

**READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE
PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION**

PrSynjardy™

empagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride tablets

Read this carefully before you start taking SYNJARDY and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about SYNJARDY.

Serious Warnings and Precautions

- SYNJARDY can cause a rare but serious side effect called **lactic acidosis**. This is a buildup of lactic acid in the blood. There is an increased risk after excessive alcohol consumption. This is more common if you are also fasting, malnourished, or have liver disease. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency and must be treated in a hospital. It can cause coma or death. Therefore, you should not drink alcohol if you take SYNJARDY.
- Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is a serious and life-threatening condition that requires urgent hospitalization. DKA has been reported in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), with normal or high blood sugar levels, who are treated with SYNJARDY and other sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors. Some cases of DKA have led to death.
- Seek medical attention right away **and stop taking SYNJARDY immediately** if you have any of the following symptoms (even if your blood sugar levels are normal): difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, loss of appetite, confusion, feeling very thirsty, feeling unusually tired, a sweet smell to the breath, a sweet or metallic taste in the mouth or a different odour to urine or sweat.
- SYNJARDY should not be used in patients with type 1 diabetes.
- SYNJARDY should not be used to treat DKA or if you have a history of DKA.

What is SYNJARDY used for?

SYNJARDY is used along with diet and exercise to improve control of blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes.

SYNJARDY can be used:

- in patients who are not controlled on metformin alone or on a combination of metformin with:
 - a sulfonylurea;
 - pioglitazone;
 - insulin.

- in patients who are currently treated with combinations of separate tablets of metformin and empagliflozin (JARDIANCE), or a combination of metformin and empagliflozin (JARDIANCE) with:
 - a sulfonyleurea;
 - pioglitazone;
 - insulin.

How does SYNJARDY work?

SYNJARDY contains two drugs.

Empagliflozin: removes excess glucose from the body and passes it through the urine.

Metformin: helps to lower the amount of sugar made by your liver.

What are the ingredients in SYNJARDY?

Medicinal ingredients: empagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride.

Non-medicinal ingredients: copovidone, hypromellose, iron oxide black and iron oxide red (SYNJARDY 12.5 mg/500 mg, 12.5 mg/850 mg and 12.5 mg/1000 mg), iron oxide yellow (SYNJARDY 5 mg/500 mg, 5 mg/850 mg and 5 mg/1000 mg), macrogol 400, magnesium stearate, maize starch, silica - colloidal anhydrous, talc, titanium dioxide.

SYNJARDY comes in tablets in the following strengths:

Empagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride:

- 5 mg/500 mg, 5 mg/850 mg, 5 mg/1000 mg;
- 12.5 mg/500 mg, 12.5 mg/850 mg, 12.5 mg/1000 mg.

Do not use SYNJARDY if you:

- have type 1 diabetes (your body does not produce insulin);
- have a complication of diabetes with increased ketones in the blood or urine, known as **diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)** or a history of DKA;
- have a build-up of acid in your body. This is known as metabolic acidosis;
- have a history of lactic acidosis;
- are taking an insulin mix (regular or analogue);
- are on dialysis;
- have kidney problems;
- have liver problems;
- have severe infections or are experiencing trauma;
- are prior to surgery or during the recovery time;
- are prior to or just after certain x-ray tests with iodinated dyes or contrast agents that are injected into your body;
- have abrupt failure of blood circulation. This is known as cardiovascular collapse;
- have heart and lungs that do not function properly. This is known as cardiorespiratory insufficiency;
- drink alcohol very often, or drink a lot of alcohol in a short time. This is known as binge drinking;
- are breast-feeding;
- are pregnant, or planning to become pregnant;
- are under 18 years of age;

- are allergic to any of the ingredients in SYNJARDY.

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you start taking SYNJARDY. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have or have had any kidney problems;
- have or have had any cases of liver disease;
- have congestive heart failure, especially if it needs treatment with medicines;
- have heart problems, or low blood pressure;
- are older than 65 years old. And, if you are 85 years old or older you should not start taking SYNJARDY;
- have an increased chance of developing **diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)**, including if you:
 - are dehydrated or suffer from excessive vomiting, diarrhea, or sweating;
 - are on a very low carbohydrate diet;
 - drink alcohol very often, or drink a lot of alcohol over a short period of time (binge drinking);
 - have/have had problems with your pancreas, including pancreatitis or surgery on your pancreas;
 - are hospitalized for major surgery, serious infection or serious medical illnesses;
 - have a history of DKA.

