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## Drugs That May Affect Blood Glucose Levels

When we look at drugs that may affect glucose levels, we need to invoke some special rules. There are medicines that can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) or hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) in diabetic and in nondiabetic patients. These pharmaceuticals will have an even greater effect on the patient with diabetes and should either be avoided or used with vigilance and with a consideration of changing the amount of the diabetes medication used.

Some medications are found to have a possible effect on the patient with diabetes but can be used more freely. Again, however, vigilance is warranted.

There is also a category of medications that interact with diabetes medications. These medications don't actually cause hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia, but rather they interfere with the action of the medicines you are taking for your diabetes. Whenever you start a new medication, it's important to understand if it will affect your blood sugars or interfere with your blood sugar medication. In either case, it is important to monitor your glucose levels carefully.

Some of the products listed consist of two medications combined in the same pill. These are shown with a plus sign (+) between the two medications. Only generic names are used in the following lists. Your pharmacist will be able to tell you the brand names or generic names of medications you use. Due to the aggressive reporting requirements of the FDA, new contraindication information is constantly becoming available. Check with your pharmacist on a regular basis. And remember: If you have any questions about how your medicines can affect your blood sugars, be sure to ask your physician or pharmacist.

## Drugs That Can Cause Hyperglycemia

### Most likely

Acitretin  
Amprenavir  
Atenolol + chlorthalidone  
Benazepril +  
hydrochlorothiazide  
Bisoprolol +  
hydrochlorothiazide  
Bumetanide  
Candesartan +  
hydrochlorothiazide  
Captopril +  
hydrochlorothiazide  
Chlorothiazide  
Chlorthalidone

Corticotropin (ACTH)  
Cortisone  
Dexamethasone  
Enalapril +  
hydrochlorothiazide  
Ethacrynic acid  
Fosinopril +  
hydrochlorothiazide  
Furosemide  
Hydrochlorothiazide  
Hydrochlorothiazide +  
irbesartan  
Hydrochlorothiazide +  
lisinopril

Hydrochlorothiazide +  
losartan  
Hydrochlorothiazide +  
metoprolol  
Hydrochlorothiazide +  
moexipril  
Hydrochlorothiazide +  
quinapril  
Hydrochlorothiazide +  
telmisartan  
Hydrochlorothiazide +  
valsartan  
Hydrocortisone  
Indapamide

Indinavir  
Lopinavir + ritonavir  
Megestrol  
Metolazone

Nelfinavir  
Pentamidine  
Ritonavir  
Saquinavir

Tacrolimus  
Torsemide

### **Less likely**

Abacavir  
Abacavir + lamivudine,  
zidovudine  
Acetazolamide  
Albuterol, levalbuterol  
Albuterol + ipratropium  
Ammonium chloride  
Amphotericin B  
Amphotericin B lipid  
formulations  
Arsenic trioxide  
Atovaquone  
Baclofen  
Betamethasone  
Betamethasone +  
clotrimazole  
Betaxolol  
Bexarotene  
Bicalutamide  
Caffeine  
Carteolol  
Carvedilol  
Chlorothiazide  
Choline salicylate  
Choline salicylate +  
magnesium salicylate  
Clobetasol  
Clozapine  
Conjugated estrogens  
Conjugated estrogens  
+ medroxyprogesterone  
Cyclosporine  
Daclizumab  
Desonide

Desoximetasone  
Dextromethorphan +  
promethazine  
Diazoxide  
Encainide  
Esterified estrogens, estrone,  
estropipate  
Esterified estrogens +  
methyltestosterone  
Estradiol, ethinyl estradiol  
Estradiol + norethindrone  
Estradiol + norgestimate  
Estramustine  
Fluoxetine  
Flurandrenolide  
Formoterol  
Gatifloxacin  
Gemtuzumab ozogamicin  
Interferon alfa-2a  
Interferon alfa-2b  
Interferon alfa-2b +  
ribavirin  
Interferon alfa-n1  
Irinotecan  
Isoniazid  
Isotretinoin  
Lamivudine  
L-asparaginase  
Levonorgestrel  
Magnesium salicylate  
Medroxyprogesterone  
Methylprednisolone  
Metoprolol  
Modafinil

Moxifloxacin  
Mycophenolate  
Nadolol  
Niacin, niacinamide  
Nilutamide  
Nitric oxide  
Norethindrone  
Norgestrel  
Nystatin  
Nystatin + triamcinolone  
Octreotide  
Pantoprazole  
Pegaspargase  
Peginterferon alfa-2b  
Phenytoin  
Pipecuronium  
Prednisolone  
Prednisone  
Progesterone  
Ritodrine  
Rituximab  
Salmeterol  
Salsalate  
Sodium oxybate  
Somatropin  
Sotalol  
Streptozocin  
Triamcinolone  
Ursodeoxycholic acid,  
ursodiol  
Valproic acid, divalproex  
sodium

### **Drugs That Can Cause Hypoglycemia**

#### **Most likely**

Alcohol  
Diazoxide  
Dicumarol  
Dorzolamide + timolol  
Fosphenytoin

Glimepiride  
Glipizide  
Glyburide  
Glyburide + metformin  
Penicillamine

Pentamidine  
Phenytoin  
Quinine



Atorvastatin  
Bexarotene  
Carbamazepine  
Citalopram  
Conjugated estrogens  
Cyclosporine  
Docetaxel  
Donepezil  
Esterified estrogens, estrone,  
estropipate  
Esterified estrogens +  
methyltestosterone

Estradiol, ethinyl estradiol  
Estradiol + norethindrone  
Estradiol + norgestimate  
Fentanyl  
Galantamine  
Glyburide + metformin  
Leflunomide  
Levonorgestrel  
Medroxyprogesterone  
Megestrol  
Montelukast  
Norethindrone

Norgestrel  
Paclitaxel  
Reboxetine  
Repaglinide  
Riluzole  
Sildenafil  
Tamoxifen  
Terfenadine  
Warfarin  
Ziprasidone

### **Medications that can interfere with metformin (Glucophage)**

Amiloride  
Cimetidine  
Cyanocobalamin (vitamin  
B-12)  
Digoxin  
Dofetilide  
Famotidine  
Furosemide

Midodrine  
Morphine  
Nifedipine  
Nizatidine  
Procainamide  
Propranolol  
Quinidine  
Quinine

Ranitidine  
Repaglinide  
Sulfamethoxazole +  
trimethoprim  
Trimethoprim  
Vancomycin



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