

Advertisement



## Albendazole (Albenza)

Basics, Side Effects, Reviews & More



**FREE GoodRx coupons**

As low as \$124.53 for this drug

**!** *Are you looking for information on [Emverm \(mebendazole tablet\)](#) instead?*

Albendazole (Albenza) is effective for treating tapeworm infections, but may cause serious liver, blood, and eye problems.

### COMMON BRANDS

Albenza

### DRUG CLASS

Antiparasitic

### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Not a controlled medication

## GENERIC STATUS

Lower-cost generic available

## AVAILABILITY

Prescription only

Reviewed by:

[Christina Aungst, PharmD](#)

[Michelle Nguyen, PharmD](#)

Last reviewed on:

October 31, 2020

Advertisement

## What is albendazole (Albenza)?

---

### How albendazole (Albenza) works

Albendazole (Albenza) is an antiparasitic medication. It kills intestinal worms by not allowing them to use energy for survival.

### What is albendazole (Albenza) used for?

- Tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs

- Tapeworms in the brain

## Albendazole (Albenza) dosage forms



Tablet

200mg

## Typical dosing for albendazole (Albenza)

- **Tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs:** The strength of albendazole (Albenza) depends on your weight, but the maximum dose taken is 400 mg. Albendazole (Albenza) is taken by mouth twice a day with meals for 28 days. You will then have 14 days of no medication, followed by another 28 days of albendazole (Albenza) with the same dose. This pattern is repeated a total of 3 times.
- **Tapeworms in the brain:** The strength of albendazole (Albenza) depends on your weight, but the maximum dose taken is 400 mg. Albendazole (Albenza) is taken by mouth twice a day with meals for 8 to 30 days.

## Frequently asked questions about albendazole (Albenza)

The screenshot shows the GoodRx website interface. At the top, there is a hamburger menu icon on the left and the GoodRx logo in the center. Below the logo is a horizontal navigation bar with several tabs: Prices, Drug Info, Basics, Uses, FAQs, Pros & Cons, and Tips. The 'Drug Info' tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar is a scrollable area containing a question: 'Can I take one of my albendazole (Albenza) doses at bedtime?'. The question is followed by a paragraph of text: 'Albendazole (Albenza) works best when you take it with a meal. Because most people do not eat full meals right before bed, this probably isn't the best time of day'.

### ✓ Can I take one of my albendazole (Albenza) doses at bedtime?

Albendazole (Albenza) works best when you take it with a meal. Because most people do not eat full meals right before bed, this probably isn't the best time of day

to take one of your doses. Take albendazole (Albenza) with your morning and evening meals (breakfast and dinner).

---

> [Is albendazole \(Albenza\) an antibiotic?](#)

---

> [Is albendazole \(Albenza\) available over-the-counter?](#)

---

> [Can I drink alcohol while taking albendazole \(Albenza\)?](#)

## Pros and cons of albendazole (Albenza)

---

### Pros

-  Works well
-  Can be chewed, swallowed whole, or crushed and mixed with food
-  Can be given to children as young as [1 year old](#)

### Cons

-  Not safe for pregnant women
-  Regular blood tests necessary
-  Can weaken your immune system
-  Can cause liver damage
-  Can damage the eyes
-  Can be expensive even though a generic is available

## Pharmacist tips for albendazole (Albenza)

---

-  Take albendazole (Albenza) with meals. The medication doesn't work as well if you take it on an empty stomach. If you have trouble swallowing pills, the tablet can be crushed or chewed, and swallowed with a drink of water.
-  Albendazole (Albenza) is not safe to take if you're pregnant, as it can be harmful to your unborn baby. Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking albendazole (Albenza) and for 3 days after stopping this medication. Tell your healthcare provider immediately if you become pregnant while taking albendazole (Albenza).
-  Take a missed dose of albendazole (Albenza) as soon as you remember it unless it is almost time for your next dose. Never take 2 doses at the same time to make up for missed medication.
-  Be sure to get all blood tests done on time while you're taking albendazole (Albenza). This medication can affect your liver cells and your white blood cells. Regular blood tests are necessary while on albendazole (Albenza) to make sure your body is tolerating the medication.



Prices for albendazole (Albenza) start at just \$124.53 with a GoodRx coupon. They're fast, easy-to-use and free!

[View Coupon Prices](#)

## What are the side effects of albendazole (Albenza)?

---

With any medication, there are risks and benefits. Even if the medication is working, you may experience some unwanted side effects.

 Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Very low number of white blood cells
  - High pressure in the brain
  - Liver failure
- ! The following side effects may get better over time as your body gets used to the medication. Let your doctor know immediately if you continue to experience these symptoms or if they worsen over time.

### **Common side effects**

#### **When used to treat tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs:**

- Changes to liver blood tests (16%)
- Stomach pain (6%)
- Nausea (4%)
- Vomiting (4%)

#### **When used to treat tapeworms in the brain:**

- Headache (11%)
- Nausea (6%)
- Vomiting (6%)

### **Other side effects**

#### **When used to treat tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs:**

- Fever
- Temporary hair loss
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Feeling like the world is spinning (vertigo)

#### **When used to treat tapeworms in the brain:**

- Fluid around the brain
- Signs of meningitis (neck stiffness, pain when turning head from side to side)
- Changes to liver blood tests

Source: [DailyMed](#)

## The following side effects have also been reported:

Along with its needed effects, a medicine may cause some unwanted effects. Although not all of these side effects may occur, if they do occur they may need medical attention.