Other warnings you should know about

You have a higher chance of getting lactic acidosis if you:

- have any of the first three conditions from the bulleted list just above;
- drink alcohol very often, or drink a lot of alcohol over a short period of time (binge drinking);
- are dehydrated or suffer from excessive vomiting, diarrhea, or sweating;
- have certain x-ray tests with iodinated dyes or contrast agents that are injected into your body;
- have surgery;
- have a heart attack, severe infection, or stroke;
- are 80 years of age or older and have not been assessed for kidney function.

SYNJARDY may cause changes in the amount of cholesterol or fats in your blood.

SYNJARDY may cause abnormal kidney function. Your doctor will do blood tests to monitor how well your kidneys are working while you are taking SYNJARDY.

SYNJARDY increases the chance of getting a yeast infection of the penis or vagina. This is more likely in people who have had yeast infections in the past.

Driving and using machines: SYNJARDY may cause dizziness or lightheadedness. Do not drive or use machines until you know how the medicine affects you.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with SYNJARDY:

- diuretics, known as water pills, such as furosemide. They are used to remove excess water from the body;
- medicines used to lower blood sugar levels, such as glyburide, gliclazide or glimepiride (sulfonylureas) or insulin. Taking SYNJARDY with any of these medicines can increase the risk of having low blood sugar (hypoglycemia);
- medicines used to lower high blood pressure; such as angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. ACE inhibitors may lower blood glucose;
- antibiotics used to treat tuberculosis, such as rifampin or isoniazid;
- blood thinners, known as anticoagulants;
- cationic drugs. For example, amiloride, digoxin, morphine, procainamide, quinidine, quinine, ranitidine, triamterene, trimethoprim, and vancomycin;
- drugs that can increase the blood sugar include:
 - corticosteroids, an anti-inflammatory medicine such as prednisone. They are used to treat inflammation in diseases like asthma or arthritis;
 - tranquilizing drugs, such as phenothiazines. They are known as antipsychotics;
 - thyroid products. They are used to treat problems with the thyroid gland;
 - birth control pills;
 - drugs used to control seizures, such as phenytoin;
 - niacin, also known as vitamin B₃ or nicotinic acid;
 - drugs used to treat angina. They are known as calcium channel blockers. An example is nifedipine;
 - bronchodilators, such as beta-2-agonists. They are used to treat asthma.

Prior to Surgery: Stop SYNJARDY 2 days before any surgery that limits what you eat and drink. You can re-start SYNJARDY once you can eat and drink and your doctor decides that your kidneys are working.

Prior to Certain X-ray Tests with Iodinated Dyes or Contrast Agents that are Injected Into Your Body: Stop SYNJARDY at the time of the test or just before. Re-start SYNJARDY 48 hours after the test and your doctor decides that your kidneys are working.

How to take SYNJARDY:

Your doctor will tell you how much SYNJARDY to take. The amount of SYNJARDY that you take depends on your condition and the doses you currently take of metformin and/or individual tablets of empagliflozin and metformin. Take only the dose that has been prescribed to you. If you are not sure what your dose is, ask your doctor.

Diet and exercise can help your body use its blood sugar better. It is important to stay on the diet and exercise program recommended by your doctor while taking SYNJARDY.

Taking SYNJARDY with meals may lower your chance of having an upset stomach.

Do not stop taking SYNJARDY without first consulting your doctor. Your blood sugar levels may increase when you stop taking SYNJARDY.

Recommended Adult Dose: One tablet two times a day with food. Swallow the tablet whole with water.

Overdose:

If you think you have taken too much SYNJARDY, contact your healthcare professional, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

- If you forget to take a dose of SYNJARDY, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is nearly time for the next dose, skip the missed dose.
- Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. Never take two doses of SYNJARDY at the same time.

What are possible side effects from using SYNJARDY?

These are not all the possible side effects you may feel when taking SYNJARDY. If you experience any side effects not listed here, contact your healthcare professional. Please also see the **Serious Warnings and Precautions** box.

