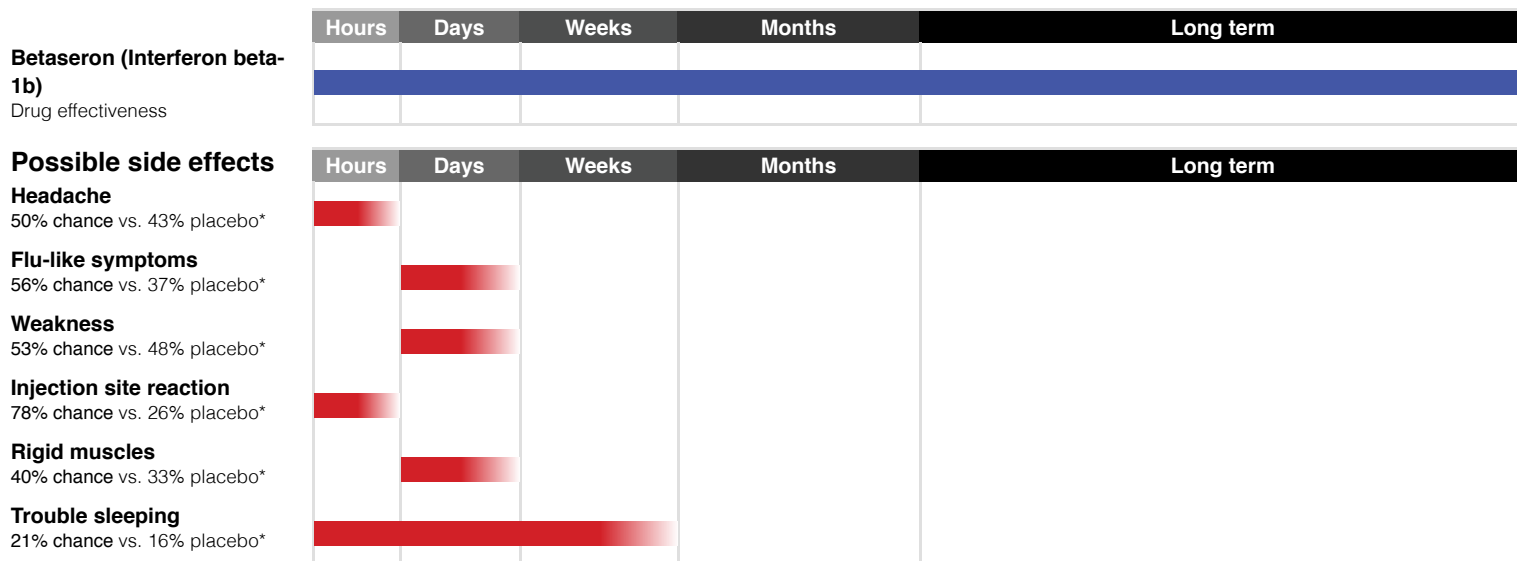


Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) basics

Helps prevent multiple sclerosis flare-ups. Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) is an injection that effectively treats relapsing multiple sclerosis. It's used every other day and has relatively few 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.

Tips from pharmacists

- Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) can cause you to bleed more easily. Be careful and avoid getting injured whenever possible.
- You're more likely to get an infection while taking Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b). Don't get too close to people who have a cold, flu, or similar illnesses.
- Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) can worsen depression or suicidal thoughts. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience these symptoms.
- Your doctor may ask you not to drink alcohol while using Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b).
- You should use Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) right after mixing it, or you can store it in the fridge for up to 3 hours.
- To prevent skin reactions, rotate your injection sites and follow your doctor's or pharmacist's advice on how to correctly give the shot.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Liver damage

Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) can cause liver damage, especially if you have a history of liver problems or if you're taking other medications that can affect your liver. Your doctor may make you get regular lab tests to monitor how your liver is doing. Tell your doctor right away if you experience appetite or weight loss, stomach discomfort, vomiting, dark urine, yellowing of your skin or eyes, or changes in stool color.

Serious injection site reactions

Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) can cause serious reactions at the injection site. This includes pain, redness, swelling, skin damage, and skin infection. If you're giving yourself the shot, it's important to understand how to correctly administer Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b). Your doctor and pharmacist can show you the best way to give injections.

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Betaseron (Interferon beta-1b) can increase your risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. Watch for new or worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment, or when your dose changes. Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms.