



SGLT2 inhibitor medicines for diabetes | Consumer information leaflet

What are SGLT2 inhibitor medicines?

Sodium-Glucose Co-transporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitor medicines are a type of diabetes medicine that can be used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes. They work to lower blood sugar (glucose) by acting on the kidneys so more sugar is removed from the body through the urine. These medicines are usually used with other diabetes medicines and are available in single or combination tablets.

Some examples of SGLT2 inhibitor medicines are below:

Single tablets	Combination tablets
Active ingredient name (Brand name)	SGLT2 inhibitor medicines with other diabetes medicines (Brand name)
Dapagliflozin (Forxiga®)	Dapagliflozin + Metformin (Xigduo®) Dapagliflozin + Saxagliptin (Qtern®)
Empagliflozin (Jardiance®)	Empagliflozin + Metformin (Jardiamet®) Empagliflozin + Linagliptin (Glyxambi®)
Ertugliflozin (Steglatro®)	Ertugliflozin + Metformin (Segluromet®) Ertugliflozin + Sitagliptin (Steglujan®)



The information in this leaflet is in addition to a product's [Consumer Medicines Information](#).

What are some of the benefits of taking SGLT2 inhibitor medicines?

- ✓ Lowers blood sugar level 
- ✓ Helps with weight loss 
- ✓ Slows kidney damage 
- ✓ Better blood pressure 
- ✓ Lowers risk of death in people with heart disease 

What are some possible side effects of taking SGLT2 inhibitor medicines?

- !! Genital or urinary tract infections
- !! Passing more urine more often; being thirstier
- !! Nausea and constipation
- !! Low blood pressure and dehydration
- !! Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) (see next page)

Tips to prevent side effects

Side effects are usually mild. It is recommended that you:

- ✓ Discuss what's a healthy water/fluid intake for you with your doctor 
- ✓ Maintain your recommended diabetes diet that includes fibre 
- ✓ See your doctor for treatment if you suspect infection.



What is diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)?

- **DKA is rare, but serious, and needs urgent medical treatment.**
- DKA occurs when instead of the body using blood sugar for energy, fat is broken down leading to high acid and ketones in the blood. DKA can occur in diabetes when there is not enough insulin to stop fat breakdown.
- DKA can occur in people taking SGLT2 inhibitor medicines, especially if normal eating or drinking routines change, for example when you are sick or having surgery. During these times, your body may be under 'stress' and start to use fat for energy.
- DKA can occur when the blood sugar level is normal or high.
- DKA can be prevented (see below).

What are the symptoms of DKA?

- Nausea and vomiting, stomach pain
- Abnormal breathing
- Fruity or sweet acetone smell on the breath
- Flushed cheeks
- Dehydration e.g. dizziness, very thirsty, dry mouth/lips.
- Unusual tiredness or sleepiness

How do you treat DKA?



If you have DKA, it is an **EMERGENCY**.

If you experience any of the DKA symptoms, you should:

- Call Triple Zero (000) or go immediately to the nearest Emergency Department.
- Tell the doctor that you are taking an SGLT2 inhibitor medicine.

To treat DKA, the hospital will usually give you insulin and replacement fluids intravenously.

How to reduce the chance of DKA?

Ask your doctor/anaesthetist/surgeon if you need to temporarily STOP your SGLT2 inhibitor medicine:

- If you are having surgery, a procedure or bowel preparation - SGLT2 inhibitor medicines are usually stopped on the day of, or up to 7 days before, the procedure - ask the doctor/anaesthetist/surgeon for details.
- If you are unable to eat or drink e.g. nausea, vomiting (or if you are eating & drinking less than usual).
- If you are sick with an infection or other illness.
- If you are on, or are planning to start, a very low carbohydrate diet.

Key points

- ⚠ When you see any doctor or health care professional, always tell them you are taking an SGLT2 inhibitor medicine.
- ⚠ If you are sick, contact your local doctor promptly to let them know and they will give you advice. They will check your blood sugar and blood ketone levels regularly until you are feeling better again.
- ⚠ If you become sick within 7 days of having surgery or leaving hospital, speak with your local doctor.
- ⚠ Always check with the doctor when you should start taking your SGLT2 inhibitor medicine again if you have been asked to pause taking it.

My SGLT2 inhibitor medicine name is:

My Diabetes specialist OR Local doctor name & phone number is:

For further information



- 🗣️ Speak to your doctor/specialist, pharmacist or nurse.
- 📞 Call the Medicines Line: 1300 633 424 from anywhere in Australia. Available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm AEST (except NSW public holidays).
- 🌐 Search for a Consumer Medicines Information leaflet online: <https://www.tga.gov.au/consumer-medicines-information-cmi>

<p>Doctor/nurse/pharmacist:</p> <p><i>Complete prior to discharge</i></p>	<p>Your SGLT2 inhibitor medicine was stopped on date: __/__/____</p> <p>Re-start your SGLT2 inhibitor medicine only if you are feeling well, eating and drinking normally</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on date: __/__/____ OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> when _____</p>
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