PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

^{Pr}ACC-METFORMIN

Metformin Hydrochloride Tablets, USP

500 mg and 850 mg

Oral Antihyperglycemic Agent

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^{Pr}ACC-METFORMIN

Metformin Hydrochloride Tablets, USP

Oral Antihyperglycemic Agent

PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	Clinically Relevant Nonmedicinal Ingredients
Oral	Tablet(s) 500 mg & 850 mg	*For a complete listing see Dosage Forms, Composition and Packaging section.*

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

ACC-METFORMIN (metformin hydrochloride) is indicated to control hyperglycemia in responsive, stable, mild, non-ketosis prone, maturity onset type of diabetes (Type II) which cannot be controlled by proper dietary management, exercise and weight reduction or when insulin therapy is not appropriate.

ACC-METFORMIN can be of value for the treatment of obese diabetic patients.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Unstable and/or insulin-dependent (Type I) diabetes mellitus.

- Acute or chronic metabolic acidosis, including diabetic ketoacidosis, with or without coma, history of ketoacidosis with or without coma. Diabetic ketoacidosis should be treated with insulin.

- In patients with a history of lactic acidosis, irrespective of precipitating factors.

- In the presence of renal impairment or when renal function is not known, and also in patients with serum creatinine levels above the upper limit of normal range. Renal disease or renal dysfunction (e.g., as suggested by serum creatinine levels ≥136 µmol/L (males), ≥124 µmol/L (females) or abnormal creatinine clearance <60 mL/min)) which may result from conditions such as cardiovascular collapse (shock), acute myocardial infarction, and septicemia (see also WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS).

- In excessive alcohol intake, acute or chronic.

In patients suffering from severe hepatic dysfunction, since severe hepatic dysfunction has been associated with some cases of lactic acidosis, ACC-METFORMIN (metformin hydrochloride) should generally be avoided in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease.

ACC-METFORMIN should be temporarily discontinued in patients undergoing radiologic studies involving intravascular administration of iodinated contrast materials, because use of such products may result in acute alteration of renal function (see WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS).

- In cases of cardiovascular collapse and in disease states associated with hypoxemia such as cardiorespiratory insufficiency, which are often associated with hyperlactacidemia.

- During stress conditions, such as severe infections, trauma or surgery and the recovery phase thereafter.

- In patients suffering from severe dehydration.

- Known hypersensitivity or allergy to metformin hydrochloride or any of the excipients. For a complete listing, see Dosage Forms, Composition and Packaging section of the product monograph.

- During pregnancy and breastfeeding.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warnings and Precautions

- Lactic acidosis is a rare, but serious, metabolic complication that occurs due to metformin accumulation during treatment with metformin hydrochloride (see Endocrine and Metabolism, Lactic Acidosis section below).

- Patients should be cautioned against excessive alcohol intake, either acute or chronic, when taking ACC-METFORMIN, since alcohol intake potentiates the effect of metformin on lactate metabolism (see Endocrine and Metabolism, Lactic Acidosis section below).

General

Patient Selection and Follow-up:

Careful selection of patients is important. It is imperative that there be rigid attention to diet and careful adjustment of dosage. Regular thorough follow-up examinations are necessary.

If vomiting occurs, withdraw drug temporarily, exclude lactic acidosis, and then resume dosage cautiously (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Particular attention should be paid to short range and long range complications which are peculiar to diabetes. Periodic cardiovascular, ophthalmic, hematological, hepatic and renal assessments are advisable.

Use of ACC-METFORMIN must be considered as treatment in addition to proper dietary regimen and not as a substitute for diet.

Care should be taken to ensure that ACC-METFORMIN is not given when a contraindication exists.

If during ACC-METFORMIN therapy the patient develops acute intercurrent disease such as; clinically significant hepatic dysfunction, cardiovascular collapse, congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, or other conditions complicated by hypoxemia, the drug should be discontinued.

Change in clinical status of previously controlled diabetes patients:
A diabetic patient previously well controlled on ACC-METFORMIN who develops laboratory abnormalities or clinical illness (especially vague and poorly defined illness) should be evaluated promptly for evidence of ketoacidosis or lactic acidosis. Evaluation should include serum electrolytes and ketones, blood glucose and, if indicated, blood pH, lactate, pyruvate and metformin levels. If acidosis of either form occurs, ACC-METFORMIN must be stopped immediately and appropriate corrective measures initiated.

Hypoxic states: Cardiovascular collapse (shock) from whatever cause, acute congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction and other conditions characterized by hypoxemia have been associated with lactic acidosis and may also cause prerenal azotemia. When such events occur in patients on ACC-METFORMIN therapy, the drug should be promptly discontinued.

Endocrine and Metabolism

Lactic acidosis:
Lactic acidosis is a rare, but serious, metabolic complication that occurs due to metformin accumulation during treatment with metformin hydrochloride. When it occurs, it is fatal in approximately 50% of cases. Lactic acidosis may also occur in association with a number of pathophysiologic conditions, including diabetes mellitus, and whenever there is significant tissue hypoperfusion and hypoxemia. Lactic acidosis is characterized by elevated blood lactate levels (> 5 mmol/L), decreased blood pH, electrolyte disturbances with an increased anion gap, and an increased lactate/pyruvate ratio. When metformin is implicated as the cause of lactic acidosis, metformin plasma levels >5 µg/mL are generally found.

