

SPECIAL OFFER

THERAPEUTIC GUIDES

Therapies for diabetes

including oral agents and insulins

**AVAILABLE
NOW**

Clifford J Bailey
Michael D Feher

A new series of therapeutic guides has been developed to provide an attractive, readily accessible everyday reference source. Each book will focus on therapy of a particular disease and cover the historical background of the drugs with their clinical pharmacology – notably mode of action, indications, efficacy, adverse effects, precautions, interactions and contraindications.

The presentation of concise tables and figures which are in colour is a distinct change from traditional pharmacology books. It is the intention that this new format will provide a convenient and enjoyable reference source with immediate information at your fingertips in a pocket-sized edition.

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3 ALPHA-GLUCOSIDASE INHIBITORS

Historical background

1991 Acarbose, first alpha-glucosidase inhibitor used in clinical practice.
 – Acarbose is the only member of this class used in the UK.
 – Miglitol and voglibose are used in some countries.

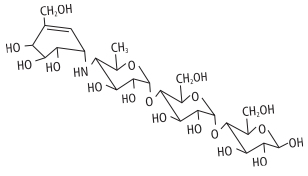


Fig 3.1 Structure of acarbose

Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors act mainly to lower postprandial hyperglycaemia by slowing the rate of carbohydrate digestion. The lower postprandial glycaemic peak during use in type 2 diabetes is generally associated with lower postprandial insulin concentrations. Overall, the modest efficacy and gastrointestinal side-effects have limited use of acarbose in the UK.

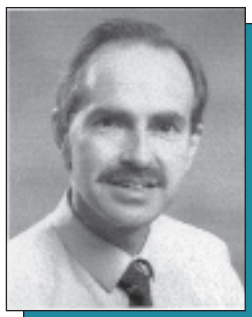
Acarbose: pharmacokinetics

Bioavailability	Site of action – intestine (~100% bioavailable)
Absorption	<2% of an oral dose is absorbed as intact drug ~30% absorbed as intestinal metabolites
Metabolism	~50% metabolised (degraded) by intestinal amylases and bacteria
Elimination	Unabsorbed drug and metabolites eliminated in faeces Absorbed drug and metabolites eliminated in urine within 24 hours without any systemic effects

Fig 3.2

- Historical background
- Pharmacokinetics
- Mode of action
- Indications
- Starting therapy
- Efficacy
- Adverse effects and precautions
- Summary

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