

Victoza

Many people with diabetes take a medication called Victoza. Victoza 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 Victoza, 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 Victoza, your pancreas knows to release enough insulin to open the cells and remove the glucose from your bloodstream.

Victoza is injected once a day, with or without food.

Talk to your diabetes care team about the proper way to inject your medication to ensure you are using it safely and effectively.

Before taking Victoza, tell your healthcare provider if you have any stomach problems, have ever had pancreatitis or gallstones, or are addicted to alcohol.

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

Some side effects may include nausea, diarrhea, upper respiratory infection, stuffy or runny nose and sore throat, headaches, and stomach discomfort.

If you notice any swelling or a lump in your throat area while taking Victoza, or if you experience severe stomach pain that does not go away, stop taking Victoza and call your healthcare provider immediately.

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

After you use your Victoza pen for the first time, it can be stored at room temperature. Do not take Victoza past the expiration date.

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