

Biaxin (clarithromycin) basics

Treats bacterial infections. Biaxin (clarithromycin) is a good first-choice medicine to treat most common respiratory infections. Side-effects are common, but mild.

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
Biaxin (clarithromycin) Drug effectiveness		■			
Possible side effects					
Diarrhea 3% chance	■				
Stomach upset†	■				
Abdominal pain 3% chance	■				
Abnormal heart rhythms†		■			
Liver toxicity†			■		

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take the extended release version with food.
- Taking the medicine with food or milk can ease any upset stomach.
- Keep the liquid version at room temperature. Biaxin (clarithromycin) will become very thick if you store it in the fridge.
- Finish the full course of treatment, even if you start to feel better. Stopping early can cause the infection to come back stronger.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Serious allergic reaction

Biaxin (clarithromycin) can cause a severe allergic reaction. If you have difficulty breathing, swelling of face and throat, or a serious rash, stop taking Biaxin (clarithromycin) immediately and get medical attention.

Abnormal heart rhythm

Biaxin (clarithromycin) can cause an abnormal heart rhythm especially if it's used with other medications that have the same effect. Let your doctor or pharmacist know about all of the medications you're taking before starting Biaxin (clarithromycin).

Liver toxicity

Serious liver problems have come up in patients taking Biaxin (clarithromycin). If you have a lack of appetite, yellowing of eyes and skin, dark urine, itching, light colored stools, or tender abdomen, let your doctor know right away.