

Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) basics

Replaces thyroid hormones. Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) can be used to treat low thyroid hormone for some people, but it's not the first-choice treatment for this condition.

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
Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) Drug effectiveness		[Blue bar from Day 1 to Week 4]			
Possible side effects†					
Fast or irregular heartbeat	[Red bar from Hour 1 to Hour 2]				
Excessive sweating		[Red bar from Day 1 to Week 4]			
Nervousness		[Red bar from Day 1 to Week 4]			
Heat intolerance			[Red bar from Week 1 to Week 4]		
Hair loss				[Red bar from Month 1 to Month 4]	

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) on an empty stomach (30 to 60 minutes before breakfast) at the same time every day for best absorption.
- If you take other medications, talk to your doctor or pharmacist first, since Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) can interfere with how other medicines work.

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.

Overdose of thyroid hormone

Do not take Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) for weight loss if your thyroid is working normally. Studies show that it's not effective and you can overdose on thyroid hormone, which can be toxic or even deadly, especially if you are taking other medications for weight loss. Talk to your doctor for suggestions to lose weight safely. Symptoms of increased thyroid hormone include irregular heartbeat, tremors, trouble sleeping, vomiting, or restlessness.

Changes in blood sugar

If you're taking Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) and also taking medicines to control your diabetes, you may need to have your diabetes medicines adjusted. Your doctor will check your blood sugar and thyroid levels regularly to make sure the doses are just right.

Changes in blood clotting

If you're taking Armour Thyroid (thyroid desiccated) and blood thinners, you may need to have your blood thinner doses adjusted. Your doctor may run blood tests more frequently to see if any changes are necessary.