[View More](#)



## What are the risks and warnings for albendazole (Albenza)?

---

Albendazole (Albenza) can cause some serious health issues. This risk may be even higher for certain groups. If this worries you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about other options

### LOW WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT

- **Risk factors:** *History of liver problems | Current liver problems*

Albendazole (Albenza) can lower the number of white blood cells in your body. These are the cells that fight off infections, and without the right amount, you can get sick easier and have a harder time getting better. This side effect is rare but can be life-threatening. Your risk of this is higher if you have or have had problems with your liver. You will have to have blood tests done regularly while you are taking albendazole (Albenza) to make sure your white blood cells are at a normal level.

### BIRTH DEFECTS

Albendazole (Albenza) can cause birth defects and is not safe to use during pregnancy. You may be asked take a pregnancy test before starting albendazole (Albenza). You

should use a form of birth control while taking albendazole (Albenza) and for 3 days after your last dose. If you become pregnant, stop taking albendazole (Albenza) right away and talk to your healthcare provider.

## HIGH PRESSURE IN THE BRAIN

- **Risk factors:** *Using albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms in the brain*

If you are taking albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms in the brain, it is possible to have higher pressure in and around the brain during the first week you are using albendazole (Albenza). This is caused by the tapeworms dying. You can experience seizures if this happens, and it can be life-threatening. Steroids or seizure medications are usually prescribed for the first week you are taking albendazole (Albenza) to help prevent this. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have seizures, a very bad headache, or weakness in one side of your face or body.

## EYE DAMAGE

- **Risk factors:** *Using albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms in the brain*

For some people who have tapeworms in the brain, the tapeworm has also damaged their retinas. If you have this eye damage, albendazole (Albenza) can make the damage worse. This can lead to vision loss or even total blindness. You might need an eye exam to make sure your retinas are healthy before starting albendazole (Albenza). Tell your healthcare provider right away if you notice any sudden changes in vision while taking albendazole (Albenza).

## LIVER FAILURE

- **Risk factors:** *Liver problems*

Albendazole (Albenza) can affect the health of your liver. For most people, these changes to your liver are minor and will go back to normal once you stop taking albendazole (Albenza). Rarely, albendazole (Albenza) can cause liver failure which is life-threatening. Your risk of more severe problems is higher if you have current liver problems. Be sure to get all blood tests done on time, so your healthcare provider can make sure your liver stays healthy enough to take albendazole (Albenza). If you have signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, decreased hunger, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow eyes or skin, contact your provider right away.

## **TAPEWORMS IN MULTIPLE AREAS OF THE BODY**

Sometimes when people are using albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms causing cysts, they also have tapeworms in the brain and don't realize it. If this happens, you have a higher risk of experiencing high pressure in the brain (see risk listed previously). Your healthcare provider might check you for tapeworms in the brain before you start taking albendazole (Albenza).

## **Interactions between albendazole (Albenza) and other medications**

---

Albendazole (Albenza) may interact with certain medications or supplements. Always let your doctor and pharmacist know about any other medications or supplements (including prescribed and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and dietary or herbal supplements) that you are currently taking. The list below does not include all possible drug interactions with albendazole (Albenza). Please note that only the generic name of each medication is listed below.

Although certain medicines should not be used together at all, in other cases two different medicines may be used together even if an interaction might occur. In these cases, your doctor may want to change the dose, or other precautions may be

[View More](#)



## **How much does albendazole (Albenza) cost?**

---

Albendazole (Albenza) is available as a generic medication and may be significantly cheaper compared to the brand version. Unless there is a specific reason you need the brand, the generic medication will be a better value. For even more savings, use a GoodRx coupon and pay just a fraction of the retail price.

## **Lowest GoodRx Price Albenza (brand)**

**\$432.46**

---

## **Lowest GoodRx Price albendazole (generic)**

**\$124.53**

[View Prices & Coupons](#)

Pricing based on most commonly-filled versions: 4 tablets of albendazole 200mg

## **Albendazole (Albenza) images**

---



White Round A210 - Albendazole 200mg Tablet



White Round 1021 - Albendazole 200mg Tablet



White Round V32 - Albendazole 200mg Tablet

[Show More](#)

Get the latest news on medication savings tips and healthy living.

 Enter your email address

Subscribe to the GoodRx Newsletter

By signing up, I agree to GoodRx's [terms](#) and [privacy policy](#), and to receive marketing messages from GoodRx.

Copyright ©2011-2021 GoodRx, Inc.

[Cookie Preferences](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Disclaimer](#)[Terms of Use](#)

GoodRx works to make its website accessible to all, including those with disabilities. If you are having difficulty accessing this website, please call or email us at (855) 268-2822 or [ada@goodrx.com](mailto:ada@goodrx.com) so that we can provide you with the services you require through alternative means.

The information contained in the Truven Health Micromedex products as delivered by GoodRx is intended as an educational aid only. It is not intended as medical advice for individual conditions or treatment. It is not a substitute for a medical exam, nor does it replace the need for services provided by medical professionals. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before taking any prescription or over the counter drugs (including any herbal medicines or supplements) or following any treatment or regimen. Only your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist can provide you with advice on what is safe and effective for you.

The use of the Truven Health products is at your sole risk. These products are provided 'AS IS' and 'as available' for use, without warranties of any kind, either express or implied. Truven Health and GoodRx make no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, reliability, timeliness, usefulness or completeness of any of the information contained in the products. Additionally, TRUVEN HEALTH MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTIES AS TO THE OPINIONS OR OTHER SERVICE OR DATA YOU MAY ACCESS, DOWNLOAD OR USE AS A RESULT OF USE OF THE THOMSON REUTERS HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS. ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE ARE HEREBY EXCLUDED. Truven Health does not assume any responsibility or risk for your use of the Truven Health products.

