

Biscolax (bisacodyl) basics

Gets things moving. Biscolax (bisacodyl) works fast to relieve your constipation, but it can cause cramping and you may "have to go right away."

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 |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Biscolax (bisacodyl) Drug effectiveness | | | | | |
| Possible side effects† | Hours | Days | Weeks | Months | Long term |
| Upset stomach | | | | | |
| Feeling faint | | | | | |
| Stomach cramping | | | | | |
| Rectal burning | | | | | |
| Rectal bleeding | | | | | |
| Diarrhea | | | | | |

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Use Biscolax (bisacodyl) rectally. Wash your hands before and after using Biscolax (bisacodyl). Make sure to unwrap and remove the plastic or foil cover before inserting it.
- Don't use Biscolax (bisacodyl) for more than 1 week.
- Don't use other laxatives or stool softeners while using Biscolax (bisacodyl) unless your doctor tells you to.
- If you have belly pain, burning in your rectum, bleeding from your rectum, or you don't have a bowel movement after using Biscolax (bisacodyl), talk to your doctor right away.
- Usually, you'll have a bowel movement about 15 minutes to 1 hour after using Biscolax (bisacodyl).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Bowel blockage

If you have nausea, vomiting, pain or bulging in your belly that doesn't go away, rectal bleeding, and no bowel movement after taking Biscolax (bisacodyl), stop using this medication and talk to your doctor or go to the emergency room right away. These may be symptoms of a bowel blockage or obstruction, which is serious.

Ingestion

Biscolax (bisacodyl) shouldn't be swallowed. Adults should be especially careful to keep this medicine out of the reach of children who are more likely to put it in their mouths. If it's swallowed, get medical help or call the Poison Control Center right away.

Laxative dependence

Biscolax (bisacodyl) is best for short-term use. Don't use Biscolax (bisacodyl) for more than 1 week. Using this medicine for longer than a week can lead to changes in your body and make it harder for you to have bowel movements without the help of laxatives or other medications. Taking Biscolax (bisacodyl) for longer than a week can sometimes also cause diarrhea. To help avoid constipation, drink lots of water and fluids to stay well hydrated, eat fiber-rich foods, and stay active.