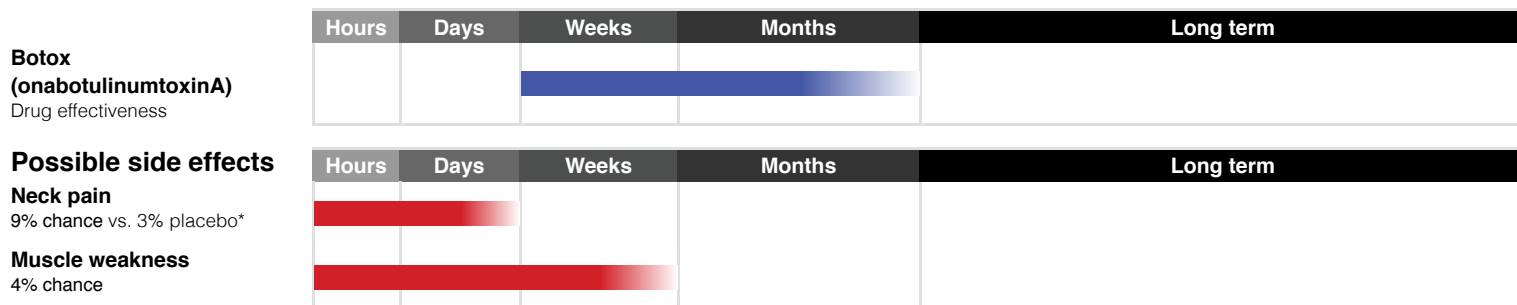


# Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA) basics

**Prevents headaches in people with chronic migraines and treats various other problems such as muscle spasms, wrinkles, and excessive sweating.** Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA) is a prescription medicine that's good at treating many conditions, but it has potentially dangerous 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

- Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA) is injected with a small needle (half an inch long). Some folks say the injections feel like tiny pinches or pinpricks.
- Your doctor will give you many injections spread over different sites, depending on your condition.
- For chronic migraines, you'll get 31 injections and it will take about 15 minutes in your doctor's office.

## 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.

### Increased toxic effect

Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA) toxin can spread from the area of injection to cause a serious condition called botulism. This can happen hours to weeks after an injection. Symptoms of botulism include weakness, double vision, drooping eyelids, trouble swallowing, slurred speech, loss of bladder control, and breathing difficulties. If this occurs, tell your doctor right away.

### Lung damage

People with poor lung function had more lung infections while taking Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA) for spasticity. Your doctor might want to monitor your lung function closely while you take Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA).

### Greater risk of side effects

People with neuromuscular diseases, such as myasthenia gravis, have a higher risk of side effects while taking Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA). Side effects can include muscle weakness, double vision, and trouble swallowing. Talk to your doctor before taking Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA) if you have a neuromuscular disease.