The reported incidence of lactic acidosis in patients receiving metformin hydrochloride is very low (approximately 0.03 cases / 1000 patient-years, with approximately 0.015 fatal cases / 1000 patient-years) and occurs primarily in diabetic patients with significant renal insufficiency, including both intrinsic renal disease and renal hypoperfusion, often in the setting of multiple concomitant medical/surgical problems and multiple concomitant medications. Patients with congestive heart failure requiring pharmacologic management, in particular those with unstable or acute congestive heart failure who are at risk of hypoperfusion and hypoxemia, are at increased risk of lactic acidosis. In particular, treatment of the elderly should be accompanied by careful monitoring of renal function. ACC-METFORMIN treatment should not be initiated in patients ≥80 years of age, unless measurement of creatinine clearance demonstrates that renal function is not reduced, as the patients are more susceptible to developing lactic acidosis. The risk of lactic acidosis increases with the degree of renal dysfunction and the patient's age. The risk of lactic acidosis may, therefore, be significantly decreased by regular monitoring of renal function in patients taking ACC-METFORMIN and by use of the minimum effective dose of ACC-METFORMIN. In addition, ACC-METFORMIN should be promptly withheld in the presence of any condition associated with hypoxemia, dehydration or sepsis. Because impaired hepatic function may significantly limit the ability to clear lactate, ACC-METFORMIN should generally be avoided in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease. Patients should be cautioned against excessive alcohol intake, either acute or chronic, when taking ACC-METFORMIN, since alcohol intake potentiates the effect of metformin hydrochloride on lactate metabolism. In addition, ACC-METFORMIN should be temporarily discontinued prior to any intravascular radiocontrast study and for any surgical procedure. The onset of lactic acidosis often is subtle, and accompanied only by nonspecific symptoms such as malaise, myalgias, respiratory distress, increasing somnolence and non-specific abdominal distress. There may be associated hypothermia, hypotension and resistance bradyarrhythmias with more marked acidosis. The patient and the patient's physician must be aware of the possible importance of such symptoms and the patient should be instructed to notify the physician immediately if they occur. ACC-METFORMIN should be withdrawn until the situation is clarified. Serum electrolytes, ketones, blood glucose and, if indicated, blood pH, lactate levels and even blood metformin levels may be useful. Once a patient is stabilized on any dose level of ACC-METFORMIN, gastrointestinal symptoms, which are common during initiation of therapy, are unlikely to be drug related. Later occurrence of gastrointestinal symptoms could be due to lactic acidosis or other serious disease. Levels of fasting venous plasma lactate above the upper limit of normal but less than 5 mmol/L in patients taking ACC-METFORMIN do not necessarily indicate impending lactic acidosis and may be explainable by other mechanisms, such as poorly controlled diabetes or obesity, vigorous physical activity or technical problems in sample handling. Lactic acidosis should be suspected in any diabetic patient with metabolic acidosis lacking evidence of ketoacidosis (ketonuria and ketonemia).

Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency that must be treated in a hospital setting. In a patient with lactic acidosis who is taking ACC-METFORMIN, the drug should be discontinued immediately and general supportive measures promptly instituted. Because metformin hydrochloride is dialysable (with clearance of up to 170 mL/min under good hemodynamic conditions), prompt hemodialysis is recommended to correct the acidosis and remove the accumulated metformin. Such

management often results in prompt reversal of symptoms and recovery (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

NOTE: When used as indicated, there has not been a single case of lactic acidosis in Canada. ACC-METFORMIN should be immediately discontinued in the presence of acidosis.

Physicians should instruct their patients to recognize the symptoms which could be signal onset of lactic acidosis. If acidosis of any kind develops, ACC-METFORMIN should be discontinued immediately.

Loss of control of blood glucose:
When a patient stabilized on any diabetic regimen is exposed to stress such as fever, trauma, infection, or surgery, a temporary loss of glycemic control may occur. At such times, it may be necessary to withhold ACC-METFORMIN and temporarily administer insulin. ACC-METFORMIN may be reinstituted after the acute episode is resolved.

The effectiveness of oral antidiabetic drugs in lowering blood glucose to a targeted level decreases in many patients over a period of time. This phenomenon, which may be due to progression of the underlying disease or to diminished responsiveness to the drug, is known as secondary failure, to distinguish it from primary failure in which the drug is ineffective during initial therapy.

Should secondary failure occur with ACC-METFORMIN, therapeutic alternatives should be considered.

Vitamin B_{12} levels:
Impairment of vitamin B_{12} absorption has been reported in some patients. Therefore, measurements of serum vitamin B_{12} are advisable at least every one to two years in patients on long-term treatment with ACC-METFORMIN.

A decrease to subnormal levels of previously normal serum Vitamin B_{12} levels, without clinical manifestations, is observed in approximately 7% of patients receiving metformin hydrochloride in controlled clinical trials of 28 weeks duration. Such decrease, possibly due to interference with B_{12} absorption from B_{12}-intrinsic factor complex is, however, very rarely associated with anemia and appears to be rapidly reversible with discontinuation of metformin hydrochloride or vitamin B_{12} supplementation. Measurement of hematologic parameters on an annual basis is advised in patients on ACC-METFORMIN and any apparent abnormalities should be appropriately investigated and managed (see LABORATORY TESTS). Certain individuals (those with inadequate vitamin B_{12} or calcium intake or absorption) appear to be predisposed to developing subnormal vitamin B_{12} levels.

Hepatic/Billary/Pancreatic
Since impaired hepatic function has been associated with some cases of lactic acidosis, ACC-

METFORMIN should generally be avoided in patients with clinical or laboratory evidence of hepatic disease.

Hypoglycemia:
Hypoglycemia does not occur in patients receiving ACC-METFORMIN alone under usual circumstances of use, but could occur when caloric intake is deficient, when strenuous exercise is not compensated by caloric supplementation or during concomitant use with other glucose lowering agents or ethanol.

Elderly, debilitated or malnourished patients and those with adrenal or pituitary insufficiency or alcohol intoxication are particularly susceptible to hypoglycemic effects. Hypoglycemia may be difficult to recognize in the elderly, and in people who are taking beta-adrenergic blocking drugs.

The patient should be warned about driving a vehicle or operating machinery under these conditions where risk of hypoglycemia is present.

Peri-Operative Considerations
ACC-METFORMIN therapy should be temporarily suspended for any surgical procedure (except minor procedures not associated with restricted intake of food and fluids). ACC-METFORMIN should be discontinued 2 days before surgical intervention and should not be restarted until the patient's oral intake has resumed and renal function has been evaluated as normal.

