

Zyloprim (allopurinol) basics

Lowers uric acid levels in blood, and prevents gout flare-ups. Zyloprim (allopurinol) works well to prevent gout attacks and is cheaper than some alternatives, but it takes a few weeks to start working.

What to expect when starting

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

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Zyloprim (allopurinol) Drug effectiveness		[Blue bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Rash		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
Acute gout attack		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Diarrhea		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Nausea		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Liver problems			[Red bar spanning Weeks and Months]		

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Drink plenty of water while taking Zyloprim (allopurinol).
- Take with food or milk to prevent an upset stomach.
- It takes at least 2 to 6 weeks to experience the full benefit of this medicine.
- Your doctor can run blood tests to make sure the medication is working as it should.
- During the first few weeks of starting this, you may need to be on a second anti-gout medicine to prevent flare-ups because Zyloprim (allopurinol) can cause gout attacks when you first start it.
- If you're taking this because you have cancer, your doctor might have to change the doses of some of your chemotherapy drugs.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

More gout attacks

It is common for people to have more gout attacks the first few weeks they start taking Zyloprim (allopurinol). Talk to your doctor so they can prescribe other medicines to stop the attacks from happening.

Kidney stones

People who take Zyloprim (allopurinol) can be more likely to have kidney stones, especially if they're dehydrated. Kidney stones can be made from uric acid, but you can get rid of uric acid by urinating. This is more likely to happen if you've had kidney stones in the past. Drinking at least 10 to 12 eight ounce glasses of water every day can help you get rid of more uric acid.

Skin rash

Some people taking Zyloprim (allopurinol) can get a severe skin rash that can require hospitalization or can cause death. However, this is rare. Talk to your doctor or go to the emergency room right away if you suddenly develop a severe blistering skin rash with fever.