIONS**)
- Acute or chronic disease which may cause tissue hypoxia such as:
 - Cardiac failure
 - Recent myocardial infarction
 - Respiratory failure
 - Pulmonary embolism
 - Shock
 - Acute significant blood loss
 - Sepsis
 - Gangrene
 - Pancreatitis
- Major surgery (see **PRECAUTIONS**)
- Severe hepatic insufficiency, acute alcohol intoxication, alcoholism.
- Lactation.

PRECAUTIONS

Lactic acidosis

Lactic acidosis is a rare, but serious (high mortality in the absence of prompt treatment), metabolic complication that can occur due to metformin accumulation. Reported cases of lactic acidosis in patients on metformin have occurred primarily in diabetic patients with significant renal failure. The incidence of lactic acidosis can and should be reduced by assessing other associated risk factors such as poorly controlled diabetes, ketosis, prolonged fasting, excessive alcohol intake, hepatic insufficiency and any condition associated with hypoxia.

Diagnosis:

The risk of lactic acidosis must be considered in the event of non-specific signs such as muscle cramps with digestive disorders such as abdominal pain and severe asthenia.

Lactic acidosis is characterised by acidotic dyspnea, abdominal pain and hypothermia followed by coma. Diagnostic laboratory findings are decreased blood pH, plasma lactate levels above 5 mmol/L, and an increased anion gap and lactate/pyruvate ratio. If metabolic acidosis is suspected, metformin should be discontinued and the patient should be hospitalised immediately (see **OVERDOSAGE-TREATMENT**).

Renal function

As metformin is excreted by the kidney, it is recommended that creatinine clearance and/or serum creatinine levels be determined before initiating treatment and regularly thereafter:

- At least annually in patients with normal renal function,
- At least two to four times a year in patients with serum creatinine levels at the upper limit of normal and in elderly subjects.

Decreased renal function in elderly subjects is frequent and asymptomatic. Special caution should be exercised in situations where renal function may become impaired, for example when initiating antihypertensive therapy or diuretic therapy and when starting therapy with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

Administration of iodinated contrast materials

The intravascular administration of iodinated contrast materials in radiologic studies can lead to renal failure. This may induce metformin accumulation and may expose the patient to lactic acidosis. Therefore, metformin must be discontinued either 48 hours before the test when renal function is known to be impaired or from the time of the test when renal function is known to be normal; and may not be reinstated until 48 hours afterwards, and only after renal function has been re-evaluated and found to be normal (see **PRECAUTIONS-INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES**).

Surgery

Metformin hydrochloride must be discontinued 48 hours before elective surgery. Therapy may be restarted no earlier than 48 hours following surgery and only after renal function has been re-evaluated and found to be normal.

Other precautions

- All patients should continue their diet with a regular distribution of carbohydrate intake during the day. Overweight patients should continue their energy-restricted diet.
- The usual laboratory tests for diabetes monitoring should be performed regularly.
- Metformin hydrochloride alone does not cause hypoglycaemia; however caution is advised when it is used in combination with other antidiabetic agents (sulphonylureas, glinides, and insulin).
- The tablet shells may be present in the faeces. Patients should be advised that this is normal.

Use in Pregnancy (Category C)

To date, no relevant epidemiological data is available. Animal studies do not indicate harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryonal or foetal development, parturition or postnatal development.

When the patient plans to become pregnant and during pregnancy, diabetes should not be treated with metformin but insulin should be used to maintain blood glucose levels as close to normal as possible in order to lower the risk of foetal malformations associated with abnormal blood glucose levels.

Australian Categorisation Definition of Category C:

Drugs which, owing to their pharmacological effects, have caused or may be suspected of causing, harmful effects on the human fetus or neonate without causing malformations. These effects may be reversible. Accompanying texts should be consulted for further details.

Use in Lactation

Metformin is excreted into milk in lactating rats. Similar data is not available in humans and a decision should be made whether to discontinue breast feeding or to discontinue metformin, taking into account the importance of the medicinal product to the mother.

Paediatric Use

In absence of available data, Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 should not be used in children.

Carcinogenicity/Mutagenicity

Preclinical data reveal no specific hazard for humans based on conventional studies on safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential or reproductive toxicity.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 monotherapy does not cause hypoglycaemia and therefore has no effect on the ability to drive or to use machinery.

However, patients should be alerted to the risk of hypoglycaemia when metformin is used in combination with other antidiabetic agents (sulphonylureas, glinides, and insulin).

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES

Contraindicated combinations

Iodinated contrast materials:

Metformin must be discontinued either 48 hours before the test when renal function is known to be impaired, or from the time of the test when renal function is known to be normal (see **PRECAUTIONS – ADMINISTRATION OF IODINATED CONTRAST MATERIALS**).

Metformin should not be reinstated until 48 hours after the test, and only after renal function has been re-evaluated and found to be normal (see **PRECAUTIONS**).

Inadvisable Combinations

Alcohol:

Increased risk of lactic acidosis in acute alcohol intoxication, particularly in case of:

- Fasting or malnutrition,
- Hepatic insufficiency.

