

## DPP-4 inhibitors (incretin enhancer)

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### What are they used for?

DPP-4 inhibitors are used to lower blood sugar levels in patients with type 2 diabetes. They may be used alone or in combination with metformin or a sulfonylurea.

### How do they work?

DPP-4 inhibitors help improve blood sugar levels in response to meals and help lower blood sugars between meals. They also help decrease the amount of sugar made by your body.

### Are there any side effects?

Some side effects that people have experienced while taking these medications include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection. Nasopharyngitis or bronchitis (runny nose, stuffy nose, sore throat or cough)
- Diarrhea, flatulence, gas
- Urinary tract infections
- Headache

Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) can occur with DPP-4 inhibitors, but is less common than sulfonylurea's (glyburide, glicazide). Hypoglycemia can happen more often if taken with a sulfonylurea.

### How do I take them?

Sitagliptin and saxagliptin are taken once daily with or without food.

It may take up to 4 weeks to see effects from these medications.

### What are some brands of DPP-4 inhibitors?

Generic Name	Brand Name
Sitagliptin	Januvia
saxagliptin	onglyza

*\*\* Please note that this information sheet does not contain complete information about DPP-4 inhibitors. If you need more information about this drug, be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist.*