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MEDICATION GUIDE
AVANDAMET® (ah-VAN-duh-met)
(rosiglitazone maleate and metformin hydrochloride) Tablets

Read this Medication Guide carefully before you start taking AVANDAMET and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. If you have any questions about AVANDAMET, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is the most important information I should know about AVANDAMET? AVANDAMET may cause serious side effects, including:

AVANDAMET is available only through the AVANDIA-Rosiglitazone Medicines Access Program. Both you and your doctor must be enrolled in the program so that you can get AVANDAMET. To enroll, you must:

- talk to your doctor,
- understand the risks and benefits of AVANDAMET, and
- agree to enroll in the program.

New or worse heart failure

- Rosiglitazone, one of the medicines in AVANDAMET, can cause your body to keep extra fluid (fluid retention), which leads to swelling (edema) and weight gain. Extra body fluid can make some heart problems worse or lead to heart failure. Heart failure means your heart does not pump blood well enough.
- If you have severe heart failure, you cannot start AVANDAMET.
- If you have heart failure with symptoms (such as shortness of breath or swelling), even if these symptoms are not severe, AVANDAMET may not be right for you.

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:

- swelling or fluid retention, especially in the ankles or legs
- shortness of breath or trouble breathing, especially when you lie down
- an unusually fast increase in weight
- unusual tiredness

Myocardial Infarction (“Heart Attack”)

Rosiglitazone, one of the medicines in AVANDAMET, may raise the risk of heart attack. The risk of having a heart attack may be higher in people who take

1202 AVANDAMET with insulin. Most people who take insulin should not also take
1203 AVANDAMET.
1204

1205 **Symptoms of a heart attack can include the following:**

- 1206 • chest discomfort in the center of your chest that lasts for more than a few
1207 minutes, or that goes away or comes back
- 1208 • chest discomfort that feels like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or
1209 pain
- 1210 • pain or discomfort in your arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach
- 1211 • shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort
- 1212 • breaking out in a cold sweat
- 1213 • nausea or vomiting
- 1214 • feeling lightheaded

1215 **Call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if**
1216 **you think you are having a heart attack.**

1217
1218 People with diabetes have a greater risk for heart problems. It is important to work
1219 with your doctor to manage other conditions, such as high blood pressure or high
1220 cholesterol.

1221
1222 **Lactic acidosis**

1223 Metformin, one of the medicines in AVANDAMET, can cause a rare but serious
1224 condition called lactic acidosis (a build-up of an acid in the blood) that can cause
1225 death. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency and must be treated in the hospital.

1226
1227 Most people who have had lactic acidosis with metformin have other things that,
1228 combined with the metformin, led to the lactic acidosis. Tell your doctor if you have
1229 any of the following, because you have a higher chance for getting lactic acidosis
1230 with AVANDAMET if you:

- 1231 • have kidney problems or your kidneys are affected by certain X-ray tests that
1232 use injectable dye. People with kidney problems should not take AVANDAMET.
- 1233 • have liver problems
- 1234 • drink alcohol very often, or drink a lot of alcohol in short-term "binge" drinking
- 1235 • get dehydrated (lose a large amount of body fluids). This can happen if you are
1236 sick with a fever, vomiting or diarrhea. Dehydration can also happen when you
1237 sweat a lot with activity or exercise and do not drink enough fluids.
- 1238 • have surgery
- 1239 • have a heart attack, severe infection, or stroke
- 1240 • are 80 years of age or older, and your kidneys are not working properly

1241

1242 The best way to keep from having a problem with lactic acidosis from metformin is
1243 to tell your doctor if you have any of the problems in the list above. Your doctor
1244 may decide to stop your AVANDAMET for a while if you have any of these things.

1245

1246 Lactic acidosis can be hard to diagnose early, because the early symptoms could
1247 seem like the symptoms of many other health problems besides lactic acidosis. You
1248 should call your doctor right away if you get the following symptoms, which could
1249 be signs of lactic acidosis:

- 1250 • you feel very weak or tired
- 1251 • you have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- 1252 • you have stomach pains
- 1253 • you have trouble breathing
- 1254 • you feel dizzy or lightheaded
- 1255 • you have a slow or irregular heartbeat

1256

1257 AVANDAMET can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below
1258 “What are possible side effects of AVANDAMET?”.

1259

1260 **What is AVANDAMET?**

1261 AVANDAMET contains two prescription medicines for treating diabetes, rosiglitazone
1262 maleate (AVANDIA) and metformin hydrochloride. AVANDAMET is used, with diet
1263 and exercise, to treat certain adults with type 2 (“adult-onset” or “non-insulin
1264 dependent”) diabetes (“high blood sugar”) who are:

- 1265 • already taking rosiglitazone or rosiglitazone-containing products
- 1266 • unable to control their blood sugar on other diabetes medicines, and after
1267 talking with their doctor have decided not to take pioglitazone (ACTOS) or
1268 pioglitazone-containing products (ACTOPLUS MET, ACTOPLUS MET XR,
1269 DUETACT)

1270

1271 Metformin works mainly by decreasing the production of sugar by your liver.
1272 Rosiglitazone helps your body respond better to its natural insulin and does not
1273 cause your body to make more insulin. These medicines work together to help
1274 control your blood sugar. AVANDAMET may be used alone or with other diabetes
1275 medicines.

1276

1277 AVANDAMET is not for people with type 1 diabetes mellitus or to treat a condition
1278 called diabetic ketoacidosis.

1279

1280 It is not known if AVANDAMET is safe and effective in children under 18 years old.

1281

1282 **Who should not take AVANDAMET?**

1283 Do not take AVANDAMET if you:

- 1284 • have kidney problems. Before you take AVANDAMET and while you take it, your
1285 doctor should test your blood to check for signs of kidney problems.
- 1286 • have a condition known as metabolic acidosis, including diabetic ketoacidosis.
- 1287 • are going to have an x-ray procedure with an injection of dyes (contrast agents)
1288 in your vein with a needle. Talk to your doctor about when to stop AVANDAMET
1289 and when to start it again.

1290

1291 Many people with heart failure should not start taking AVANDAMET. See “What
1292 should I tell my doctor before taking AVANDAMET?”.

1293

1294 **What should I tell my doctor before taking AVANDAMET?**

1295 Before starting AVANDAMET, ask your doctor about what the choices are for
1296 diabetes medicines, and what the expected benefits and possible risks are for you
1297 in particular.

1298

1299 Before taking AVANDAMET, tell your doctor about all your medical conditions,
1300 including if you:

- 1301 • **have heart problems or heart failure**
- 1302 • **have kidney problems**
- 1303 • **have type 1 (“juvenile”) diabetes or had diabetic ketoacidosis.** These
1304 conditions should be treated with insulin.
- 1305 • **are going to have dye injected into a vein for an X-ray, CAT scan, heart**
1306 **study, or other type of scanning**
- 1307 • **drink a lot of alcohol** (all the time or short binge drinking).
- 1308 • **develop a serious condition such as a heart attack, severe infection, or a**
1309 **stroke.**
- 1310 • **are 80 years old or older.** People who are over 80 years old should not take
1311 AVANDAMET unless their kidney function is checked and it is normal.
- 1312 • **have a type of diabetic eye disease called macular edema** (swelling of the
1313 back of the eye).
- 1314 • **have liver problems.** Your doctor should do blood tests to check your liver
1315 before you start taking AVANDAMET and during treatment as needed.
- 1316 • **had liver problems while taking REZULIN[®]** (troglitazone), another medicine
1317 for diabetes.
- 1318 • **are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** AVANDAMET should not be used
1319 during pregnancy. It is not known if AVANDAMET can harm your unborn baby.
1320 You and your doctor should talk about the best way to control your diabetes
1321 during pregnancy. If you are a premenopausal woman (before the “change of

1322 life”) who does not have regular monthly periods, AVANDAMET may increase
1323 your chances of becoming pregnant. Talk to your doctor about birth control
1324 choices while taking AVANDAMET. Tell your doctor right away if you become
1325 pregnant while taking AVANDAMET.

