

Combination Diabetes Medications: Glucovance, Metaglip

When you have Type 2 Diabetes, you may be prescribed a combination medication to help manage your diabetes.

The combination pills Glucovance and Metaglip help your pancreas release more insulin and over time help keep your liver from releasing too much glucose into your bloodstream.

To see how these medications work, let's see what happens when you eat.

Most of the food changes to glucose, a form of sugar. Glucose enters the bloodstream causing your blood glucose level to rise.

In response to this rise in glucose, the pancreas releases insulin. Insulin works like a key to open the cells and let glucose enter. The glucose is used for energy now or stored for later use.

As insulin works to move the glucose out of your bloodstream and into your body, your blood glucose level drops.

However, you still need glucose for energy.

To keep your blood glucose level from dropping too low in between meals, your pancreas releases glucagon.

Glucagon triggers the liver to release stored glucose to be used for energy.

In some people with Type 2 Diabetes, the pancreas does not release enough insulin to open the cells and remove glucose from your bloodstream.

At the same time, the liver releases too much stored glucose. Both cause your blood glucose level to stay high.

Glucovance and Metaglip help your pancreas release more insulin and also keep your liver from releasing too much glucose into your bloodstream.

Both Metaglip and Glucovance are generally taken once or twice a day with meals.

Some common side effects include: hypoglycemia or low blood glucose, diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain, skin rash, itching, bloating, and muscle pains.

If you have any side effects, let your diabetes care team know about them. However, do not stop taking your diabetes medication unless you are told to do so.

The health of your liver and kidneys should be checked before you start taking these medications and your doctor may want to check it from time to time as you continue to take them.

These medications can increase your risk of a serious condition called lactic acidosis.

You are more likely to develop lactic acidosis if you have certain health conditions or drink large amounts of alcohol.

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You may need to temporarily stop taking these medications before having medical procedures using contrast dyes.

There may not be one single reason why your blood glucose is high, so taking a diabetes medication that combines 2 treatments into one pill can be beneficial to you, your blood glucose and your overall health for the future.