



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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## EPAR summary for the public

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# Pioglitazone Krka

pioglitazone

This is a summary of the European public assessment report (EPAR) for Pioglitazone Krka. It explains how the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) assessed the medicine to reach its opinion in favour of granting a marketing authorisation and its recommendations on the conditions of use for Pioglitazone Krka.

## What is Pioglitazone Krka?

Pioglitazone Krka is a medicine that contains the active substance pioglitazone. It is available as tablets (15, 30 and 45 mg).

Pioglitazone Krka is a 'generic medicine'. This means that Pioglitazone Krka is similar to a 'reference medicine' already authorised in the European Union (EU) called Actos. For more information on generic medicines, see the question-and-answer document [here](#).

## What is Pioglitazone Krka used for?

Pioglitazone Krka is used to treat type 2 diabetes in adults (aged 18 years or over), particularly those who are overweight. It is used in addition to diet and exercise.

Pioglitazone Krka is used on its own in patients for whom metformin (another antidiabetes medicine) is not suitable.

Pioglitazone Krka can also be used with a sulphonylurea (another type of antidiabetes medicine) when metformin is not suitable ('dual therapy').

Pioglitazone Krka can also be used together with insulin in patients who are not satisfactorily controlled with insulin alone and cannot take metformin.

The medicine can only be obtained with a prescription.

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## How is Pioglitazone Krka used?

The recommended starting dose of Pioglitazone Krka is 15 or 30 mg once a day. This dose may need to be increased after one or two weeks to up to 45 mg once a day if better blood glucose (sugar) control is needed. Pioglitazone Krka should not be used in patients on dialysis (a blood clearance technique used in people with kidney disease). The tablets should be swallowed with water.

Treatment with Pioglitazone Krka should be reviewed after three to six months, and discontinued in patients who are not deriving sufficient benefit. At subsequent reviews prescribers should confirm that benefits to patients are maintained.

## How does Pioglitazone Krka work?

Type 2 diabetes is a disease in which the pancreas does not make enough insulin to control the level of glucose in the blood or when the body is unable to use insulin effectively. The active substance in Pioglitazone Krka, pioglitazone, makes cells (fat, muscle and liver) more sensitive to insulin, which means that the body makes better use of the insulin it produces. As a consequence, the blood glucose levels are reduced and this helps to control type 2 diabetes.

## How has Pioglitazone Krka been studied?

Because Pioglitazone Krka is a generic medicine, studies in patients have been limited to tests to determine that it is bioequivalent to the reference medicine, Actos. Two medicines are bioequivalent when they produce the same levels of the active substance in the body.

## What are the benefits and risks of Pioglitazone Krka?

Because Pioglitazone Krka is a generic medicine and is bioequivalent to the reference medicine, its benefits and risks are taken as being the same as the reference medicine's.

## Why has Pioglitazone Krka been approved?

The CHMP concluded that, in accordance with EU requirements, Pioglitazone Krka has been shown to have comparable quality and to be bioequivalent to Actos. Therefore, the CHMP's view was that, as for Actos, the benefit outweighs the identified risk. The Committee recommended that Pioglitazone Krka be given marketing authorisation.

## Other information about Pioglitazone Krka

The European Commission granted a marketing authorisation valid throughout the European Union for Pioglitazone Krka on 21 March 2012.

The full EPAR for Pioglitazone Krka can be found on the Agency's website: [ema.europa.eu/Find\\_medicine/Human\\_medicines/European\\_Public\\_Assessment\\_Reports](http://ema.europa.eu/Find_medicine/Human_medicines/European_Public_Assessment_Reports). For more information about treatment with Pioglitazone Krka, read the package leaflet (also part of the EPAR) or contact your doctor or pharmacist.

The full EPAR for the reference medicine can also be found on the Agency's website.

This summary was last updated in 08-2011.