

Alpha-glucosidase Inhibitor

Type of drug	Alpha-glucosidase Inhibitor
How does it work?	Slows down the digestion of carbohydrates in the gut so that sugar is absorbed into the blood more slowly
Typical names	Acarbose (Glucobay®)
Usual doses	Acarbose 25 - 100 mg in divided doses with the first bite of each meal
Dosing instructions	Must be taken with the first bite of each meal
What if I forget a dose?	Ask your healthcare provider
A1C lowering (↓ = least, ↓↓↓ = most)	↓
Effect on weight	Neutral to ↓
Risk of low blood sugar (hypoglycemia)	Rare
Medication considerations and/or side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas and diarrhea which may lessen over time and with proper dose adjustments • Minimal risk for low blood sugars unless being taken with insulin or a medication that increases your insulin production • If you have low blood sugar it must be treated with glucose tablets and not juice or table sugar as this medication does not let the body absorb these sugars very well
When to call your doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have developed liver complications stomach ulcers or inflammatory bowel disease such as colitis or Crohn's disease • You develop any severe side effects and any negative changes in your overall health talk to your health care provider
When you are sick	Take this medication as directed unless otherwise directed by your healthcare provider
Cost (\$ = lowest, \$\$\$\$ = highest)	\$\$