

ConsumerRx[®]

Medications to control stomach acid

What conditions can be caused by excess stomach acid?

Excess stomach acid can cause indigestion, peptic ulcer disease, heartburn and gastroesophageal reflux disease or “GERD” (when stomach acid splashes up into the esophagus).

What are the best medications to treat stomach acid?

Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) are the best medications to treat excess stomach acid. They work by blocking stomach acid production. Decreasing stomach acid can reduce pain from indigestion and heartburn.

How do these medications compare to each other?

These medications all work in the same way. There are no proven differences in effectiveness or safety. Generic medications provide the best value.

What are my PPI options?

You have the following options that vary in cost. These are approximate retail cost estimates based on a 30-day supply. The price you will pay is based on your prescription benefit. Brand names in parentheses are listed for your reference only.

Your options include:

Generic Medication: ~\$21 - \$116

omeprazole (Prilosec[®]) \$23
pantoprazole (Protonix[®]) \$116

Preferred Brands: ~\$175

Prevacid[®] \$175

Non-Preferred Brands: ~\$178 - \$226

Aciphex[®] \$180
Nexium[®] \$178
Prilosec 40 mg[®] \$226

What about ulcers and *H. pylori*?

If you have been taking a PPI for several months and still have bothersome symptoms, ask your doctor about getting tested for a common bacteria called *H. pylori*. Most ulcers are caused by this bacteria. Studies have shown that *H. pylori* can be treated with antibiotics. One in ten Americans will develop an ulcer at some time in his or her lifetime.

THE BOTTOM LINE

PPIs are the best medications to treat stomach acid and there are many generic options available. If you have been using these medications for more than a few months you might have a condition that is treatable by antibiotics.

Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors.



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