

Benemid (probenecid) basics

Lowers uric acid levels and strengthens penicillin's effect. Benemid (probenecid) can be used to lower high uric acid levels in people with gout, but it is not a first-choice treatment because it takes a long time to kick in.

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
Benemid (probenecid) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Indigestion					
Acute gout attack					
Vomiting					
Loss of appetite					
Diarrhea					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Benemid (probenecid) with food or antacids to minimize stomach side effects.
- Benemid (probenecid) doesn't work as well in people with kidney problems or the elderly.
- Don't take aspirin while taking Benemid (probenecid).
- Drink plenty of water while on Benemid (probenecid).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Kidney stones

Benemid (probenecid) can cause kidney stones. Make sure to drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day while taking Benemid (probenecid). Let your doctor know if you start having back pain, belly pain, or blood in your urine as these may be signs of a kidney stone.

Blood disorders

Some people with a genetic disorder called glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency have had serious reactions to Benemid (probenecid). These reactions are related to blood disorders and include low white blood cell count, low red blood cell count, and destruction of red blood cells. This is rare but can be serious. Talk to your doctor to see if you should be on a different medicine if you have G6PD deficiency.

Gout attacks

During the first few weeks of taking Benemid (probenecid), you might have more gout attacks because Benemid (probenecid) causes uric acid to leave your body. Until your uric acid is under control, your doctor can give you another medicine to help treat a gout attack. Gout attacks should get better after being on Benemid (probenecid) for a while. If you've been on Benemid (probenecid) for a while and you're still having gout attacks, talk to your doctor.