

Byetta

Many people with diabetes take a medication called Byetta. Byetta is an injectable medication that works when you eat.

To understand how it works, let's see what happens when you eat.

When you eat, your body breaks down most of the food into glucose, a form of sugar, and releases hormones that travel to your pancreas.

The glucose enters your bloodstream causing your blood glucose level to rise.

In response to this rise in glucose and release of hormones, 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 it is stored in the cells for later use.

If you need Byetta, the hormones that are released when you eat may not be enough to tell your pancreas to release the right amount of insulin.

So, by injecting Byetta, your pancreas knows to release enough insulin to open the cells and remove the glucose from your bloodstream.

Byetta must be injected within the hour before eating breakfast and dinner. Do not take Byetta after you've eaten a meal. Talk to your diabetes care team about the proper way to inject your medication to ensure you are using it safely and effectively.

This medication only works when your blood glucose is high, so taking Byetta does not increase your risk of hypoglycemia, also called low blood glucose.

Some side effects may include nausea, diarrhea, headaches, vomiting, feeling jittery, and stomach discomfort.

Proper storage will ensure your medication will keep doing its job. Store Byetta in the refrigerator until use. Do not freeze your medication.

After you use your Byetta pen for the first time, it can be stored at room temperature.

Do not use your Byetta past the expiration date.

Taking your Byetta as prescribed will help you to manage your glucose levels and help prevent the long-term complications of diabetes.