

Type 2 Diabetes Medications: Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors

One class of diabetes medications are the **alpha-glucosidase** (AL-fa-gloo-KOH-sih-days) **inhibitors**.

How Do Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors Work?

Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors work by slowing the absorption of glucose in the digestive tract. This lowers your blood glucose levels and keeps these levels more stable with fewer highs and lows.

What Are Some Generic Names For Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors?

Some generic names for alpha-glucosidase inhibitors include miglitol (MIG-leh-tall) and acarbose (AK-er-bose).

What Are Some Brand Names For Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors?

Some brand names for alpha-glucosidase inhibitors include Glyset[®] and Precose[®].

How Many Times A Day Should You Take Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors?

Your doctor may prescribe alpha-glucosidase inhibitors one to three times a day with the first bite of every meal.

What Are Some Potential Side Effects of Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors?

Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors may cause gas, diarrhea, and/or abdominal discomfort. These side effects can be minimized by starting with a low dose. People with gastrointestinal disease should not take alpha-glucosidase inhibitors.

This handout contains general information on diabetes medication. It is not intended to replace medical advice. It is important to talk to your doctor or pharmacist about your dosage and any other questions that you may have.



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