BRING THIS TO YOUR DOCTOR · GREY PEPTIDES

Bombesin

Also called: BBS; Bombesina

What it is

Bombesin is a 14-amino-acid peptide isolated from toad skin in 1970, the prototype of the bombesin-like family whose mammalian members are gastrin-releasing peptide and neuromedin B. It is a potent satiety signal — suppressing feeding in rats (PMID 7243611) and reducing food intake in lean men (PMID 8501156) — and regulates gastric acid and body temperature. Its gastrin-releasing-peptide receptor, overexpressed in prostate and breast cancer, is targeted by radiolabeled bombesin analogs (PMID 34830920). It is a research peptide, not an approved medicine.

Approval status

Research Chemical. Not a drug: Drugs@FDA and the openFDA label endpoint hold no record for bombesin (searched November 5, 2026). It is an amphibian research peptide with no therapeutic development; it has been given to people only as a short research infusion, and its clinical translation is through synthetic radiolabeled bombesin analogs targeting the gastrin-releasing-peptide receptor, not bombesin itself.

Dosing, as printed in the page's Recommended Dosing box

No established human dose

Bombesin is an amphibian research peptide, not a treatment, and no therapeutic dose exists. It has been given to people only as a brief intravenous infusion in controlled appetite experiments (for example to study satiety), not to treat any condition, and no regulator has approved a dose.

Educational information, not medical advice. None is a recommendation for you. An unapproved compound has no established safe or effective human dose, and products sold for "research use only" are not made or tested for people. Talk to a doctor before acting on anything on this site, including before you start, stop or change any medicine or dose.

Key human evidence

The 1 human study carded on the page (6 study cards in all):

• **Bombesin reduces food intake in lean men** (Human, 1993). A double-blind study in nine lean healthy volunteers infused bombesin or saline before a carbohydrate-rich meal. During bombesin the amount eaten fell significantly (482 vs 602 g) and subjective satiety rose. Giving the cholecystokinin-receptor antagonist loxiglumide did not block the effect, showing bombesin curbs human food intake by a cholecystokinin-independent mechanism — a short research infusion, not a treatment. **PMID 8501156**

Interactions

A PubMed search for interaction studies of this compound with any drug (November 5, 2026, 133 records) found none in people. That is not evidence that it is safe to combine with anything.

Side effects and cautions

Reported side effects	Contraindications and cautions
• No therapeutic human safety data exist; human use has been short research infusions only (PMID 8501156) • As a satiety agent it reduces food intake and hunger during infusion (PMID 8501156) • In animals it lowers body temperature, especially when fasted or cold-exposed (PMID 2623011) • Agonist radiolabeled bombesin analogs caused abdominal side effects, prompting a shift to antagonists (PMID 34830920)	• Not a medicine: no FDA application or label, and no approval anywhere • No therapeutic human dosing, interaction, pregnancy or long-term safety data exist • It is an amphibian research peptide and laboratory probe, not a treatment for any condition • Its clinical relevance is as a receptor target for imaging agents, not as a drug itself

Five questions to ask

1. Bombesin is listed here as "Research Chemical". What does the evidence on this sheet mean for someone in my situation, and is there an approved treatment I should consider instead?
2. Here are the medicines and supplements I take. Do any of them interact with Bombesin? This sheet records none published, which does not mean none exist.
3. Which side effects should make me stop and call you, for example no therapeutic human safety data exist?
4. Do any of the cautions on this sheet apply to me, such as: Not a medicine: no FDA application or label, and no approval anywhere?
5. What should we check before I start and while I am on it (blood tests, blood pressure, weight), and how often?

Grey Peptides is a vendor-neutral encyclopedia: it sells nothing and names no seller. This sheet is educational, not medical advice, and is not a prescription.