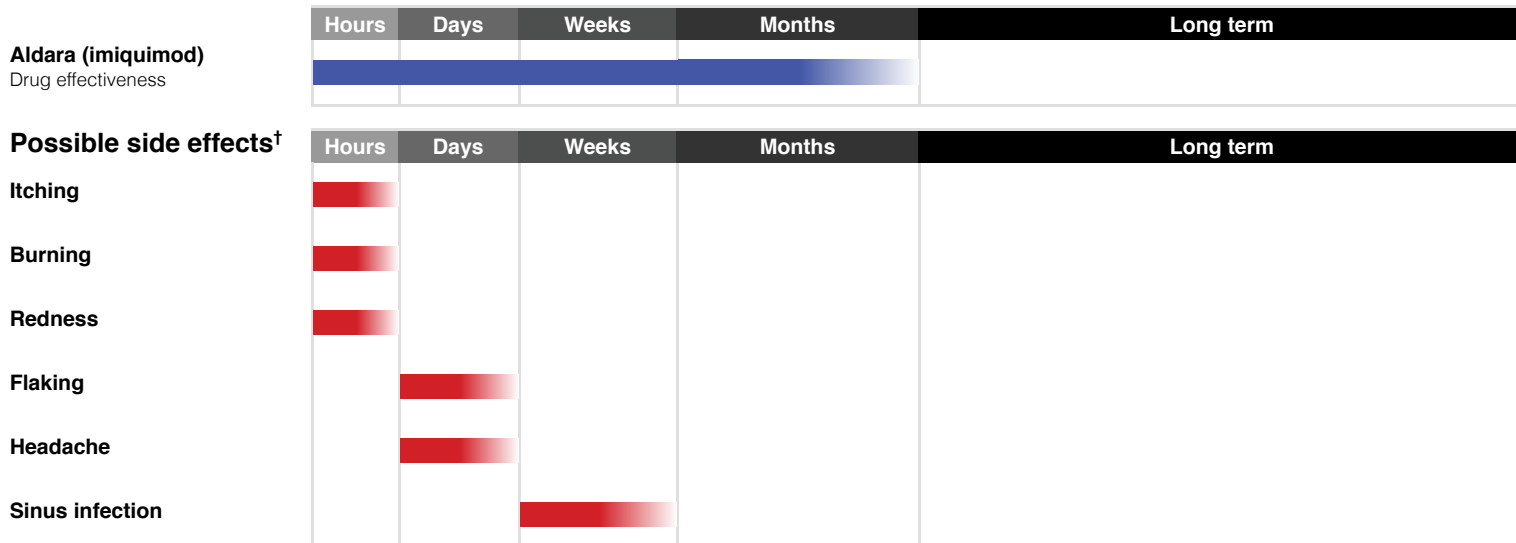


Aldara (imiquimod) basics

Treats genital and anal warts, skin with long-term sun damage, and certain skin cancers. Works well for many skin conditions but it can cause irritation if you're not careful.

What to expect when starting

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



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- If you are using Aldara (imiquimod) for genital or anal warts, condoms and diaphragms won't work as birth control. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about other birth control forms.
- Do not have sex when Aldara (imiquimod) is on your anal or genital skin area.
- Aldara (imiquimod) should only be applied in the affected skin area. Apply at bedtime. Avoid healthy skin and do not put inside your vagina or anus.
- Wash your hands before and after applying Aldara (imiquimod).
- Avoid getting the affected wet. Do not shower or swim after applying.
- You will need to wash off Aldara (imiquimod) after leaving it on for the required amount of time as directed by your doctor.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Skin irritation

Severe irritation of the skin can occur after a few applications of Aldara (imiquimod). If you experience swelling, bleeding, blistering, or other skin irritation let your doctor know right away. You may have to stop using Aldara (imiquimod) until your skin heals.

Flu-like symptoms

If you experience flu-like symptoms such as fevers, aches, fatigue, and chills, talk to your doctor right away. You may need to stop using Aldara (imiquimod) until you get better.

Sunburn

Aldara (imiquimod) can make your skin more sensitive to the sun, including sunlamps. Be sure to wear sunscreen and protective clothing. Avoid direct sun exposure and tanning. If you currently have sunburns, you may have to wait until they heal before you can use Aldara (imiquimod).