

Victoza

When you have diabetes you may be prescribed a medicine called Victoza. 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 (or sugar) 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.

Sometimes in people with type 2 diabetes, the hormones that are released when you eat may not be enough to tell your pancreas to release the right amount of insulin.

By injecting Victoza, your pancreas knows to release enough insulin when you eat to open the cells and remove the glucose from your bloodstream.

Victoza is injected once a day, with or without food. Talk to your doctor about the proper way to inject your medicine to ensure you are using it safely and effectively.

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

Some side effects may include nausea, diarrhea, upper respiratory infection, 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 doctor immediately.

If you experience an allergic reaction such as hives or difficulty breathing, call 911.

Proper storage will ensure your medicine will keep doing its job. Store Victoza in the refrigerator until use.

Do not freeze your medicine. After you use your Victoza pen for the first time, it can be stored at room temperature.

Once opened, discard Victoza after 30 days even if some medication remains in the pen.

Do not take Victoza past the expiration date.

Make sure to take Victoza exactly as prescribed.

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If you have any questions about Victoza, ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

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