

Medication names

- Canagliflozin (Invokana®)
- Dapagliflozin (Forxiga®)
- Empagliflozin (Jardiance®)
- Canagliflozin + metformin (Invokamet®)
- Dapagliflozin + metformin (Xigduo®)
- Empagliflozin + metformin (Synjardy®)

How can this medication help?

- Lowers blood sugar
- Causes weight loss
- May reduce your risk of a heart attack or stroke, hospitalization for heart failure, kidney disease and death.

What else should I know?

- STOP taking this medication in any of the following situations:
 - 3 days before major surgery.
 - You have diarrhea or are vomiting and unable to eat or drink as usual.
 - You have a major acute illness .
- Check with your healthcare provider about when it is safe to restart the medication.

Who should NOT take this medication?

- You should not use this medication if you:
 - are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breastfeeding.
 - have type 1 diabetes.
 - follow a restrictive carbohydrate (e.g., keto) diet.
- Discuss the additional risks of this medication with your healthcare provider if you:
 - have previously had diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA).
 - have advanced kidney disease (this medication may be prescribed to help kidneys, but it may need to be stopped if your kidney function drops too low).
 - drink alcohol frequently and/or if you have 4+ (women) or 5+ (men) drinks in one day.

Common side effects

Genital yeast infections and bladder or urinary tract infections (UTIs):

- These are more likely in people who have diabetes.
- Regularly clean and towel dry your genitals.
- Report genital discharge, pain, or odours and painful urination to your healthcare provider.

Low blood pressure:

- This side effect may go away as your body gets used to the medication.
- Avoid standing up quickly.
- Check your blood pressure.
- Report low blood pressure or any dizziness, light-headedness, new weakness or fatigue to your healthcare provider.

Common side effects (continued)

Increased urination:

- Take this medication in the morning if you would like to reduce the chance of increased urination overnight.
- This side effect may go away as your body gets used to the medication.
- Drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.

Symptoms of dehydration:

- Increased thirst
- Peeing less often
- Less urine
- Dark yellow pee
- Dizziness or light-headedness

Rare side effects

Lower limb amputation (in people who have diabetes):

- This medication should lower your risk of amputation by lowering your blood sugar.
- Studies are not clear about whether there may be a small increased risk of amputation, especially with canagliflozin.
- You may be at higher risk if you have:
 - had an amputation before.
 - Peripheral artery disease.
 - Neuropathy (loss of sensation).
 - Foot ulcers or wounds.
- Monitor your feet daily for sores, pain, colour changes and change in sensation.
- Report any changes to your healthcare provider immediately.

Diabetic ketoacidosis:

- Rare cases of a life-threatening condition called ketoacidosis have been reported. This mostly occurs in people with type 2 diabetes, but it may be possible in others as well.
- Normally, ketoacidosis only happens when your blood sugar is very high. With this medication, ketoacidosis can happen even when your blood sugar is normal.
- You may be at higher risk of ketoacidosis if you:
 - have had an episode of ketoacidosis in the past.
 - have had diabetes for a long time.
 - have uncontrolled blood sugar.
 - are taking insulin (especially if you miss/skip a dose or have had a major dose reduction).
 - follow a keto diet or have a big reduction in how much you eat.
 - have 4+ (women) or 5+ (men) alcoholic drinks in a day.
 - have a major surgery or hospitalization.
 - engage in strenuous exercise.
- Seek medical attention immediately if you have symptoms of ketoacidosis, including:
 - unusual tiredness, fatigue or sleepiness
 - decreased appetite
 - confusion
 - nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain
 - slurred speech
 - difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - sweet or metallic taste in the mouth
 - fast breathing
 - sweet-smelling breath
 - unusually fast heart rate
 - excessive thirst

Rare side effects (continued)

Acute kidney injury:

- This medication is good for your kidneys most of the time, but it can be hard on your kidneys when you are dehydrated.
- Drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.
- If you have symptoms of dehydration (see above), drink plenty of fluids and stop taking this medication until your healthcare provider tells you to restart.
- Your healthcare provider will monitor your kidney function periodically. Check with your healthcare provider if you have any questions.

Other risks and precautions:

- A small increased risk of fractures was observed in trials involving canagliflozin.
- A small increased risk of Fournier's gangrene (a type of "flesh eating disease" that affects the genitals and anus) has been reported.
- 20 possible cases of pancreatitis have been reported to Health Canada.

Disclaimer: This resource was developed for individuals as a guide only and does not constitute medical or other professional advice. Please consult your healthcare provider before making any changes to your medications or lifestyle.