

# Risks or side effects you may experience from taking the study medication

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. If you notice any of these symptoms, tell your doctor as soon as possible.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**



## Gastrointestinal (stomach) - very common (about 1 in 10 people)

The more common side effects should disappear after the first few weeks:

- Stomach upset such as nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting (being sick)
- Diarrhoea
- Stomach pain

Taking metformin with food helps reduce nausea and diarrhoea.



## Lactic acidosis - very rare (about 1 in 10,000 people)

This is caused by lactic acid building up in the blood. Although very rare, this is very serious and needs urgent medical attention.

- Nausea, vomiting, stomach pain
- Trouble breathing
- Feeling weak, tired or generally unwell
- Unusual muscle pain
- Sleepiness
- Dizziness or light-headedness
- Shivering, feeling extremely cold
- Slow heartbeat



## Allergy - very rare (about 1 in 10,000 people)

Symptoms may include:

- Cough, shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, throat or other parts of the body
- Rash, itching or hives on the skin



## Liver disease - extremely rare, reported in unusual cases

Symptoms include:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Feeling generally unwell
- Fever
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes, and dark coloured urine



## Pregnancy

- You must not participate in the research if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. If you could become pregnant you will need to do pregnancy tests throughout the study.
- Use effective contraception during the study and for a period of 1 month after completion of the trial. Discuss methods of effective contraception with your trial doctor.
- If you become pregnant whilst participating in the trial, advise your trial doctor immediately.