1326 • **are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed.** It is not known if
1327 AVANDAMET passes into breast milk. You should not use AVANDAMET while
1328 breast-feeding.

1329
1330 Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription and non-
1331 prescription medicines, vitamins or herbal supplements. AVANDAMET and certain
1332 other medicines can affect each other and may lead to serious side effects including
1333 high or low blood sugar, or heart problems. Your doctor may need to change your
1334 dose of AVANDAMET or your other medicines. Especially tell your doctor if you take:

1335 • **insulin.**
1336 • **any medicines for high blood pressure, high cholesterol or heart failure,**
1337 **or for prevention of heart disease or stroke.**

1338
1339 Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your
1340 doctor and pharmacist before you start a new medicine. They will tell you if it is
1341 alright to take AVANDAMET with other medicines.

1342

1343 **How should I take AVANDAMET?**

1344 • Take AVANDAMET exactly as prescribed. Your doctor may need to change your
1345 dose until your blood sugar is better controlled.
1346 • AVANDAMET should be taken by mouth and with meals.
1347 • AVANDAMET may be prescribed alone or with other diabetes medicines. This will
1348 depend on how well your blood sugar is controlled.
1349 • It can take 2 weeks for AVANDAMET to start lowering your blood sugar. It may
1350 take 2 to 3 months to see the full effect on your blood sugar level.
1351 • If you miss a dose of AVANDAMET, take it as soon as you remember, unless it is
1352 time to take your next dose. Take your next dose at the usual time. Do not take
1353 double doses to make up for a missed dose.
1354 • If you take too much AVANDAMET, call your doctor or poison control center right
1355 away.
1356 • Test your blood sugar regularly as your doctor tells you.
1357 • Diet and exercise can help your body use its blood sugar better. It is important
1358 to stay on your recommended diet, lose extra weight, and get regular exercise
1359 while taking AVANDAMET.
1360 • Your doctor should do blood tests to check your liver and kidneys before you
1361 start AVANDAMET and during treatment as needed. Your doctor should also do

1362 regular blood sugar tests (for example, "A1C") to monitor your response to
1363 AVANDAMET.

1364

1365 There may be times when you will need to stop taking AVANDAMET for a short
1366 time. Tell your doctor if you:

- 1367 • are sick with severe vomiting, diarrhea or fever, or if you drink a much lower
1368 amount of liquid than normal.
- 1369 • are going to have dye injected into a vein for an X-ray, CAT scan, heart study or
1370 other type of scanning.
- 1371 • plan to have surgery.

1372

1373 **What should I avoid while taking AVANDAMET?**

1374 Do not drink a lot of alcohol while taking AVANDAMET. This means you should not
1375 "binge drink", and you should not drink a lot of alcohol on a regular basis. Drinking
1376 a lot of alcohol can increase the chance of getting lactic acidosis.

1377

1378 **What are possible side effects of AVANDAMET?**

1379 **AVANDAMET may cause serious side effects, including:**

- 1380 • **New or worse heart failure.** See "What is the most important information I
1381 should know about AVANDAMET?".
- 1382 • **Heart attack.** See "What is the most important information I should know
1383 about AVANDAMET?".
- 1384 • **Swelling (edema).** AVANDAMET can cause swelling due to fluid retention. See
1385 "What is the most important information I should know about AVANDAMET?".
- 1386 • **Weight gain.** Rosiglitazone, one of the medicines in AVANDAMET, can cause
1387 weight gain that may be due to fluid retention or extra body fat. Metformin, the
1388 other medicine in AVANDAMET, can cause weight loss. There is little change in
1389 weight with AVANDAMET. Weight gain can be a serious problem for people with
1390 certain conditions including heart problems. See "What is the most important
1391 information I should know about AVANDAMET?"
- 1392 • **Liver problems.** It is important for your liver to be working normally when you
1393 take AVANDAMET. Your doctor should do blood tests to check your liver before
1394 you start taking AVANDAMET and during treatment as needed. Call your doctor
1395 right away if you have unexplained symptoms such as:
 - 1396 • nausea or vomiting
 - 1397 • stomach pain
 - 1398 • unusual or unexplained tiredness
 - 1399 • loss of appetite
 - 1400 • dark urine
 - 1401 • yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes.

