

Amitiza® (Lubiprostone)

What is Amitiza® and how does it work?

Amitiza® (also called lubiprostone) is a prescription medication for the treatment of chronic constipation and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) in adults. Amitiza® is a type of **chloride channel activator** medication. Chloride channels are located on the cells that line the inside of your intestines. Activating these chloride channels increases the fluid in your intestines, which makes your stool (poop) soft. Having softer stool allows it to pass through the intestines easier, reducing constipation. Amitiza® may also improve IBS symptoms like bloating and stomach discomfort.

How to take Amitiza®:

Amitiza® comes in 8 microgram (mcg) and 24 mcg tablets. Whichever you are prescribed, you will take your tablet twice daily with food and water. Follow this schedule to start taking Amitiza®:

- Take Amitiza® once a day for the first week. If you do not have side effects after the first week, you may increase the dose to twice daily.
- Take Amitiza® with food and water. This decreases the risk of developing nausea, which is the most common side effect of Amitiza®.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose on the normal schedule. Do not take double or extra doses without talking with your healthcare provider.
- If nausea or diarrhea becomes a problem, your doctor may lower your dose of the medication.

What are the possible side effects?

Amitiza® may cause several side effects, such as:

- Low blood pressure and fainting or passing out
 - This can happen after taking the first dose, or with follow-up doses. Usually, this goes away before the next dose, but it can happen again with repeat dosing.
- Nausea, vomiting, mild diarrhea, stomach pain, or bloating
- Runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, or cough
- Headache or dizziness
- Swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet
- Back pain
- Sore throat

Stop using Amitiza® and get emergency medical help if you have any of the following signs of an allergic reaction:

- Hives (itchy red bumps on your skin)
- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat
- Low blood pressure

Is Amitiza® safe for pregnant people?

Studies done with animals for this medication showed an increased risk of pregnancy loss. Because of this, we recommend you do not take Amitiza® if you are pregnant. You must use effective birth control to avoid getting pregnant while taking this medication. If you think that you have become pregnant while taking Amitiza®, stop taking it and contact your healthcare provider for advice.

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Author: Terri O'Neill, RN BSN
Reviewer: Sarah Avey, RN BSN
Edited by: Brittany Batell, MPH MSW CHES®

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