Renal
Metformin hydrochloride is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney and the risk of metformin accumulation and lactic acidosis increases with the degree of impairment of renal function. Thus, patients with serum creatinine levels above the upper limit of the normal range for their age should not receive ACC-METFORMIN. In patients with advanced age, ACC-METFORMIN should be carefully titrated to establish the minimum dose for adequate glycemic effect, because aging is associated with reduced renal function. In elderly patients, renal function should be monitored regularly and generally, ACC-METFORMIN should not be titrated to the maximum dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Before initiation of ACC-METFORMIN therapy and every 6 months while on ACC-METFORMIN therapy, renal function should be assessed and verified as being within normal range.

In patients in whom development of renal dysfunction is anticipated, renal function should be assessed more frequently and ACC-METFORMIN discontinued if evidence of renal impairment is present.
Special caution should be exercised in situations where renal function may become impaired, for example when initiating antihypertensive therapy or diuretic therapy and when starting therapy with an NSAID.
Use of concomitant medications that may affect renal function or metformin disposition:

Concomitant medication(s) that may affect renal function or result in significant hemodynamic change or may interfere with disposition of ACC-METFORMIN, such as cationic drugs that are eliminated by renal tubular secretion (see DRUG INTERACTIONS), should be used with caution.

Radiological studies involving the use of intravascular iodinated contrast materials (for example, intravenous urogram, intravenous cholangiography, angiography, and computed tomography (CT) scans with intravascular contrast material.

Intravascular contrast studies with iodinated materials can lead to acute alteration of renal function and have been associated with lactic acidosis in patients receiving metformin (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). Therefore, in patients in whom any such study is planned, ACC-METFORMIN should be temporarily discontinued at the time of or prior to the procedure, and withheld for 48 hours subsequent to the procedure and reinstituted only after renal function has been re-evaluated and found to be normal.

Special Population

Pregnant Women:

Safety in pregnant women has not been established. Metformin was not teratogenic in rats and rabbits at doses up to 600 mg/kg/day, or about two times the maximum recommended human daily dose on a body surface area basis. Determination of fetal concentrations demonstrated a partial placental barrier to metformin. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, the use metformin hydrochloride is not recommended during pregnancy.

Because recent information suggests that abnormal blood glucose levels during pregnancy are associated with a higher incidence of congenital abnormalities, there is a consensus among experts that insulin be used during pregnancy to maintain blood glucose levels as close to normal as possible.

Nursing Women:

Studies in lactating rats show that metformin is excreted into milk and reaches levels comparable to those in plasma. Similar studies have not been conducted in nursing mothers, but caution should be exercised in such patients, and a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatrics:

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

Geriatrics:

Controlled clinical studies of metformin hydrochloride did not include sufficient numbers of elderly patients to determine whether they respond differently from younger patients, although other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. Metformin hydrochloride is known to be substantially excreted by the

kidney and because the risk of serious adverse reactions to the drug is greater in patients with impaired renal function, it should only be used in patients with normal renal function (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). Because aging is associated with reduced renal function, ACC-METFORMIN should be used with caution as age increases. Care should be taken in dose selection and should be based on careful and regular monitoring or renal function. Generally, elderly patients should not be titrated to the maximum dose of ACC-METFORMIN.

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests:

Response to all diabetic therapies should be monitored by periodic measurements of fasting blood glucose and glycosylated hemoglobin levels, with a goal of decreasing these levels toward the normal range. During initial dose titration, fasting glucose can be used to determine the therapeutic response. Thereafter, both glucose and glycosylated hemoglobin should be monitored. Measurements of glycosylated hemoglobin may be especially useful for evaluating long-term control (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Initial and periodic monitoring of hematologic parameters (e.g., hemoglobin/hematocrit and red blood cell indices) and renal function (serum creatinine) should be performed, at least on an annual basis. While megaloblastic anemia has rarely been seen with metformin hydrochloride therapy, if this is suspected, vitamin B_{12} deficiency should be excluded.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse Drug Reaction Overview

The adverse events most commonly associated with metformin hydrochloride are diarrhea, nausea, and upset stomach. Lactic acidosis is a rare, but serious side effect. Lactic acidosis is fatal in approximately 50% of cases.

Lactic Acidosis: very rare (<1/10,000 and isolated reports). See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, and OVERDOSAGE Sections.

Gastrointestinal Reactions: very common: (>1/10) Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal bloating, flatulence, and anorexia) are the most common reactions to metformin hydrochloride and are approximately 30% more frequent in patients on metformin hydrochloride monotherapy than in placebo-treated patients, particularly during initiation of metformin hydrochloride therapy. These symptoms are generally transient and resolve spontaneously during continued treatment. Occasionally, temporary dose reduction may be useful.

Because gastrointestinal symptoms during therapy initiation appear to be dose-related, they may be decreased by gradual dose escalation and by having patients take ACC-METFORMIN (metformin hydrochloride) with meals (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Because significant diarrhea and/or vomiting can cause dehydration and prerenal azotemia, ACC-METFORMIN should be temporarily discontinued, under such circumstances.

For patients who have been stabilized on ACC-METFORMIN, nonspecific gastrointestinal symptoms should not be attributed to therapy unless intercurrent illness or lactic acidosis have been excluded.

Special Senses: common (≥1/100): During initiation of ACC-METFORMIN therapy complaints of taste disturbance are common, i.e. metallic taste.

Dermatologic Reactions: very rare (<1/10,000 and isolated reports): The incidence of rash/dermatitis in controlled clinical trials was comparable to placebo for metformin hydrochloride monotherapy and to sulfonylurea for metformin hydrochloride/sulfonylurea therapy. Reports of skin reactions such as erythema, pruritus, and urticaria are very rare.

