

TESTfacts

An Educational Health Series From National Jewish Health®



Diabetes Fasting and Non-Insulin Medications

Your doctor has suggested you have a test that requires you to fast before the test. This means you will not eat food or drink liquids for a period of time before the test. If you have diabetes and take non-insulin medication this Test Facts will help you fast and control your blood sugar (glucose) levels. If, after reading this information you are still unsure as to how to dose your non-insulin medication, check with the doctor who prescribes your non-insulin medication for advice.

If you take any of these pills follow the directions below:

Acarbose (Precose®) or Miglitol (Glyset®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Metformin (Glucophage®, Glucophage® SA, or Glucovance®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Glyburide (DiaBeta®, Micronase®, PresTabs®, Glynase®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Glipizide (Glucotrol®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Glimipiride (Amaryl®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Nateglinide (Starlix®) or Repaglinide (Prandin®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Pioglitazone (Actos®) or Rosiglitazone (Avandia®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Sitagliptin (Januvia®) or Saxagliptin (Onglyza®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting;

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If you take any of these injections (shots) follow the directions below:

Exenatide (Byetta®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Pramlintide (Symlin®)

- Stop taking on the day of fasting.

Treating Low Blood Sugar While Fasting

- While fasting, check your blood sugar four times a day (at your usual mealtimes and at bedtime) or anytime you have symptoms of a low blood sugar. Common symptoms of a low blood sugar may include: shakiness, dizziness, sweating and headache. If your blood sugar drops under 70, you should immediately take 15 grams of glucose gel (1 tube). This will usually raise your blood sugar by 50 points in about 15 minutes. Be sure to re-check your blood sugar 15 minutes after treatment, to make sure it is over 70. If not, take a second tube of gel.

Treating High Blood Sugar While Fasting

- If your blood sugar stays over 400 for more than 4 hours, call the doctor who prescribes your insulin for advice.

Driving home after procedures

- Depending on the procedure National Jewish Health may recommend a family member or friend drive you home.
- If you drive home National Jewish Health **strongly** recommends that you check your blood sugar every time before driving a car. Your blood sugar should be 100 or higher before driving.
- Keep fast-acting sugar with you in your car (glucose gel, glucose tablets or hard candy).

Remember:

- If your medication is not on this list or you still have questions, check with the doctor who prescribes your medication for advice.
- Bring your glucose meter and test strips to National Jewish Health on your test day.

How do you get to your procedure?

On the day of your scheduled test, check in at the Front Desk. If you have questions before or during your test please call 303-398-1355. Also, if you need to cancel the appointment or change the time please call.

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