

Febuxostat for gout (Say 'feb-ux-oh-stat')

Febuxostat is used to prevent gout attacks (flare ups). It lowers the level of uric acid in your blood.

It comes in 80 mg or 120 mg tablets.



What is gout?

Gout causes sudden pain, redness and swelling in a joint. It often affects the big toe but it can happen in any joint.



Why gout happens

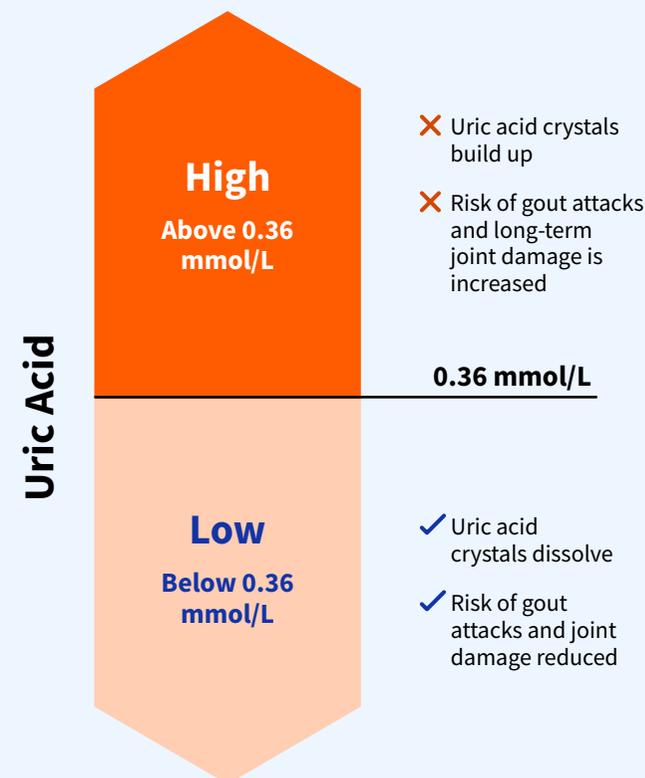
Gout happens when there's too much uric acid in your blood.

Your kidneys usually remove extra uric acid into your urine (pee). If your body makes too much uric acid or your kidneys can't remove it, the acid builds up.

This can form crystals in your joints. These crystals cause pain and swelling. Over time they can damage your joints, bones and kidneys.

With each new attack, the size and number of crystals grow. Sometimes you can see these as lumps under the skin (tophi).

To stop gout attacks, keep your uric acid level below 0.36 mmol/L*



* If you have frequent gout attacks or tophi, keep your uric acid level below 0.3 mmol/L.



How febuxostat helps

Taking febuxostat every day can:

- ✓ lower uric acid level
- ✓ prevent gout attacks
- ✓ dissolve crystals
- ✓ protect your joints from long-term damage.

Starting febuxostat

- Your healthcare provider will usually start you on a low dose. This will reduce the risk of side effects.
- You'll need a blood test after two to four weeks to check your uric acid levels.
- If your uric acid is still above 0.36 mmol/L, your dose may increase.

You may have gout attacks when you start

This can happen in the first few months. It doesn't mean the medicine isn't working.

Febuxostat reduces the amount of uric acid your body makes. As your uric acid levels drop, crystals in your joints begin to dissolve.

-  This can trigger a gout attack.
-  You may be given medicines such as colchicine, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (eg, diclofenac) or prednisone to prevent or manage attacks.

If you have a gout attack

- Rest and raise the painful joint.
- Use an ice pack for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Take pain relief as advised by your healthcare provider.

Keep taking febuxostat every day, even during a gout attack

- Febuxostat treats the cause of gout, not the attack itself.
- Stopping it can make your condition worse and cause more attacks.
- Taking it every day help to keep your uric acid level below 0.36 mmol/L.

Where to get help

Talk to your healthcare provider if:

- you have questions about febuxostat
- you get side effects
- you're worried about your gout.