Hematologic: During controlled clinical trials of 29 weeks duration, approximately 9% of patients on metformin hydrochloride monotherapy and 6% of patients on metformin hydrochloride/sulfonylurea therapy developed asymptomatic subnormal serum vitamin B_{12} levels; serum folic acid levels did not decrease significantly. However, only five cases of megaloblastic anemia have been reported with metformin administration (none during U.S. clinical studies) and no increased incidence of neuropathy has been observed (see also WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

Decrease of vitamin B_{12} absorption with decrease of serum levels during long-term use of metformin is rare (≥1/10,000 and <1/1,000). Consideration of such aetiology is recommended if a patient presents with megaloblastic anemia.

Hepatic: very rare (<1/10,000 and isolated reports): Liver function tests abnormalities or hepatitis resolving upon metformin discontinuation has been documented in isolated reports.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Overview

Certain drugs may potentiate the effect of ACC-METFORMIN, particularly sulfonylurea type of drugs in the treatment of diabetes. The simultaneous administration of these two types of drugs could produce a hypoglycemic reaction, especially if they are given in patients already receiving other drugs which, themselves, can potentiate the effect of sulfonylureas. These drugs can be: long-acting sulfonamides, tubercolostatics, phenylbutazone, clofibrate, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, salicylates, probenecid and propranolol.

In healthy volunteers, the pharmacokinetics of propranolol and ibuprofen were not affected by metformin when co-administered in single-dose interaction studies.

Metformin is negligibly bound to plasma proteins and is, therefore, less likely to interact with highly protein-bound drugs such as salicylates, sulfonamides, chloramphenicol, and probenecid, as compared to sulfonylureas, which are extensively bound to serum proteins.

Drug-Drug Interactions

Glyburide:
In a single-dose interaction study in NIDDM subjects, co-administration of metformin and glyburide did not result in any changes in either metformin pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics. Decreases in glyburide AUC and C_{max} were observed, but were highly variable. The single-dose nature of this study and the lack of correlation between glyburide blood levels and pharmacodynamics effects makes the clinical significance of this interaction uncertain.

Furosemide:
A single-dose study, metformin- furosemide drug interaction study in healthy subjects demonstrated that pharmacokinetic parameters of both compounds were affected by co-administration. Furosemide increased the metformin plasma and blood C_{max} by 22% and blood AUC by 15%, without any significant change in metformin renal clearance. When administered with metformin, the C_{max} and AUC of furosemide were 31% and 12% smaller, respectively, than when administered alone, and the terminal half-life was decreased by 32%, without any significant change in furosemide renal clearance. No information is available about the interaction of metformin and furosemide when co-administered chronically.

Nifedipine:
A single-dose, metformin-nifedipine drug interaction study in healthy volunteers demonstrated that co-administration of nifedipine increased plasma metformin C_{max} and AUC by 20% and 9%, respectively, and increased the amount excreted in the urine. T_{max} and half-life were unaffected. Nifedipine appears to enhance the absorption of metformin. Metformin had minimal effects on nifedipine.

Cationic Drugs:
Cationic drugs (e.g., amiloride, digoxin, morphine, procainamide, quinidine, quinine, ranitidine, triamterene, trimethoprim, and vancomycin) that are eliminated by renal tubular secretion theoretically have the potential for interaction with metformin by competing for common renal tubular transport systems. Such an interaction has been observed between metformin and oral cimetidine in normal healthy volunteers in both single and multiple-dose, metformin-cimetidine drug interaction studies, with a 60% increase in peak metformin plasma and whole blood concentrations and a 40% increase in plasma and whole blood metformin AUC was observed. There was no change in elimination half-life in the single-dose study. Metformin had no effect on cimetidine pharmacokinetics. Therefore, careful patient monitoring and dose adjustment of ACC-METFORMIN or the interfering drug is recommended in patients who are taking cationic medications that are excreted via renal tubular secretion.

Other:
Other drugs tend to produce hyperglycemia and may lead to a loss of blood sugar control. These include thiazide and other diuretics, corticosteroids, phenothiazines, thyroid products, estrogens, estrogen plus progestogen, oral contraceptives, phenytoin, nicotinic acid, sympathomimetics, calcium channel blocking drugs, isoniazid, and beta-2-agonists. ACE-inhibitors may decrease the blood glucose levels. When such drugs are administered to patients receiving ACC-METFORMIN, the patient should be closely observed to maintain adequate glycemic control.

Elimination rate of the anticoagulant phenprocoumon has been reported to be increased by 20% when used concurrently with metformin hydrochloride. Therefore, patients receiving phenprocoumon or other antivitamin K anticoagulants should be monitored carefully when both types of drugs are used simultaneously. In such cases, an important increase of prothrombin time may occur upon cessation of ACC-METFORMIN therapy, with an increased risk of hemorrhage.

Drug – Food Interaction:

Interactions with food have not been established.

Drug – Herb Interaction:

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

Drug – Laboratory Test Interactions:

Intravascular contrast studies with iodinated materials can lead to acute alteration of renal function and have been associated with lactic acidosis in patients receiving metformin (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

Drug-Lifestyle Interactions

Patients should be cautioned against excessive alcohol intake, either acute or chronic, when taking ACC-METFORMIN, since alcohol intake potentiates the effect of metformin on lactate metabolism (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dosing Considerations
In diabetic patients, individual determination of the minimum dose that will lower blood glucose adequately should be made, aiming for glycemic targets as close to normal as possible. A lower recommended starting dose and gradually increased dosage is advised to minimize gastrointestinal symptoms.

Over a period of time, patients may become progressively less responsive to therapy with oral hypoglycemic agents because of deterioration of their diabetic state. Patients should therefore be

monitored with regular clinical and laboratory evaluations, including blood glucose and glycosylated hemoglobin (AlC) determinations, to determine the minimum effective dosage and to detect primary failure or secondary failure (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

In patients in whom the maximum dose fails to lower the blood glucose adequately, therapeutic alternatives should be considered.

The usual dose is 500 mg three or four times a day, or 850 mg two or three times a day. Maximal dose should not exceed 2.55 g a day. To minimize gastric intolerance such as nausea and vomiting ACC-METFORMIN (metformin hydrochloride) should be taken with food whenever possible.

