

# Carafate (sucralfate) basics

**Heals ulcers in the intestines.** Carafate (sucralfate) has few side-effects, but is more expensive than other medicines used to treat ulcers.

## 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
<b>Carafate (sucralfate)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
<b>Possible side effects†</b>	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Constipation</b>		[Red gradient bar from Days to Weeks]			
<b>Nausea</b>	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Vomiting</b>	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Rash</b>	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take Carafate (sucralfate) on an empty stomach with plenty of water.
- Antacids should be taken at least 30 minutes apart from Carafate (sucralfate)
- Carafate (sucralfate) can affect how your body absorbs many other medicines when taken together. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about all the other medicines and supplements you're currently taking.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Increased blood sugar

Carafate (sucralfate) can increase your blood sugar. If you have diabetes, be sure to monitor your sugar levels regularly while taking Carafate (sucralfate). Talk to your doctor if you notice that your blood sugar is higher than usual.

### Decreased kidney function

Carafate (sucralfate) can change the way your kidneys regulate electrolytes within your body. Your doctor will draw your blood regularly while taking Carafate (sucralfate) to check for any abnormalities.