

**A****acanthosis (uh-kan-THO-sis) nigricans (NIH-grih-kans):**

a skin condition characterized by darkened skin patches; common in people whose body is not responding correctly to the *insulin* that they make in their *pancreas (insulin resistance)*. This skin condition is also seen in people who have *pre-diabetes* or *type 2 diabetes*.

**acarbose (AK-er-bose):**

an oral medicine used to treat *type 2 diabetes*. It blocks the *enzymes* that digest *starches* in food. The result is a slower and lower rise in *blood glucose* throughout the day, especially right after meals. Belongs to the class of medicines called alpha-glucosidase inhibitors. (Brand name: Precose.)

**ACE inhibitor:**

an oral medicine that lowers *blood pressure*; ACE stands for angiotensin (an-gee-oh-TEN-sin) converting *enzyme*. For people with diabetes, especially those who have *protein* (albumin) in the *urine*, it also helps slow down *kidney* damage.

**acesulfame (a-see-SUL-fame) potassium (puh-TAS-ee-um):**

a dietary *sweetener* with no *calories* and no nutritional value. Also known as acesulfame-K. (Brand name: Sunett.)

**acetohexamide (a-see-toh-HEX-uh-myde):**

an oral medicine used to treat *type 2 diabetes*. It lowers *blood glucose* by helping the *pancreas* make more *insulin* and by helping the body better use the insulin it makes. Belongs to the class of medicines called sulfonylureas. (Brand name: Dymelor.)

**Actos:** see *pioglitazone*.

**acute:**

describes something that happens suddenly and for a short time. Opposite of *chronic*.

**adhesive capsulitis (cap-soo-LITE-is):**

a condition of the shoulder associated with diabetes that results in pain and loss of the ability to move the shoulder in all directions.

**adult-onset diabetes:**

former term for *type 2 diabetes*.

**AGEs (A-G-EEZ):**

stands for advanced glycosylation (gly-KOH-sih-LAY-shun) endproducts. AGEs are produced in the body when *glucose* links with *protein*. They play a role in damaging blood vessels, which can lead to diabetes *complications*.