Transfer from Other Antidiabetic Therapy

When transferring patients from standard oral hypoglycaemic agents, other than chlorpropamide, to metformin hydrochloride, no transition period generally is necessary. When transferring patients from chlorpropamide, care should be exercised during the first two weeks because of the prolonged retention of chlorpropamide in the body, leading to overlapping drug effects and possible hypoglycemia.

Missed Dose

In case the patient forgets to take ACC-METFORMIN tablets, he/she should wait for the next dose at the usual time. He/she should not double the dose to make up the forgotten dose.

OVERDOSAGE

Available information concerning treatment of a massive overdosage of metformin hydrochloride is very limited. It would be expected that adverse reactions of a more intense character including epigastric discomfort, nausea and vomiting followed by diarrhea, drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, malaise and headache might be seen. Should those symptoms persist, lactic acidosis should be excluded. The drug should be discontinued and proper supportive therapy instituted.

Overdose of Metformin hydrochloride has occurred, including ingestion of amounts greater than 50 grams. Hypoglycemia was reported in approximately 10% of cases, but no causal association with metformin hydrochloride has been established. Lactic acidosis has been reported in approximately 32% of metformin overdose cases (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). Metformin is dialyzable with a clearance of up to 170 mL/min under good hemodynamic conditions. Therefore, hemodialysis may be useful for removal of accumulated drug from patients in whom metformin overdosage is suspected.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

ACC-METFORMIN (metformin hydrochloride) is a biguanide derivative producing an antihyperglycemic effect which can only be observed in man or in the diabetic animal and only when there is insulin secretion. Metformin, at therapeutic doses, does not cause hypoglycemia when used alone in man or in the non-diabetic animal, except when using a near lethal dose. Metformin has no effects on the pancreatic beta cells. The mode of action of metformin is not fully understood. It has been postulated that metformin might potentiate the effect of insulin or that it might enhance the effect of insulin on the peripheral receptor site. This increased sensitivity seems to follow an increase in the number of insulin receptors on cell surface membranes.

Metformin absorption is relatively slow and may extend over about 6 hours. The drug is excreted in urine at high renal clearance rate of about 450 mL/min. The initial elimination of metformin is rapid with a half-life varying between 1.7 and 3 hours. The terminal elimination phase accounting for about 4 to 5 % of the absorbed dose is slow with a half-life between 9 and 17 hours. Metformin is not metabolized. Its main sites of concentration are the intestinal mucosa and the salivary glands. The plasma concentration at steady-state ranges about 1 to 2 mcg/mL. Certain drugs may potentiate the effects of metformin (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS and DRUG INTERACTIONS).

STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store at room temperature (15^{o}C to 30^{o}C) in well closed containers.

DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Drug Form:

500 mg: White to off-white, round, biconvex film coated tablets, scored on one side and debossed with “I 74” on the other side.

850 mg: White to off-white, capsule shaped, biconvex film coated tablets, debossed with “I 75” on one side and plain on the other side.

Composition:

ACC-METFORMIN tablets contain 500mg or 850mg metformin hydrochloride. Each tablet also contain as non-medicinal ingredients:

- Hypromellose
- Povidone
- Sodium starch glycolate
- Colloidal Silicon Dioxide
- Magnesium Stearate and
- Opadry II white (with Blackberry flavor)

Packaging:

500 mg: Bottles of 100, 360 and 500 tablets.

850mg: Bottles of 100, 360 and 500 tablets.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

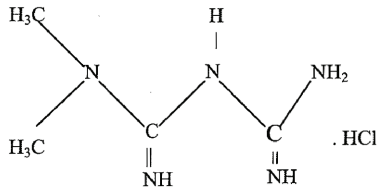
Drug Substance

Common name: Metformin Hydrochloride

Chemical name: N,N-dimethyl biguanide hydrochloride

Molecular formula and molecular mass: C4H11N5. HCl ; 165.67

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Metformin Hydrochloride is a white crystal, which melts at 222-226°C

Metformin Hydrochloride is freely soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol and practically insoluble in acetone and methylene chloride.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Comparative Bioavailability Studies:

A double blinded, randomized, two-sequence, two-treatment, two-period, crossover, single dose, bioequivalence study of ACC-METFORMIN (Metformin Hydrochloride) 500 mg Tablets, with [Pr]Glucophage® (Metformin Hydrochloride) 500 mg Tablets of Sanofi-aventis Canada Inc., in 37 normal, healthy, adult, male and female human subjects under fasting conditions was conducted and the results are tabulated below.

Summary Table of the Comparative Bioavailability Data

Metformin HCI Tablets Fasted Study (1 x 500 mg) From measured data **uncorrected for potency** Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	Test*	Reference†	% Ratio of Geometric Means	90 % Confidence Interval
AUC_T (ng*hr/mL)	8012.92 8171.57 (20.98)	7777.20 7908.55 (21.29)	103.0310	99.4147-106.7787
AUC_I (ng*hr/mL)	8347.44 8510.49 (20.78)	8142.24 8269.35 (20.63)	102.5202	99.0117-106.1530
C_{max} (ng/mL)	1263.17 1296.53 (23.46)	1227.96 1248.07 (20.54)	102.8671	97.3711-108.6733
T_{max}§ (h)	2.25 (1.00-4.25)	3.00 (1.50-4.50)		
$T_{½}$€ (h)	2.99 (8.44)	2.98 (10.19)		

* ACC-METFORMIN tablets, 500mg, manufactured by International Pharmaceutical Generics Limited
† Glucophage, manufactured by Sanofi-aventis Canada Inc (purchased in Canada)
§ Expressed as the median (range) only
€ Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only

A double blinded, randomized, two-sequence, two-treatment, two-period, crossover, single dose, bioequivalence study of ACC-METFORMIN (Metformin Hydrochloride) 500 mg Tablets, with [Pr]Glucophage® (Metformin Hydrochloride) 500 mg Tablets of Sanofi-aventis Canada Inc., in 37 normal, healthy, adult, male and female human subjects under fed conditions was conducted and the results are tabulated below.

