

Artane (trihexyphenidyl) basics

Treats Parkinson's disease. Artane (trihexyphenidyl) can be used to control tremors if you have Parkinson's, but it can really dry you out and cause other 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.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Artane (trihexyphenidyl) Drug effectiveness	[Progressive blue bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Dry mouth	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
Constipation		[Red bar from Days to Weeks]			
Difficulty urinating		[Red bar from Days to Weeks]			
Nausea	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Artane (trihexyphenidyl) with a full glass of water.
- Do not suddenly stop your medication as you could have a severe reaction.
- Artane (trihexyphenidyl) can dry your eyes and mouth, and cause constipation or confusion, especially if you are over 65 years old.
- You can drink water, chew sugarless gum, or suck on hard candy for the dry mouth.
- Take Artane (trihexyphenidyl) before meals if you have dry mouth. If you have nausea or stomach irritation, take Artane (trihexyphenidyl) with meals. If Artane (trihexyphenidyl) causes you to drool, take it after meals.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

In some rare cases, Artane (trihexyphenidyl) can cause neuroleptic malignant syndrome which can be dangerous. This usually happens if you suddenly stop or lower the dose too much. Symptoms include a very high fever, sweating, stiff muscles, and a fast or irregular heartbeat. Call your doctor or 911 right away.

Drowsiness and dizziness

Taking Artane (trihexyphenidyl) may make you feel dizzy or sleepy for the first few days, especially if you drink a lot of alcohol or take recreational drugs. Your body should adjust to this; however, avoid driving or other activities requiring concentration until you know how your body responds to the medication. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if these symptoms bother you.

Vision problems

Artane (trihexyphenidyl) can increase eye pressure. If you have glaucoma, this can be very dangerous. Talk to your doctor if you have glaucoma since you'll have to take something else. Your doctor will check your eyes regularly. Talk to your doctor right away if you notice any changes in your vision.