Avoid consumption of alcohol and alcohol-containing medications.

Combinations requiring precautions for use

Medicinal products with intrinsic hyperglycaemic activity (e.g. glucocorticoids and tetracosactides (systemic and local routes), beta-2-agonists, danazol, chlorpromazine at high dosages of 100 mg per day and diuretics:

More frequent blood glucose monitoring may be required, especially at the beginning of treatment. If necessary, adjust the metformin dosage during therapy with the respective medicinal product and upon discontinuation.

Diuretics, especially loop diuretics:

May increase the risk of lactic acidosis due to their potential to decrease renal function.

ACE-inhibitors:

ACE-inhibitors may decrease the blood glucose levels. Therefore, dose adjustment of metformin hydrochloride may be necessary when such medicinal products are added or discontinued.

Calcium channel blockers:

Calcium channel blockers may affect glucose control in diabetic patients; regular monitoring of glycaemic control is recommended.

Beta-blockers:

Co-administration of metformin and beta-blockers may result in a potentiation of the anti-hyperglycaemic action. In addition, some of the premonitory signs of hypoglycaemia, in particular tachycardia, may be masked. Monitoring of blood glucose should be undertaken during dosage adjustment of either agent.

Thyrotropin:

Reduction of TSH serum levels has been reported in diabetic patients with hypothyroidism when metformin therapy is initiated.

Cimetidine:

Reduced clearance of metformin has been reported during cimetidine therapy, so a dose reduction should be considered.

Anticoagulants:

Metformin increases the elimination rate of vitamin K antagonists. Consequently, the prothrombin time should be closely monitored in patients in whom metformin and vitamin K antagonists are being co-administered. Cessation of metformin in patients receiving vitamin K antagonists can cause marked increases in the prothrombin time.

Nifedipine:

A single-dose, metformin-nifedipine drug interaction study in normal healthy volunteers demonstrated that co-administration of metformin and nifedipine increased plasma metformin C_{max} and AUC by 20% and 9%, respectively, and increased the amount of metformin excreted in the urine. T_{max} and half-life of metformin were unaffected. Nifedipine appears to enhance the absorption of metformin. Metformin had minimal effects on the pharmacokinetics of nifedipine.

Organic cation transporters (OCT):

Metformin is a substrate of both transporters OCT1 and OCT2.

Co-administration of metformin with:

- Substrates/inhibitors of OCT1 (such as verapamil) may reduce efficacy of metformin.
- Inducers of OCT1 (such as rifampicin) may increase gastrointestinal absorption and efficacy.
- Substrates/inhibitors of OCT2 (such as cimetidine, dolutegravir, crizotinib, olaparib, daclatasvir, vandetanib) may decrease the renal elimination of metformin and thus lead to an increase metformin plasma concentration.

Therefore, caution is advised when these drugs are co-administered with metformin and a dose adjustment may be considered, particularly in patients with renal impairment.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

In post marketing data and in controlled clinical studies, adverse event reporting in patients treated with Diabex XR, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 were similar in nature and severity to that reported in patients treated with Diabex immediate release.

The following undesirable effects may occur under treatment with metformin. Frequencies are defined as follows: very common: >1/10; common >1/100, <1/10; uncommon >1/1,000, <1/100; rare >1/10,000, <1/1,000; very rare <1/10,000; not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

Within each frequency grouping, adverse effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Nervous system disorders:

Common: Taste disturbance.

Gastrointestinal disorders:

Very common: Gastrointestinal disorders such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and loss of appetite. These undesirable effects occur most frequently during initiation of therapy and resolve spontaneously in most cases. A slow increase of the dose may improve gastrointestinal tolerability.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:

Very rare: Skin reactions such as erythema, pruritus, urticaria.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders:**Uncommon**

-Decrease of vitamin B₁₂ absorption with a decrease of serum levels during long-term use of metformin has been observed in patients treated long-term with metformin. Consideration of such aetiology is recommended if a patient presents with megaloblastic anaemia. Therefore, serum B₁₂ levels should be appropriately monitored or periodic parenteral B₁₂ supplementation considered.

Very rare:

- Lactic acidosis (see **PRECAUTIONS**).

Hepatobiliary disorders:

Not Known: Isolated reports of liver function test abnormalities or hepatitis resolving upon metformin discontinuation.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Life threatening lactic acidosis can occur due to accumulation of metformin. The main risk factor is renal impairment, other risk factors include old age associated with reduced renal function.

Monotherapy and combination with other oral antidiabetic agents**Initiating Therapy with Diabex XR**

For patients new to metformin, the usual starting dose of Diabex XR is one tablet of Diabex XR 500 or Diabex XR 750 once daily given with the evening meal.

After 10 to 15 days the dose should be adjusted on the basis of blood glucose measurements. A slow increase of dose may improve gastro-intestinal tolerability. Dosage increases should be made in increments of 500 mg or 750 mg every 10-15 days.

Combining Diabex XR Dosage Strengths

The combined use of different strengths of Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 is not recommended. Only one strength (Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000) should be used at a time in order to avoid accidentally exceeding the recommended upper daily dose limit of 2000 mg.

Maintenance Therapy with Diabex XR

Diabex XR 1000 is intended as a maintenance therapy for patients currently treated with either 1000 mg or 2000 mg of metformin. In patients already treated with metformin tablets, the starting dose of Diabex XR should be equivalent to the daily dose of metformin immediate release tablets.

The maximum recommended dose is either 4 tablets of Diabex XR 500, 2 tablets of Diabex XR 750 or 2 tablets of Diabex XR 1000 once daily with the evening meal.

Switching from Diabex XR to immediate release metformin

If glycaemic control is not achieved with the maximum recommended dose of Diabex XR 500 (2000 mg), Diabex XR 750 (1500 mg) or Diabex XR 1000 (2000 mg) patients may be switched to metformin immediate release tablets to a maximum dose of 3000 mg daily.

Switching from immediate release metformin to Diabex XR

In patients already treated with metformin tablets, the starting dose of Diabex XR 500 Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 should be equivalent to the daily dose of metformin immediate release tablets. In patients treated with metformin at a dose above 2000 mg daily, switching to Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 is not recommended.

Transferring from other oral agents

If transfer from another oral antidiabetic agent is intended: discontinue the other agent. Titration should begin with Diabex XR 500 before switching to Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 and initiate Diabex XR at the dose indicated above.

Combination with insulin

Metformin and insulin may be used in combination therapy to achieve better blood glucose control. The usual starting dose of Diabex XR is 500 mg or 750 mg once daily with the evening meal, while insulin dosage is adjusted on the basis of blood glucose measurements. After titration, switch to Diabex XR 1000 should be considered.

Elderly

Due to the potential for decreased renal function in elderly subjects, the metformin dosage should be adjusted based on renal function. Regular assessment of renal function is necessary.

Children

In the absence of available data, Diabex XR 500, Diabex XR 750 or Diabex XR 1000 should not be used in children.

OVERDOSAGE

Symptoms

Although Hypoglycaemia has not been seen with ingestion of up to 85 g of metformin alone, lactic acidosis has occurred in such circumstances. This disorder is a medical emergency and must be treated in hospital. The onset of lactic acidosis is often subtle and accompanied only by non-specific symptoms such as malaise, myalgia, respiratory distress, increasing somnolence and non-specific abdominal distress. There may also be associated hypothermia, hypotension and resistant bradyarrhythmias with more marked acidosis. Lactic acidosis should be suspected in any diabetic patient with metabolic acidosis lacking evidence of ketoacidosis (ketonuria and ketonaemia).

Treatment

Lactic acidosis may develop in diabetic metformin-treated patients with overdose. Lactic acidosis is diagnosed and monitored by measurement of serum electrolytes, arterial pH and pCO₂ and arterial lactate plasma levels.

The aim of treatment is to manage any underlying disorder, and in some cases this will be sufficient to enable the body's homeostatic mechanism to correct the acid-base imbalance. The advantages of more active treatment of the acidosis must be balanced against the risks, including over-alkalinisation with sodium bicarbonate. Because metformin hydrochloride is dialysable (with a clearance of up to 170 mL/min under good haemodynamic conditions), prompt haemodialysis is recommended to correct the acidosis and remove the accumulated metformin.

In the event of an overdose, contact the Poisons Information Centre on 131126 (Australia) for advice on treatment and management.

PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS

- Diabex XR 500** : Metformin hydrochloride 500 mg extended release tablets: white to off-white, capsule-shaped, biconvex tablet, debossed “500” on one side
Blister packs of 10* (starter pack), 30*, 60*, 90, 100* and 120 tablets
Store below 25°C
- Diabex XR 750*** : Metformin hydrochloride 750 mg extended release tablets: white to off-white, capsule-shaped, biconvex tablet, debossed “750” on one side and “Merck:” on the other side
Blister packs of 10 (starter pack), 30, 60, 90, 100 and 120 tablets
Store below 25°C
- Diabex XR 1000** : Metformin hydrochloride 1000 mg extended release tablets: white to off-white, capsule-shaped, biconvex tablet, debossed with ‘1000’ on one face
Blister packs of 10 (starter pack), 30*, 60, 90*, 100* and 120* tablets
Store below 25°C

* Not Marketed in Australia

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SPONSOR

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Millers Point NSW 2000

ABN 93 002 359 739

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POISON SCHEDULE OF THE MEDICINE

S4 (Prescription Only Medicine)

DATE OF FIRST INCLUSION IN THE AUSTRALIAN REGISTER OF THERAPEUTIC GOODS (THE ARTG)

24/02/2005 (Diabex XR 500)

28/10/2009 (Diabex XR 750)

01/04/2010 (Diabex XR 1000)

DATE OF MOST RECENT AMENDMENT

07 September 2016

Diabex XR_pi_\Aug 16/00