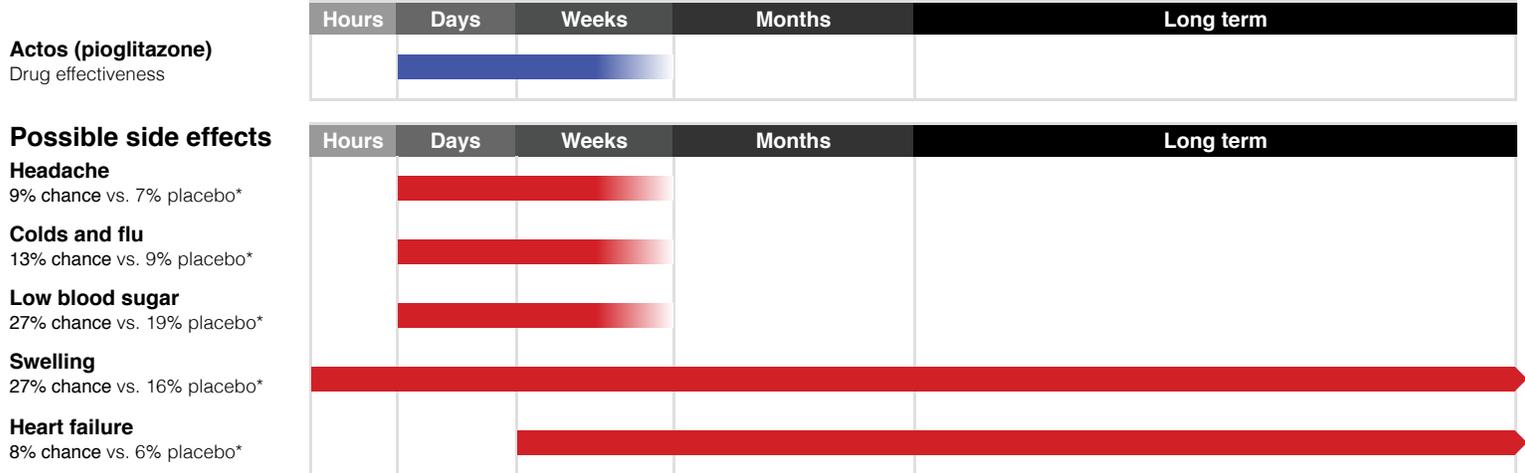


Actos (pioglitazone) basics

Lowers blood sugar. Actos (pioglitazone) can improve blood sugar control but is not a top choice since it has a lot of side effects.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take once a day with or without food.
- May need several weeks to see full effect on blood sugar control.
- Can cause weight gain, headache, and swelling from fluid build-up.
- Tell your doctor about any shortness of breath, heart troubles, or unusual swelling.
- Not recommended for patients with a history of heart failure or bladder cancer.
- Check your blood sugar regularly.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Heart failure

Actos (pioglitazone) can cause fluid buildup that can cause or worsen heart failure. If you have advanced heart failure, talk to your doctor since you shouldn't use Actos (pioglitazone). Your doctor will check your heart regularly while you're taking Actos (pioglitazone).

Fluid buildup

Actos (pioglitazone) can increase fluid to build up in your body. This can cause heart failure if it's not caught in time. The risk increases with a higher dose. Tell your doctor about any unexpected sudden weight gain, swelling in your arms or legs, or trouble breathing.

Liver damage

If you've had liver problems or damage in the past, talk to your doctor before starting Actos (pioglitazone), since there's a small chance that it can hurt your liver. Tell your doctor about any stomach pain that don't go away, dark urine, or yellowing of eyes/skin. Your doctor will check your liver regularly.