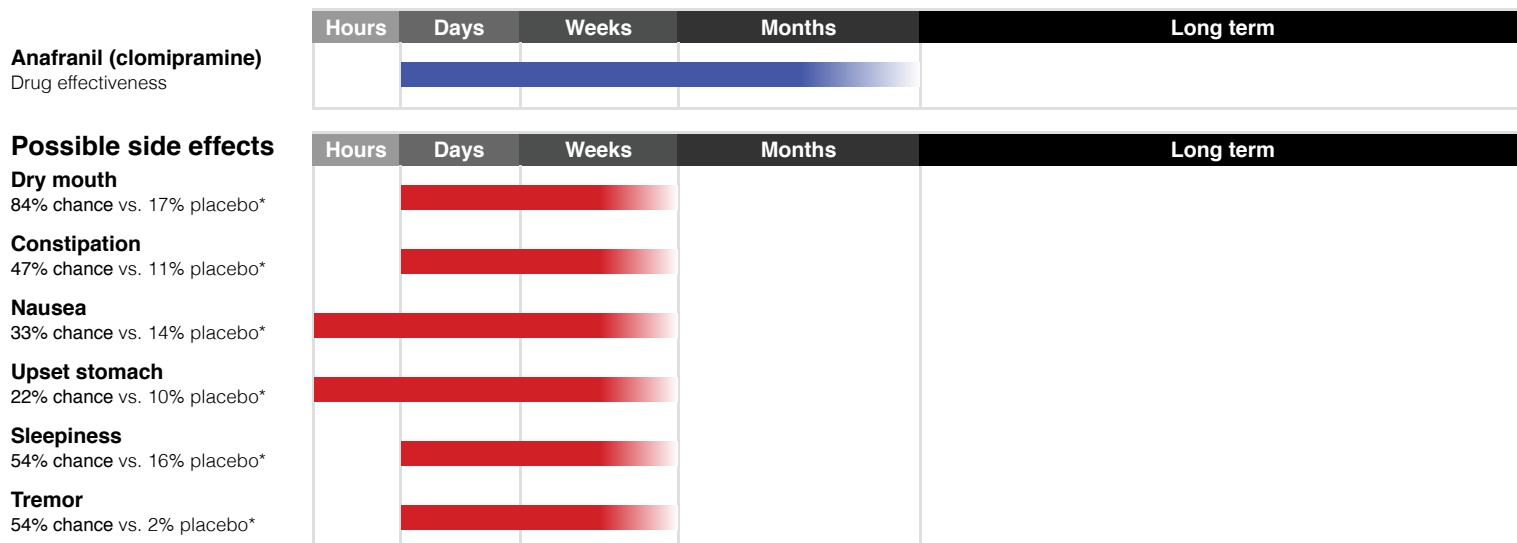


Anafranil (clomipramine) basics

Helps control obsessive or compulsive behaviors. Anafranil (clomipramine) effectively treats obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), but has potentially intolerable 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

- You may not see the full effect of the medication for at least 2 to 3 weeks after beginning or changing doses.
- It's important to keep taking Anafranil (clomipramine) even when you feel your symptoms are getting better.
- Take Anafranil (clomipramine) with food and/or at bedtime to lower stomach upset and other stomach and intestinal side effects.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that require you to be alert until you know how Anafranil (clomipramine) will affect you.

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.

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Anafranil (clomipramine), like other anti-depressants, may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior, especially in children, teens, and young adults. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment or when your dose changes. Caregivers and family members should watch out for these behavioral changes. Let your doctor know right away if you experience any of these thoughts. Anafranil (clomipramine) is not approved for use by children except for those being treated for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD).

Serotonin syndrome

Serotonin syndrome is a rare but potentially life-threatening condition caused when there's too much serotonin active in the brain. This is more likely if you're also taking other medications that affect serotonin levels (for example, other antidepressants, lithium, triptans, St. John's Wort). Symptoms include fast heart beat, sweating, muscle stiffness or spasms, fever, and confusion. Go to the emergency room right away if you think you have these symptoms.

Seizures

Anafranil (clomipramine) can raise the chance of seizures for some people, including those who have had seizures in the past. It is generally not recommended if you have a history of seizures. Talk to your doctor to see if this medication is right for you.

