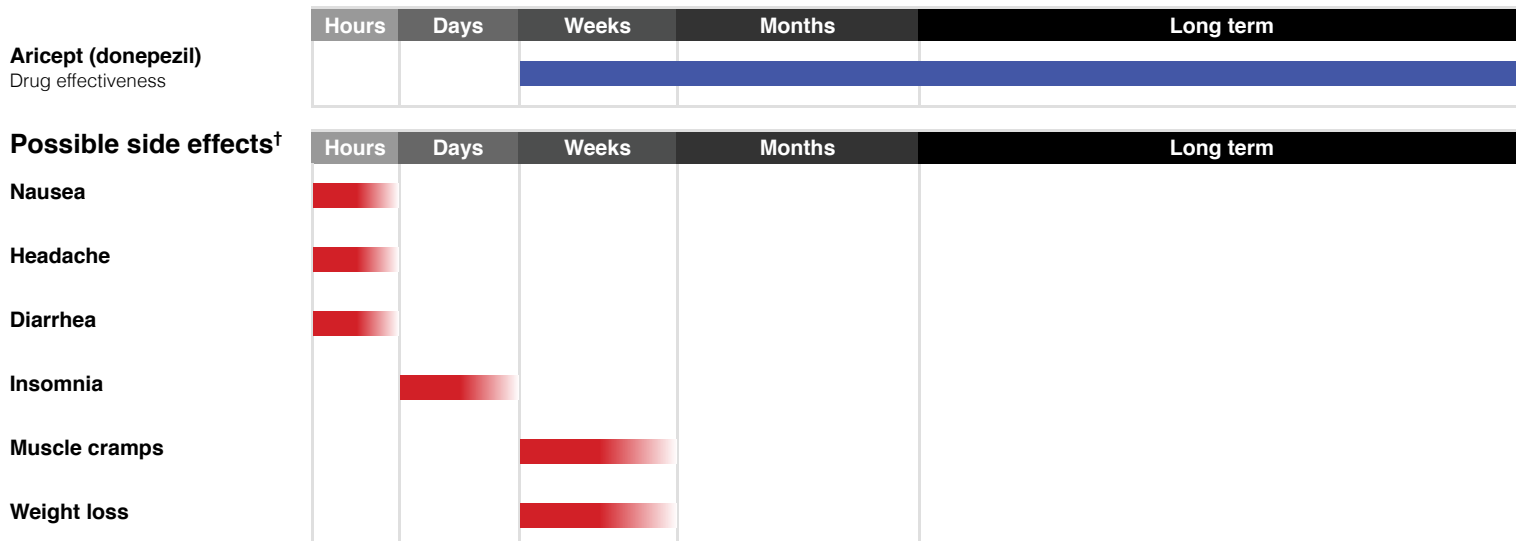


Aricept (donepezil) basics

Treats Alzheimer's disease. Aricept (donepezil) works for all stages of Alzheimer's, and most forms of it are available in generic.

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

- Take Aricept (donepezil) in the evening or before going to bed. Can be taken with or without food.
- Aricept (donepezil) can cause ulcers and gut bleeding, especially those who also take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
- If you're taking the orally disintegrating tablet (ODT), place it on your tongue and let it dissolve, then drink a full cup of water.
- The oral tablet shouldn't be split, crushed, or chewed.
- If you miss a dose, skip it and take the next dose at your regular time. If you've missed seven doses in a row, you'll need to call your doctor about restarting the medication properly again.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Ulcers and bleeding in the stomach

Aricept (donepezil) can cause stomach ulcers, which can also lead to bleeding in the stomach and intestines. Taking medications for inflammation or pain, such as NSAIDs (ibuprofen or naproxen), can make this worse. Talk to your doctor right away if you vomit blood or material that looks like coffee grounds, or if your stool has blood or looks black and tarry. You can help prevent this by having some food or milk in your stomach when you take the medication.

Nausea and vomiting

Aricept (donepezil) can cause nausea and vomiting, especially when you first start taking the medication or if you have to increase the dose. This is common, and taking Aricept (donepezil) with food can help. It should only last up to three weeks. If this bothers you, talk to your doctor.

Weight loss

Aricept (donepezil) can cause weight loss, especially if you're taking higher doses. If this bothers you, talk to your doctor.