

# Pre and Post Contrast Information for Patients taking Metformin

Metformin is a drug used to treat diabetes.

It is also known as:

- Glucophage
- Glucovance
- Metaglip
- Avandamet
- Riomet
- Diofen brands in the USA.

New Metformin drugs with different names may be available by the time you read this. Some patients obtain drugs outside the USA, where other names for Metformin may be used.

Metformin has been rarely associated with serious side effects. The most serious side effect is lactic acidosis. Lactic acidosis is caused by a build-up of lactic acid in the blood. Lactic acidosis is rare, and occurs mostly in people whose kidneys were not working normally. Although uncommon, lactic acidosis can be fatal in up to half the cases.

Some tests involve injecting contrast agents (x-ray "dye") into the bloodstream. These contrast agents can cause mild and short-term changes in kidney function. These changes are rarely important or long lasting. The chance of major changes in kidney function is very low.

**Metformin should be stopped at the time of your test and for at least 48 hours after your test, because of the risk of lactic acidosis.**

- You should not take Metformin again until your healthcare provider evaluates your kidney function and tells you to start taking Metformin.
- Please refer to the Patient Information supplied to you with the medicine by your Pharmacy.

**Please let us know if you have received instructions about managing your diabetes while you are off Metformin.**

**If not, you will need to contact your healthcare provider.**

You should call your healthcare provider right away if you have symptoms such as:

- feeling very weak, tired or uncomfortable
- unusual muscle pain
- trouble breathing
- unusual or unexpected stomach ache
- feeling cold
- dizzy or light-headed; or developing a slow or irregular heartbeat.

If you have any questions, you may discuss them with your healthcare provider or with the staff providing your test today.