

GLICLAZIDE

Brand names DIAGLYK, Diamicon, Diamicon MR
Used in the following combined preparations None

GENERAL INFORMATION

Gliclazide is an oral drug for diabetes belonging to the sulphonylurea group. It stimulates the production and secretion of insulin from the islet cells in the pancreas. This promotes the uptake of sugar into body cells thereby lowering the level of sugar in the blood.

The drug is used to treat Type 2 diabetes mellitus, in conjunction with diet and exercise.

In conditions of severe illness, injury, stress, or surgery, the drug may lose its effectiveness necessitating the use of insulin injections. Adverse effects of gliclazide are generally mild. However, symptoms of poor diabetic control will occur if the dosage is not appropriate.

QUICK REFERENCE

Drug group Drug for diabetes (p.100)
Overdose danger rating High
Dependence rating Low
Prescription needed Yes
Available as generic Yes

INFORMATION FOR USERS

Your drug prescription is tailored for you. Do not alter dosage without checking with your doctor.

How taken/used



Tablets, MR tablets.

Frequency and timing of doses
1–2 x daily (in the morning and evening with a meal).

Dosage range
40–320mg daily (doses above 160mg are divided into two doses).

Onset of effect
Within 1 hour.

Duration of action
12–24 hours.

Diet advice
An individualized diabetic diet must be maintained for the drug to be fully effective. Follow the advice of your doctor.

Storage

Keep in original container at room temperature out of the reach of children.

Missed dose

Take with next meal; do not double the dose to account for missed dose.

Stopping the drug

Do not stop the drug without consulting your doctor; stopping the drug may lead to worsening of the underlying condition.

OVERDOSE ACTION



Seek immediate medical advice in all cases. If any early morning symptoms of excessively low blood sugar such as fainting, sweating, trembling, confusion, or headache occur, eat or drink something sugary. Take emergency action if seizures or loss of consciousness occur.

See Drug poisoning emergency guide (p.510).

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Be sure to tell your doctor if:

- You have long-term liver or kidney problems.
- You are allergic to sulphonylurea drugs.
- You have thyroid problems.
- You have porphyria.
- You have ever had problems with your adrenal glands.
- You are taking other medicines.



Pregnancy

Not recommended. May cause abnormally low blood sugar in the newborn baby. Insulin is generally substituted in pregnancy because it gives better diabetic control.



Breast-feeding

The drug passes into the breast milk and may cause low blood sugar in the baby. Discuss with your doctor.



Infants and children

Not prescribed.



Over 60

Signs of low blood sugar may be more difficult to recognize. Reduced dose may be necessary.



Driving and hazardous work

Avoid such activities until you have learned how gliclazide affects you because it can cause dizziness, drowsiness, and confusion.



Alcohol

Avoid. Alcoholic drinks may upset diabetic control increasing the risk of hypoglycaemia.

Surgery and general anaesthetics

Notify your doctor or dentist that you have diabetes before undergoing any surgery.

Sunlight and sunbeds

Avoid exposure to the sun and do not use a sunlamp or sunbed.

POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Serious adverse effects are rare. Dizziness, confusion, tremors, sweating, and weakness

may be signs of low blood sugar due to lack of food or too high a dose of gliclazide.

Symptom/effect	Frequency		Discuss with doctor		Stop taking drug now	Call doctor now
	Common	Rare	Only if severe	In all cases		
Faintness/confusion	●			●		
Weakness/tremor	●			●		
Sweating	●			●		
Constipation/diarrhoea	●		●			
Nausea/vomiting		●		●		
Rash/itching		●		●		
Weight changes		●		●		
Jaundice		●		●		●

INTERACTIONS

General note A variety of drugs may reduce the effect of gliclazide and so may raise blood sugar levels. These include corticosteroids, oestrogens, NSAIDs, diuretics, and rifampicin.

Other drugs increase the risk of low blood sugar. These include warfarin, sulphonamides and other antibacterials, aspirin, beta blockers, ACE inhibitors, and antifungals.

PROLONGED USE

No problems expected.

Monitoring Regular testing of blood sugar control is required. Periodic assessment of the eyes, heart, and kidneys may also be advised.