Summary Table of the Comparative Bioavailability Data

Metformin HCI Tablets)
Fed Study (1 x 500 mg)

From measured data
uncorrected for potency
Geometric Mean
Arithmetic Mean (CV %)

Parameter	Test*	Reference†	% Ratio of Geometric Means	90 % Confidence Interval
AUC_T (ng*hr/mL)	5838.38 5979.16 (22.13)	5570.08 5732.61 (24.36)	104.8167	100.3968- 109.4312
AUC_I (ng*hr/mL)	6185.92 6331.20 (21.94)	5931.00 6087.16 (23.18)	104.2981	100.0398- 108.7378
C_{max} (ng/mL)	809.22 825.59 (20.35)	757.28 769.04 (17.83)	106.8596	102.4703- 111.4368
T_{max}§ (h)	4.00 (1.75 to 5.00)	4.25 (1.50 to 6.00)		
$T_{½}$€ (h)	3.03 (0.38)	3.08 (0.39)		

* ACC-METFORMIN tablets, 500mg, manufactured by International Pharmaceutical Generics Limited
† Glucophage, manufactured by Sanofi-aventis Canada Inc (purchased in Canada)
§ Expressed as the median (range) only
€ Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only

The data which formed the basis of approval for the original metformin hydrochloride submission are not available. Rather, this section presents data from a published study which investigated the safety and efficacy of metformin.

The prospective randomised (UKPDS) study has established the long-term benefit of intensive blood glucose control in adult patients with type 2 diabetes. Analysis of the results for overweight patients treated with metformin after failure of diet alone showed:

- a significant reduction of the absolute risk of any diabetes-related complication in the metformin group (29.8 events/1000 patient-years) versus diet alone (43.3 events/1000

patient-years), p=0.0023, and versus the combined sulfonylurea and insulin monotherapy groups (40.1 events/1000 patient-years), p=0.0034;

- a significant reduction of the absolute risk of diabetes-related mortality: metformin 7.5 events//1000 patient years, diet alone 12.7 events/1000 patient-years, p=0.017. There was no significant difference between the metformin group and those assigned intensive therapy with sulfonylurea or insulin.

- a significant reduction of the absolute risk of overall mortality; metformin 13.5 events/1000 patient-years versus diet alone 20.6 events/1000 patient-years (p=0.011), and versus the combined sulfonylurea and insulin monotherapy groups 18.9 events/1000 patient-years (p=0.021);

- a significant reduction in the absolute risk of myocardial infarction: metformin 11 events/1000 patient-years, diet alone 18 events/1000 patient-years (p=0.01). There was no significant difference between the metformin group and those assigned intensive *therapy with sulfonylurea or insulin.*

- there were no significant differences between the metformin group and the diet alone in the other aggregate endpoints (stroke, peripheral vascular disease and microvascular complications.

DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

Metformin absorption is relatively slow and may extend over about 6 hours.

Animal studies with metformin, labeled with ^{14}C have shown that the drug is neither concentrated by liver cells nor is it excreted in the bile; it is concentrated in the intestinal mucosa and salivary glands.

It has been shown that, following a 2 g dose of metformin, the blood level remains under 10mcg/mL even at the peak, occurring 2 hours after absorption. During the experiments, metformin was shown to be devoid of any notable action in the body, apart from its specific metabolic activity.

In the healthy animal, metformin lowers blood sugar only at a nearly lethal dose. Different animal species are of unequal sensitivity. On the other hand, the animal with experimental diabetes, is sensitive to a much lower dosage, providing some insulin is still secreted.

The antihyperglycemic action of metformin is probably mediated through insulin:

Metformin improves the K co-efficient of glucose assimulation.

Metformin improves the co-efficient of insulin efficiency.

In the obese diabetic with hyperinsulinemia, metformin is reported to normalize insulin output. This normalizing effect is concurrent to that of glycemia.

Metformin has little effect on liver glycogen of the healthy animal. In low and average doses, no change occurs. In high doses nearing lethal levels, liver glycogen decreases. This lowering precedes the fall in blood sugar. This reaction represents a defense mechanism tending to mobilize body reserves in order to combat hypoglycemia.

In the diabetic animal with a low liver glycogen reserve, the opposite occurs and metformin builds up glycogen stores of the liver. *In vitro*, on muscular tissue isolated in Warburg's apparatus, metformin increases glucose uptake by the muscle. This action follows an aerobic pathway. Even in high concentration, contrary to phenethyl-biguanide, metformin apparently does not block respiration or change carbohydrate metabolism via the anaerobic pathway.

Metformin is eliminated in faeces and urine. It is rapidly excreted by the kidneys in an unchanged form.

Renal clearance is 450 mL/minute; this appears to explain the absence of accumulation.

Metabolites of metformin have not been identified, neither by radio-active nor by chemical methods.

A single Rf spot is always present following radiochromatographic study of urine and always corresponds to that of pure metformin. Administration during 10 consecutive days has not shown any sign of accumulation.

Inhibition of glyconeogenesis has been observed in animals following its stimulation by fasting, cortisol, alcohol or other substrates such as alanine lactate or pyruvate. However, such an effect varies according to the type and dosage of the biguanide used, nutritional state of the animal species and design of experimental model.

This inhibition of glyconeogenesis is observed only in the presence of insulin and it does not appear to play an important role in man.

Inhibition of intestinal absorption of sugars, which is not related to a malabsorption phenomenon has been observed with biguanides under certain experimental conditions in animal and in man. In one study, a 20% retardation of galactose absorption was observed in man receiving metformin. However, such an effect of metformin could not be confirmed in another study in man.

Recent findings appear to indicate that most of the metabolic effects of the biguanides are exerted through a single mechanism, namely inhibition of fatty acid oxidation and of acetyl-CoA generation.