- 1402 • **Macular edema** (a diabetic eye disease with swelling in the back of the eye).
1403 Tell your doctor right away if you have any changes in your vision. Your doctor
1404 should check your eyes regularly. Very rarely, some people have had vision
1405 changes due to swelling in the back of the eye while taking rosiglitazone, one of
1406 the medicines in AVANDAMET.
- 1407 • **Fractures (broken bones)**, usually in the hand, upper arm or foot. Talk to
1408 your doctor for advice on how to keep your bones healthy.
- 1409 • **Low red blood cell count (anemia)**.
- 1410 • **Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia)**. Lightheadedness, dizziness, shakiness or
1411 hunger may mean that your blood sugar is too low. This can happen if you skip
1412 meals, if you use another medicine that lowers blood sugar, or if you have
1413 certain medical problems. Call your doctor if low blood sugar levels are a
1414 problem for you.
- 1415 • **Ovulation** (release of egg from an ovary in a woman) leading to pregnancy.
1416 Ovulation may happen in premenopausal women who do not have regular
1417 monthly periods. This can increase the chance of pregnancy. See “What should I
1418 tell my doctor before taking AVANDAMET?”.

1419

1420 **Common side effects of AVANDAMET include:**

- 1421 • **Diarrhea, nausea, and upset stomach.** These side effects usually happen
1422 during the first few weeks of treatment. Taking AVANDAMET with food can help
1423 lessen these side effects. If you have unusual or unexpected stomach problems,
1424 talk with your doctor. Stomach problems that start up later during treatment
1425 with AVANDAMET may be a sign of something more serious and should be
1426 discussed with your doctor.
- 1427 • **Cold-like symptoms**
- 1428 • **Headache**
- 1429 • **Joint aches**
- 1430 • **Dizziness**

1431

1432 Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects
1433 to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

1434

1435 **How should I store AVANDAMET?**

- 1436 • Store AVANDAMET at room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).
1437 • Keep AVANDAMET in the container it comes in. Keep the container closed
1438 tightly.
1439 • Safely, throw away AVANDAMET that is out of date or no longer needed.

1440

1441 Keep AVANDAMET and all medicines out of the reach of children.

1442

1443 **General information about AVANDAMET**

1444 Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a
1445 Medication Guide. Do not use AVANDAMET for a condition for which it was not
1446 prescribed. Do not give AVANDAMET to other people, even if they have the same
1447 symptoms you have. It may harm them.

1448

1449 This Medication Guide summarizes important information about AVANDAMET. If you
1450 would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or
1451 pharmacist for information about AVANDAMET that is written for healthcare
1452 professionals. You can also find out more about AVANDAMET by calling 1-888-825-
1453 5249.

1454

1455 **What are the ingredients in AVANDAMET?**

1456 Active Ingredients: Rosiglitazone maleate and metformin hydrochloride

1457 Inactive Ingredients: Hypromellose 2910, lactose monohydrate, magnesium
1458 stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol 400, povidone 29-32,
1459 sodium starch glycolate, titanium dioxide, and 1 or more of the following: Red and
1460 yellow iron oxides.

1461

1462 Always check to make sure that the medicine you are taking is the correct one.
1463 AVANDAMET tablets are oval and look like this:

- 1464 • 2 mg/500 mg – pale pink, with “gsk” on one side and “2/500” on the other.
- 1465 • 4 mg/500 mg – orange, with “gsk” on one side and “4/500” on the other
- 1466 • 2 mg/1,000 mg – yellow, with “gsk” on one side and “2/1000” on the other
- 1467 • 4 mg/1,000 mg – pink, with “gsk” on one side and “4/1000” on the other

1468

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1470 The other brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not
1471 trademarks of GlaxoSmithKline. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with
1472 and do not endorse GlaxoSmithKline or its products.

1473

1474 **This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug**
1475 **Administration.**

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1478 GlaxoSmithKline

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