Side effects may include:

- constipation;
- dehydration;
- unusual thirst;
- dry mouth;
- joint pain;
- muscle spasms.

Your doctor will tell you how to treat low blood sugar levels and what to do if you get any of the signs described below. If you have symptoms of low blood sugar, eat glucose tablets, a high sugar snack or drink fruit juice. Measure your blood sugar, if possible and rest.

An urge to pass urine or more frequent urination may be due to the way SYNJARDY works, but can also be a sign of urinary tract infection. If you note an increase in such symptoms, you should contact your doctor.

Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) is a serious medical condition with normal or high blood glucose levels. Get immediate medical help if you have any of the symptoms described in the table below under DKA, even if your blood glucose levels are normal.

SYNJARDY will cause your urine to test positive for sugar (glucose). This is expected when you take SYNJARDY. You should use a different way to monitor your diabetes.

SYNJARDY can cause abnormal blood test results. Your doctor will decide when to perform tests and will interpret the results. They may check your blood fat levels, the amount of red blood

cells in your blood, and check your eyes, heart, liver and kidney function.

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
VERY COMMON			
Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia): shaking; sweating; feeling very anxious or confused; fast heart beat; feeling excessive hunger; headache.		✓	
Nausea	✓		
Vomiting	✓		
Diarrhea	✓		
Stomach ache	✓		
Loss of appetite	✓		
COMMON			
Urinary tract infection: burning sensation when passing urine; urine that appears cloudy; pain in the pelvis; or mid-back pain when kidneys are infected.		✓	
Volume depletion (loss of needed fluids from the body, dehydration, especially in patients older than 75 years of age): dry or sticky mouth; headache; dizziness; urinating less often than normal.		✓	
Genital yeast infections (reported more frequently in female patients): itching; burning; soreness; irritation; pain during intercourse and/or urination; vaginal discharge.		✓	
Increased urination: passing more urine than usual or needing to pass urine more often.	✓		
Itching	✓		
Changes in taste	✓		
Allergic skin reactions: rash, redness of the skin, hives, swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing.			✓

UNCOMMON			
Low Blood Pressure: dizziness; fainting; lightheadedness. May occur when you go from lying to sitting to standing up.		✓	
Dysuria: straining or pain when emptying the bladder.		✓	
Kidney problems: any change in the amount, frequency or colour (pale or dark) of urine.		✓	
Acute kidney infection: painful, urgent or frequent urination, lower back (flank) pain, fever or chills, cloudy or foul smelling urine, blood in your urine.			✓
Severe infection that spreads from urinary tract throughout body (sepsis): fever or low body temperature, chills, rapid breathing, rapid heartbeat, pain with urination, difficulty urinating, frequent urination.			✓
RARE			
Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA): difficulty breathing; feeling very thirsty; vomiting; stomach pain; nausea; loss of appetite; confusion; unusual tiredness, a sweet smell to the breath, a sweet or metallic taste in the mouth, or a different odour to urine or sweat.			✓
VERY RARE			
Lactic Acidosis: feel very weak or tired; have unusual muscle pain; have trouble breathing or fast breathing; have unusual fatigue, drowsiness or sleepiness or sleep longer than usual; have sudden stomach or intestinal problems with nausea and vomiting or diarrhea; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; have a slow or irregular heartbeat; a medical condition suddenly changes; you develop or experience a worsening			✓

of heart problems and in particular heart failure.			
Vitamin B₁₂ deficiency (decreased vitamin B₁₂ levels in the blood): fatigue; shortness of breath; tingling or numbness of the fingers or toes; difficulty walking properly; irritability; confusion; tender calves.		✓	
Hepatitis: yellowing of the skin or eyes; dark urine; abdominal pain; nausea; vomiting; loss of appetite.		✓	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, talk to your healthcare professional.

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

Keep out of reach and sight of children. Store at room temperature (15-30°C). Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the blister and the carton. Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

If you want more information about SYNJARDY:

- Talk to your healthcare professional.
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada Website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>), the manufacturer’s website (<http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.ca>), or by calling the manufacturer, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., at: 1-800-263-5103, extension 84633.

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Burlington, ON, Canada L7L 5H4

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Toronto, ON, Canada M1N 2E8