

Metformin in Hospitalized Patients

Mechanism of Metformin



Increases insulin sensitivity



Decreases gluconeogenesis



Converts pyruvate to lactate



Lactic acidosis **very rare***

What to consider before prescribing metformin in the hospital?

1

Renal Function?

- Hold for AKI or GFR <30

2

Risk for lactic acidosis?

- Hold if sepsis, liver/heart failure, shock.

3

Other DM therapies?

- ↓ risk hypoglycemia, may eliminate need for SSI

*with adequate renal function and lack of other lactate producing conditions

1. Salpeter SR, et al. Risk of fatal and nonfatal lactic acidosis with metformin use in type 2 diabetes mellitus. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010;2010(4):CD002967
2. Cohen DA, et al. Things we do for no reason™: Routinely holding metformin in the hospital. J Hosp Med. 2022;17(3):207-210. J., et al.