

When you may need to stop your metformin medicine after a scan or X-ray

Radiology Department
Information for Patients

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Why have I been given this leaflet?

You had an injection of contrast liquid as part of your CT scan, MRI scan or X-ray test.

You have been given this leaflet because you take metformin and your kidneys are working slower than normal.

Other names for medicines with metformin are:

- Glucophage
- Orabet
- Competact-R
- Glucovance
- Glucamet
- Avandamet-R
- Duformin
- Bulamyn-R
- Eucreas-R

Your kidneys remove metformin from your body. The contrast used in your scan or X-ray can make your kidneys work slower for a few days. This may last 1 or 2 days, but could be longer.

If your kidneys are not working well, metformin can build up in your body. This can lead to too much acid in your blood. This is called **lactic acidosis**.

What do I need to do?

- **Stop taking your metformin tablets** after your scan or X-ray test.

If you have any questions about stopping metformin, contact your usual diabetes care team.

- **Arrange a blood test** to check if your kidneys have recovered from the contrast.
 - **This must be at least 2 days (48 hours) after** your scan or X-ray test.
 - Please contact your GP surgery to arrange a blood test.
 - You only need an appointment for a blood test. You do not need to see a GP.
 - It may take a day or more for the results to come back to your GP surgery.
- **Restart metformin when it is safe.** Only restart metformin when the blood test shows that your kidneys are working well enough to start taking it again, as advised by your doctor.

When can I restart my metformin medicine?

Your GP surgery will contact you when they have the results of your blood test. They will tell you if it is safe to restart your tablets.

If you have not heard from them within 1 week of your blood test, please contact your GP surgery.

You do not need to make an appointment to see a GP to get the result.

What if I am staying in hospital as an inpatient?

The ward doctor will arrange the blood test for you.

The ward doctor will tell you when you can restart your tablets.

What are the signs of too much acid in the blood?

The risk of getting too much acid in your blood is very low, even if your kidneys are working slower than normal.

The signs of having too much acid in your blood include:

- feeling very weak, tired and uncomfortable
- feeling cold
- muscle aches or pains
- feeling dizzy or light-headed
- difficulty breathing
- a sudden slow or irregular heartbeat
- tummy pain or discomfort

What must I do if I get these signs?

If any of these happen and are unusual to you, please call your GP surgery straight away or call the NHS Helpline on 111.

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice

Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.

To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net

We are a research hospital and you may be asked to take part in research