

Metformin and Tests Requiring IV Iodine

There are certain tests that require iodine injected IV (into the vein). An IV iodine injection may affect the way metformin works. Check to see if the pill you take for diabetes contains metformin. This information will help you prepare for a test requiring IV iodine if you take metformin.

*After the test,
do not take
metformin until
your doctor tells
you to resume it.*

Before The Test

Follow your doctor's orders about taking your metformin. In some cases, your doctor may instruct you to stop taking your metformin before the exam and not to begin using it again until 48 hours after your test.

- Contact your doctor to have a **blood creatinine** test performed before this test. This will show how well your kidneys are working.
- Drink your normal intake of water to avoid dehydration. Ask your doctor if you need to drink any extra water.

After the Test

Contact your doctor when the test is completed. Based on how well your kidneys are working, your doctor may want to repeat the blood creatinine test before allowing you to resume your metformin. **Do not take metformin and do not resume taking metformin until your doctor tells you to do so.** Most patients may begin taking metformin 48 hours after this type of test.

Follow your doctor's advice about caring for your diabetes (diet, other medications and monitoring of your blood sugar levels). Contact your doctor if there are any changes in your diabetes control.

Northwestern Medicine – Health Information Resources

For more information, contact Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Alberto Culver Health Learning Center (HLC) at hlc@nm.org, or by calling 312.926.5465. You may also visit the HLC on the 3rd floor, Galter Pavilion at 251 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL. Health information professionals can help you find the information you need and provide you with personal support at no charge.

For more information about Northwestern Medicine, please visit our website at nm.org.

Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar al Departamento de Representantes para Pacientes al 312.926.3112.

The entities that come together as Northwestern Medicine are committed to representing the communities we serve, fostering a culture of inclusion, delivering culturally competent care, providing access to treatment and programs in a nondiscriminatory manner and eliminating healthcare disparities. For questions, please call either Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Patient Representatives Department at 312.926.3112, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363 or the Northwestern Medical Group Patient Representatives Department at 312.695.1100, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363.

Developed by: NMH Radiology Department and Medical Nursing