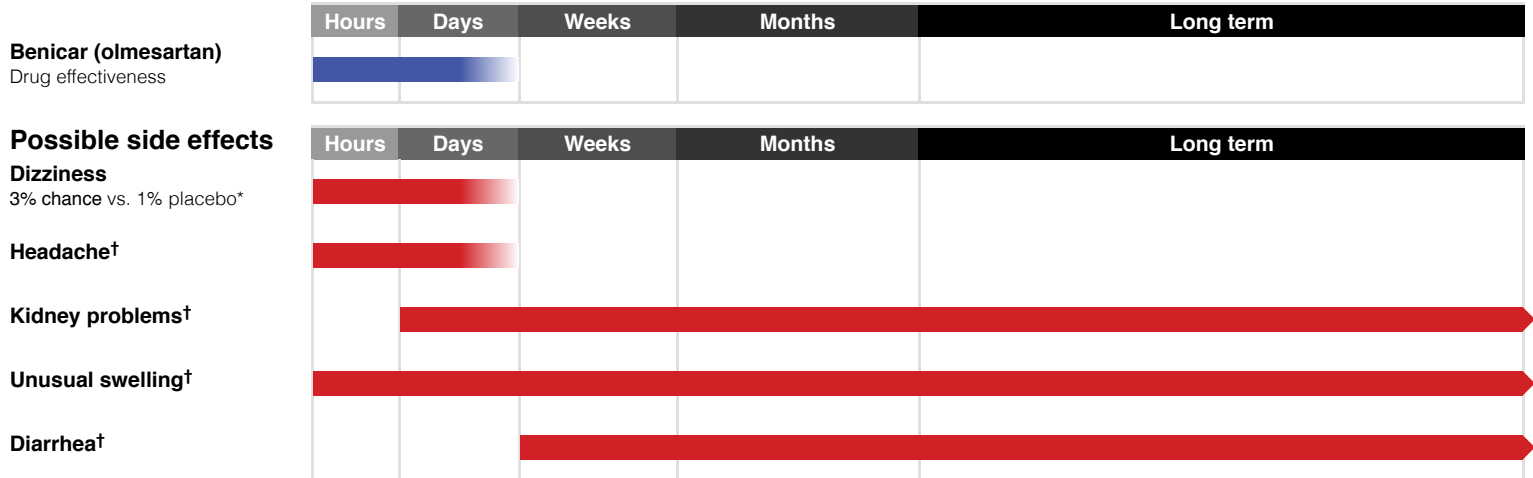


Benicar (olmesartan) basics

Lowers blood pressure. Benicar (olmesartan) is a good blood pressure-lowering medicine that protects your kidneys, but with fewer 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.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Can cause dizziness in the first few days.
- Check your blood pressure 1 week after starting this medicine and tell your doctor if it hasn't improved.
- Tell your doctor about any dizziness, fatigue, cough, or throat irritation that doesn't go away.
- Requires regular blood tests to check kidney function.
- Don't take it if you're pregnant.

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.

Birth defects

Benicar (olmesartan) can cause birth defects. If you become pregnant, stop taking Benicar (olmesartan) right away and talk to your doctor.

Worsening kidney problems

Benicar (olmesartan) can hurt your kidneys. If you already have some degree of kidney damage, Benicar (olmesartan) could make it worse. It's important to get blood work done to check your kidney function before starting Benicar (olmesartan) and at least once a year while you're still taking it.

Swelling in the face and head

Angioedema, or swelling in the face, lips, tongue, throat, or other organs, can happen at any time while you're taking Benicar (olmesartan). This is more likely to happen if you are of African descent. Talk to a doctor or pharmacist if you have any head or neck swelling or stomach pain that doesn't go away.