However, inhibition of insulin-stimulated lipogenesis which has also been observed appears to be due to the inhibition of acetyl-CoA carboxylase by the biguanides. Such an effect may explain, at least partly, the weight-reducing effect exerted by these drugs in obese diabetic patients.

TOXICOLOGY

1. Animal Toxicity

Acute Toxicity
(LD50)

Animal	Subcutaneously	Orally
Mouse	225 mg/kg	3500 mg/kg
Chicken	150 mg/kg	
Rat	300 mg/kg	1000 mg/kg
Rabbit	150 mg/kg	350 mg/kg
Guinea Pig	150 mg/kg	500 mg/kg

Chronic Toxicity

A) The following doses of metformin produced no organ toxicity:

Rats	125 mg/kg	per os for one year
Rabbits	100 mg/kg	per os for one year
Dogs	50 mg/kg	subcutaneously for 2 years

Acute or chronic organ toxicity was not produced in the animal species involved.

B) A study was carried out during 9 months with 80 rats, male and female, divided in 4 groups, with the following dosage regimen:

lst Group control
2nd Group 150 mg/kg per os
3rd Group 300 mg/kg per os
4th Group 300 mg/kg per os, dose increased by 100 mg/kg/day every 15 days

In summary, the authors report the excellent tolerance of metformin by rats, even when administered in very high doses. No drug related lesion has been observed.

C) Chronic toxicity studies of 9 months duration were carried through with 16 beagle dogs, although the complete intolerance of this animal species to oral hypoglycemic agents is a well established fact. Trophic and neurologic disorders with cachexia rapidly lead to the dog's death. During the periods of metformin administration, laboratory findings were within normal limits. The levels of enzymes were somewhat elevated, but it is difficult to ascribe a pathological significance to their values, since subjects in the control group were at the same level as treated animals.

Pathological studies show an extreme degree of undernutrition in all metformin treated animals. Profound wasting especially marked in fat tissues was evident in all organs. Cachexia appears as the common cause of death of these animals.

2. Human Toxicity

In man, no adverse effect has been reported on liver or kidney function, the hematopoietic system or on the blood vessels.

The reported incidence of lactic acidosis in patients receiving metformin hydrochloride is very low (approximately 0.03 cases / 1000 patient/years with approximately 0.015 fatal cases / 1000 patients/years).

The consecutive administration of both phenformin and metformin to the same patient has allowed for the demonstration of a fundamental difference between these two biguanides in relation to lactacidemia. In some instances, patients developed hyperlactacidemia with phenformin when the same patients were presenting normal lactic acid levels while being treated with metformin. In other instances, hyperlactacidemia observed during a treatment with phenformin did regress when metformin was substituted for phenformin. Metformin may increase lactacidemia but to a degree that is clinically less significant than the elevation seen after phenformin.

3. Teratology

Teratological studies were carried out in albino rats divided in three groups:
No abnormalities were found, even when high doses were administered. The number of animals was the same in each group.

Death rate in the three groups of treated animals and controls was approximately the same. However, the number of living animals in each group treated was slightly lower than in the control group. Also, the frequency of litters exceeding 10 live animals was slightly higher

in the control group. A loss of weight at the time of weaning has been observed when compared to the control group.

Nevertheless, on a statistical basis, differences were shown to be non-significant. There is no difference between the groups of treated animals and the control group regarding the number of stillborn. The number of deaths after birth was slightly higher in metformin treated groups than in the control group, but the comparison of average death rates is not significant ($p < 0.05$).

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PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

PrACC-METFORMIN
Metformin Hydrochloride Tablets, USP

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when ACC-METFORMIN was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about ACC-METFORMIN. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What this medication is used for:
ACC-METFORMIN (metformin hydrochloride) is used to treat type 2 diabetes which cannot be controlled by proper diet, exercise and weight reduction.

What it does:
ACC-METFORMIN is used to treat type 2 diabetes. People with type 2 diabetes are not able to make enough insulin or respond normally to the insulin their bodies make. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood. This can lead to serious medical problems including kidney damage, amputations, and blindness. Diabetes is also closely linked to heart disease. The main goal of treating diabetes is to lower your blood sugar to a normal level.

High blood sugar can be lowered by diet and exercise, by a number of medicines taken by mouth, and by insulin shots. While you take your diabetes medicine, continue to exercise and follow the diet advised for your diabetes, by your doctor.

No matter what your recommended diabetes management plan is, studies have shown that maintaining good blood sugar control can prevent or delay complications of diabetes, such as blindness.

ACC-METFORMIN helps control your blood sugar. Although the mode of action is not fully understood, it is believed to help your body respond better to the insulin it makes naturally by:
- decreasing the amount of sugar your liver makes, and
- decreasing the amount of sugar your intestines absorb.

When it should not be used:
Do not take ACC-METFORMIN if:
you have unstable and/or insulin-dependent (Type I) diabetes mellitus
- have metabolic acidosis (including diabetic ketoacidosis, history of ketoacidosis or lactic acidosis – too much acid in the blood).
- drink a lot of alcohol
- have liver or kidney problems
- are going to have x-ray procedure with injection of dyes
- are stressed, have severe infections, are experiencing trauma, prior to surgery or during the recovery phase
- suffer from severe dehydration (have lost a lot of water from your body)
- are hypersensitive or allergic to metformin hydrochloride or any ingredient in the formulation or component of the container
- are breastfeeding
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant
- have cardiovascular collapse (abrupt failure of blood circulation) or cardiorespiratory insufficiency.

What the medicinal ingredient is:
The medicinal ingredient for ACC-METFORMIN is metformin hydrochloride.

What the important nonmedicinal ingredients are:
ACC-METFORMIN tablets contain the following non-medicinal ingredients: Hypromellose, Povidone, Sodium starch glycolate, Colloidal Silicon Dioxide, Magnesium Stearate and Opadry II white (Blackberry flavor).

