

Metformin

Patient Information



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How does Metformin work?

Metformin is used to treat women with polycystic ovarian syndrome which can in some women cause sub-fertility.

Benefits

In women with polycystic ovarian syndrome, the levels of insulin and testosterone are abnormally high and cause the woman not to ovulate. Metformin, used in conjunction with a mild fertility drug, reduces the levels of testosterone and insulin in the body thus allowing ovulation to occur.

How should you take it?

It needs to be prescribed by a doctor who is a specialist in infertility. It will be prescribed for women who are trying for a pregnancy who suffer from polycystic ovarian syndrome and are proven to have high levels of insulin and testosterone in the body.

It can be taken for long periods, up to a maximum of three times a day, when being used to treat polycystic ovarian syndrome and its symptoms. The usual starting dose is one 500mg tablet three times a day.

Alternatives

Metformin is not suitable for everybody. There are alternatives depending on your circumstances which should be discussed with your consultant.

Risks

The main side effects of Metformin therapy are stomach upsets such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, loss of appetite or a metallic taste in the mouth. If such side effects occur they often get better spontaneously once the body gets used to the medication, so you should continue taking the metformin unless your symptoms become severe.

If Metformin induces ovulation and a pregnancy occurs, you should seek advice from the clinic in which they were prescribed and continue the medication throughout the pregnancy.

Contact information

If you have any worries or concerns or need some advice, please do not hesitate to contact the nursing staff at:

Fertility Fusion, Wrightington Hospital

Telephone: 01257 256251 Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm

Swinley Ward, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary

Out of hours Telephone: 01942 822568

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
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Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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