

Safety Alert

Feb. 2026

Bisoprolol– risk of severe hypoglycaemia when used concurrently with sulfonylureas.

EDA performs label update to include the following:

Special warning and precaution for use

Diabetes mellitus with large fluctuations in blood glucose values; symptoms of hypoglycaemia (e.g. tachycardia, palpitations or sweating) can be masked. Beta-blockers could further increase the risk of severe hypoglycaemia when used concurrently with sulfonylureas. Diabetic patients should be advised to carefully monitor blood glucose levels .

Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Insulin and oral antidiabetic drugs: increase of blood sugar lowering effect. Blockade of beta-adrenoreceptors may mask symptoms of hypoglycaemia. The concomitant use of beta-blockers with sulfonylureas could increase the risk of severe hypoglycaemia

Background:

Beta-blockers are a common class of medications used to manage heart conditions and high blood pressure, but they have a "complicated" relationship with blood sugar.

For people with diabetes, these drugs can mask the body's natural warning signs of low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) and interfere with how the body recovers from it. beta-blockers increase the risk of severe hypoglycemia because they blocks the "warning" signs of low blood sugar. It prevents the heart from racing (tachycardia) and stops the hands from shaking (tremors). So, the patients do not feel these early cues, and they do not realize their sugar is low until they experience neuroglycopenic symptoms like confusion or loss of consciousness.

Therapeutic Indication :

- Hypertension.
- Coronary heart disease (angina pectoris)

Reference

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