What dosage forms it comes in:
ACC-METFORMIN (metformin hydrochloride) is formulated into tablets of 500 mg and 850 mg strengths for oral administration.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warnings and Precautions
ACC-METFORMIN, may rarely cause a serious, life-threatening condition called lactic acidosis (see section Lactic Acidosis below).

You should not drink a lot of alcohol if you take ACC-METFORMIN (see section Lactic Acidosis below).

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Lactic Acidosis
ACC-METFORMIN may rarely cause a serious, life-threatening condition called lactic acidosis.

You should not take ACC-METFORMIN due to greater risk for lactic acidosis if you:

- have kidney problems
- are 80 years or older and you have NOT had your kidney function tested
- are seriously dehydrated (have lost a lot of water from your body)
- have liver disease
- drink a lot of alcohol (regularly drink alcohol or sometimes drink a lot of alcohol, binge drinking)
- have an x-ray procedure with injection of dyes (contrast agents)
- prior to surgery or during recovery phase
- develop a serious medical condition, such as heart attack, severe infection, or a stroke

Due to greater risk for lactic acidosis, you should talk to your doctor if you take ACC-METFORMIN and if you:

- develop or experience a worsening of heart disease and particularly heart failure

Signs and symptoms of lactic acidosis include: discomfort, muscle pain, difficult or fast breathing, extreme tiredness, weakness, upset stomach, stomach pain, feeling cold, low blood pressure or slow heartbeat.

If any of the above side effects occur, consult your doctor immediately.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. ACC-METFORMIN should not be used during pregnancy and insulin treatment is recommended during pregnancy. Talk with your doctor about your choices. You must not take ACC-METFORMIN if you are nursing a child.

Tell your doctor of any other medical condition including: vitamin B-12 deficiency or anemia, excessive alcohol use, allergies.

Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

Some drugs may interact with ACC-METFORMIN. Careful monitoring is advised. Tell your doctor if you are taking:

- other diabetes drugs such as glyburide
- furosemide
- nifedipine
- cationic drugs (e.g., amiloride, digoxin, morphine,procainamide,quinidine,quinine, ranitidine, triamterene, trimethoprim, and vancomycin)
- other drugs tend to produce hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) and may lead to a loss of blood sugar control. Some example of drugs that can increase the blood sugar include:
    - Thiazide and other diurectics (water pills)
    - Corticosteroids
    - Phenothiazines
    - Thyroid products
    - Estrogens or estrogens plus progestogen
    - Oral contraceptives
    - Phenytoin
    - Nicotinic Acid
    - Sympathomimetics
    - Calcium channel blocking drugs
    - Isoniazid
    - Beta-2-agonists
- ACE inhibitors drugs may lower blood glucose and the combination with ACC-METFORMIN should be carefully monitored.

Before using any drugs or herbal products, check with your doctor or your pharmacist.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Usual adult dose:
Your doctor will tell you how much medicine to take and when to take it. Follow the directions provided by your doctor for using this medicine. Taking this medicine with food will decrease symptoms such as nausea and vomiting.

Overdose:
In general, an overdose may lead to increased symptoms as described under "SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM" including stomach discomfort, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, malaise and headache.

A serious, life-threatening condition called lactic acidosis may also occur (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Lactic Acidosis).

If you have taken too much ACC-METFORMIN, immediately see your doctor, contact the poison control or go to the nearest hospital emergency department. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Missed Dose:
If you forget to take ACC-METFORMIN tablets, do not take a double dose to make up for the forgotten individual doses. Take the next dose at the usual time.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT

Common side effects include:
- diarrhea
- nausea
- vomiting
- abdominal-bloating
- gas
- loss of appetite

These side effects generally go away after you take the medicine for a while. Taking your medicine with meals can help reduce these side effects. Tell your doctor if the side effects bother you a lot, last for more than a few weeks, come back after they've gone away, or start later in therapy. You may need a lower dose or a need to stop taking the medicine for a short period or for good.

ACC-METFORMIN hydrochloride rarely cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) by themselves. However, hypoglycemia can happen if you do not eat enough, if you drink alcohol, or if you take other medicines to lower blood sugar.

Lactic Acidosis. **In rare cases, metformin hydrochloride can cause a serious side effect called lactic acidosis. This is caused by a buildup of lactic acid in your blood. This build-up can cause serious damage**. Lactic acidosis cause by metformin hydrochloride is rare and has occurred mostly in people whose kidneys were not working normally. Although rare, if lactic acidosis does occur, it can be fatal in up to half the people who develop it.

It is also important for your liver to be working normally when you take ACC-METFORMIN. Your liver helps remove lactic acid from your blood.

Make sure you tell your doctor before you use ACC-METFORMIN if you have kidney or liver problems.

You should also **stop using ACC-METFORMIN and call your doctor right away if you have signs of lactic acidosis. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency that must be treated in a hospital.**

If your medical condition suddenly changes, stop taking ACC-METFORMIN and call your doctor right away. This may be a sign of lactic acidosis or another serious side effect.

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking ACC-METFORMIN, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

Store at room temperature (15°C to 30°C) in well closed

Store at room temperature (15°C to 30°C) in well closed containers. Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed. Talk to your pharmacist about the proper disposal of your medication.

Keep out of reach of children.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:
Report online at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect
Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:
Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or
Mail to:
Canada Vigilance Program
Health Canada
Postal Locator 0701D
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect.

Note: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals. This leaflet was prepared by Accel Pharma Inc.

Date of preparation: July 18, 2013

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom / effect	Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist
Uncommon	
Feeling very weak, tired or Uncomfortable	√
Unusual muscle pain	√
Trouble breathing	√
Unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort	√
Feeling cold	√
Feeling dizzy or lightheaded	√
Suddenly developing a slow or irregular heartbeat	√
Rare	
Lactic acidosis and symptoms which may be	
• Feeling very weak, tired, or uncomfortable	√
• Unusual muscle pain	
• Trouble breathing	
• Unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort	
• Feeling cold	
• Feeling dizzy or lightheaded	
• Suddenly developing a slow or irregular heartbeat	